

MINUTES OF
BRISTOL RAMBLERS GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING
28th AUGUST 2024, BRADBURY HALL, HENLEAZE

0 ATTENDEES

Heather Toyne (Chair), Peter Budden, Tony Parsons, Sarah Marshall, Sue Fox, Ceiswyn Blake, Bob Gibson.

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

HT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Carew Reynell and Keith Budd.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes (Draft 2, dated 25th June 2024) of the meeting held on 11th June 2024 were accepted as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

HT summarised the status of the Actions from the last meeting as follows.

- Walk Coordinators to distribute ICE Cards to Walk Leaders when necessary. **Complete.**
- CR to contact BG to ask if the Route Card can be piloted with hill walks – discussed on the agenda of this meeting under ‘A Walks’. **Complete.**
- CR to discuss walk training with J Wrigley. John Wrigley would be happy to contribute to Walk Leader training, if there is any demand (there is, so far, no evidence of this). **Complete**
- CR to feed back to Karen Lloyd the importance of ICE/contact details. **Closed.** Walk Fest has an attendance sheet of their own. We are, as a special privilege, exempted from the Walk Fest requirements on the grounds that we have tried-and-tested arrangements of our own.
- CB to put an article in eBoot concerning Walk Leader training. **Complete.**
- HT to review the risk assessment form on the Group’s website. **Complete.**
- HT to send email to Walk Leaders. **Complete.**
- HT to write to Walk Coordinators asking them to take responsibility for setting up new Walk Leaders (HT will forward instructions once received from Ramblers HQ). **Complete.**
- HT to put Walk Fest on the agenda for the November Committee meeting. **Ongoing.**
- HT to inform Eileen Bartlett that HT and CR would replace her as the Bristol Ramblers’ liaison with Walk Fest. **Complete.**
- SM to put information for walkers on website (this is contained in guidance), along with the risk assessment and checklist. **Complete.**
- SM to check that the Leaders’ area of Group’s website aligns with the national guidance. **Complete.**
- HT to contact BG for his views on the budget submission for 2024-2025. **Complete.**
- CB to add an article in eBoot on PROW. **Complete.**
- HT to send Doodle poll invitation for an end-August next meeting of Committee. **Complete.** This meeting.
- CB to put an announcement in eBoot for the 2024 AGM. **Complete.**

4 AGM WEDNESDAY 16th OCTOBER

Some Actions for the forthcoming AGM were placed as follows.

ACTION CB to email members on 1st October with details of the 2024 AGM

ACTION SM to add further information to the note on the Group website regarding the AGM

HT is preparing a list of Committee volunteers for providing food and drink at the AGM, noting that a paid bar is not being arranged with the Redland Bowls Club this year, and will recirculate as a reminder before the AGM. Carew had volunteered to bring copies of the papers including the Treasurers report.

The Treasurer's report to be included in the 2024 Group Annual Report was discussed. The Treasurer's report needs to be sent to John Wrigley, the Independent Examiner, as early as possible and HT agreed to check with John regarding his availability. The aim is to get the draft Treasurer's report to John by 1st October, noting that the Group's financial end-of-year is 30th September, so that it can be signed-off prior to the AGM.

ACTION HT to check availability of John Wrigley to audit the Group accounts

There was some discussion regarding the chosen date for the AGM. It was suggested that mid-October was a little early given that the accounts cannot be ready until early in that month. This leaves little time for them to be sent to members ahead of the AGM. It was agreed that the timing of the 2025 AGM will be discussed by the Committee at a future meeting.

The content of the annual report was discussed. BG indicated that there were no current updates to Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) activities but he would provide a short paragraph for the Annual Report. Roger Britton will provide a summary of Public Rights of Way (PROW) discussions.

HT stated that a call for members to become involved with Committee activities will be included in the Annual Report. There are long-standing vacancies. The option of a Vice Chair, aiming to become Chair after HT steps down at the 2025 AGM, was also agreed by the Committee.

DECISION The Committee agreed that a Vice Chair should be sought

The talk at the forthcoming AGM will be given by Lesley Insall but some assistance might be required to ensure compatibility of the IT equipment.

ACTION HT to contact Lesley Insall and Paula Cannings to get a title for the talk and to aid resolution of any remaining IT concerns

5 WALK NUMBERS

Saturday Walks

SF noted that the walks had been quite well attended and the numbers had improved from the last report, ranging between 6 and 18 with an average of 13.

There was some discussion regarding sharing of transport to walk start points as there is no common meeting point. The question of whether an option to cover all the groups was appropriate was considered by the Committee, but rejected because the issue applied only to Saturday walks. HT asked whether there could be a WhatsApp group for Saturday walks. BG suggested that an informal contact list could be adopted; this should be discussed with Aubrey Newport. This had been tried before but could perhaps be attempted again.

Wednesday Walks

HT indicated that the numbers of participants ranged from 6 to 18 with an average of 13.

B Walks

There was an average of 12 on Sunday B walks, with a maximum of 22 and a minimum of 4 (when most B walkers were away on a B weekend). 19 took part in the Charmouth weekend. A report will follow for the AGM.

We are managing to offer a walk a week, but it is hard to get new leaders and existing ones are getting older, prone to illness and injury. Younger people and visitors to Bristol don't always have cars, so the same people drive most weeks. Since Covid, some drivers will not come to the meeting point, but prefer to drive themselves, and sometimes one or two other walkers, to the start point.

A Walks

Walk attendance for Sunday A walks since the last meeting is down to an average of 7, ranging between 3 and 12. It has become common over the past few years to see lower numbers in Summer than other seasons of the year, and 2024 has been no exception to this.

Not all Sundays have had an A walk scheduled, with fewer walk leaders available due to illness, injury, family or other commitments. People are encouraged through various means to offer walks to lead, and at least one person has indicated a willingness to become a new Walk Leader (after the new required training etc).

New Members' walks have not been very successful at translating Saturday attendees into Sunday ramblers. So far only once has a new person from one of the trial Saturday New Members' walks been on a Sunday ramble. That trial is not continuing. Instead, occasional Sunday walks will be advertised (via the national website) as suitable for new members, for walks where appropriate back-up plans can be put in place in case of issues with new people. So far this has been tried once, and one new person attended that ramble, explicitly because it had been advertised as suitable for new members. This will therefore continue to be trialled for the time being.

The 'Route Card' process was trialled on an A hill walk at the end of June. It was seen as an unnecessary piece of bureaucracy by the individuals concerned, given the size of the group and the low likelihood of nobody making it back to report on any unexpected incidents. In contrast, the Walk Coordinator regularly uses such a process when walking (including recces) remote areas on his own. The Walk Coordinator will discuss the process with individual hill walk leaders to ensure appropriate mitigation processes are in place for smaller sized groups, but it is not planned to use the Route Card process by default.

6 WEBSITE UPDATE

SM noted that it was reliant on members to report bugs with the website and to make suggestions for improvement.

SF indicated that there was a problem with contacting Walk Leaders via Walk Manager.

7 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for August 2024 had been received from BG, as follows.

Expenditure:

£2,157 year to date

£2,191 anticipated at year-end

Reserves:

£3,227.87 in total (Main £1,123.99, Restricted £1,460.16, Self-funded £643.72).

Main reserves are anticipated to be 99% of unrestricted annual spend at year-end (the target is between 40% & 100%).

Budgeting process:

As requested by the Committee, a budget request for Bristol Ramblers has been submitted via the Area Treasurer for 2024-2025 for the 'basic allocation' of funds (based on the number of members of Bristol Ramblers). We are waiting to hear back that this has been approved by Head Office.

8 DLYW

There was nothing to note on DLYW activities.

9 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Committee is expected to be held in November 2024, subsequent to the AGM. HT indicated that attendance of CR and KB was desirable so that preliminary discussions regarding the Group's involvement in Walk Fest 2025 can take place.

ACTION HT to arrange date of the next Committee meeting

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

HT reported that Area may be organising a First Aid Course using the same provider as for the recent course arranged by Bristol Ramblers. This is likely to take place in Spring 2025. There might be a few potential attendees from the Bristol Group. HT reported that Jeff Rowlands had been due to contact Chairs to assess the needs of each Group but that she had not heard from him.

ACTION HT to confirm next steps for Area's First Aid Course with Jeff Rowlands

Peter Budden

27th September 2024 (Draft 2 for comment by Committee)

LIST OF DECISIONS

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LIST OF ACTIONS

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