

MINUTES OF
BRISTOL RAMBLERS GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING
30th JANUARY 2025, THE LEONARD HALL, HENLEAZE

0 ATTENDEES

Heather Toyne (Chair), Peter Budden, Tony Parsons, Sarah Marshall, Sue Fox, Bob Gibson, Keith Budd, Carew Reynell

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

HT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Ceiswyn Blake.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes (Draft 2, dated 27th September 2024) of the meeting held on 28th August 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.

- HT to put Walk Fest on the agenda for the November Committee meeting. **Complete** (this meeting).
- CB to email members on 1st October with details of the 2024 AGM. **Complete.**
- SM to add information to the note on the Group website regarding the AGM. **Complete.**
- HT to check availability of John Wrigley to audit accounts. **Complete.**
- HT to contact Lesley Insall and Paula Cannings to get a title for the talk and to aid resolution of any remaining IT issues. **Complete,**
- HT to arrange date of the next Committee meeting. **Complete** (this meeting).
- HT to confirm next steps for Area's First Aid Course with Jeff Rowlands. **Ongoing.**

The Decision at the August meeting that a Vice Chair should be sought is discussed later in this meeting and carried forward by a new Action.

4 WALKFEST UPDATE

CR had circulated a list of the walks currently offered to Walk Fest 2025 by Bristol Ramblers; see Attachment 1. The Chair thanked CR and KB on behalf of the Committee for their efforts thus far in pulling together the Ramblers' contribution. It was noted that there are some new areas of Bristol covered by the programme, in particular in South Bristol. SF and CR remarked that further walks are expected to be offered via Walk Coordinators. CR asked that this be done as soon as possible to meet the timescales for inclusion in the printed Walk Fest programme, although later submissions can be put on the online Walk Fest website.

ACTION CR to send the current list of Ramblers' Walk Fest walks to Walk Coordinators with a reminder of the Walk Fest deadlines.

HT agreed to send the revised advertisement for Bristol Ramblers, which the committee had agreed prior to the meeting, to the Walk Fest coordinator, to be included with the Walk Fest literature; see Attachment 2.

ACTION HT to send revised advertisement for Bristol Ramblers to Walk Fest coordinator.

HT reported back on the Walk Fest planning meeting she had attended. A lunch event was planned to accompany Walk Fest although the venue was not yet settled. It was noted that an article in a recent issue of Bristol Post had stated that Walk Fest was seeking additional financial support. In this respect, BG remarked that the Ramblers' contribution needs to be approved annually and that the 2025 payment had not yet been formally endorsed by the Committee. HT then proposed that the Committee approve the £1000 for Walk Fest 2025. This was agreed by the Committee noting that the money had been allocated when preparing the Group's budget.

DECISION It was agreed that Bristol Ramblers will provide a £1000 cash contribution to Walk Fest 2025.

There was a brief discussion regarding any support that Bristol Ramblers might provide to the Walk Bristol event on 31st May, which is likely to be part of Walk Fest 2025. It was agreed that the Committee was in support of the event but would not offer any publicity, such as on the Group website or via eBoot.

DECISION The Committee supports Walk Bristol. However, no publicity on its behalf will be offered.

5 SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR COMMITTEE ROLES

HT reminded the Committee that both she and PB will be stepping down from the Committee, as Chair and Minutes Secretary, respectively, at the forthcoming AGM. There was a need to find replacements for these roles. There is also still a vacancy for a Vice Chair and this was mentioned at the 2024 AGM and in eBoot. TP offered to do the minutes if no other volunteers arise. HT noted that both she and PB were currently unable to take part in Ramblers' walks so the usual route of discussion and persuasion during walks was unavailable to them. All agreed to talk to potential future chairs whilst out on walks.

ACTION ALL to actively seek replacements for vacant Committee roles whilst they are on walks, in particular Chair, Vice Chair and Minutes Secretary.

There was some associated discussion. HT suggested that perhaps the role of Chair could be rotated around the Committee. However, BG indicated that there needed to be a named Officer, in the absence of a single Chair, to meet rules of governance. HT reminded the Committee that she would not be part of the Committee after October, and in the event that they are unsuccessful in finding a volunteer from outside of the Committee, she would be asking for a volunteer from the Committee at the next meeting.

ACTION ALL to consider volunteering to be the named chair in the event of no volunteer from the wider membership.

6 AGM

There was discussion regarding the date for the 2025 AGM. The October date of the 2024 AGM had been considered to be a little early as the Group's financial year ends in September and there needs to be time for the Treasurer to prepare the annual accounts and for the Independent Examiner to perform his audit. BG added that the AGM is required to be held no later than 3 months after the financial year end, that is, by the end of the calendar year. The annual report also needs to be prepared. All members should be notified of the AGM date, in writing, at least 2 weeks ahead of the AGM. BG also remarked that the finalised accounts can be made available at the AGM. The date for the 2025 AGM was agreed by the Committee.

DECISION The date of the 2025 AGM was agreed as Wednesday 29th October 2025.

ACTION CR to contact Redland Bowls Club to book the venue for the AGM.

TP agreed to facilitate the printing of the various documents for the AGM.

ACTION TP to arrange printing of AGM documents.

There was also some debate about the format of the AGM. BG suggested that perhaps a quiz could replace the usual talk. If the latter, a volunteer needs to be found to give the talk and a title obtained. HT and SM agreed to talk to John Wrigley and Paula Cannings, respectively, on the topic of a quiz. A decision needs to be made at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION HT and SM to talk to John Wrigley and Paula Cannings, respectively on the topic of a quiz for the AGM.

7 WALK NUMBERS AND ISSUES

HT and SF presented the status of walks since the last committee meeting.

Saturday Walks

The average attendance had been 14 with a range of 6 to 22. Five walks had to be cancelled, 3 because of the weather, 1 because of motorway problems and 1 due to the leader being unwell. There were 17 walks and 235 walkers in total. SF reported that there had been some new walkers on the Saturday walks but that not all have since returned. Overall, the numbers attending were considered good. SF has been talking to Aubrey Newport about lift sharing and the use of WhatsApp is again being considered.

Wednesday Walks

The average attendance was given to be 14 with a range of 6 to 29. There had been 17 walks since the last Committee meeting with a total of 233 attendees. There were no walks on 6 Wednesdays, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Sunday B Walks

The lowest number participating had been 6, the highest 25, with an average of 15-16. Two walks were cancelled due to bad weather.

Sunday A Walks

Average walk attendance for Sunday A walks since the last meeting was 10, the numbers ranging from 4 to 19. Two walks had to be cancelled, in addition to Christmas Day.

8 WEBSITE UPDATE

TP queried whether there should be something on Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) on the website. It was agreed that this would be considered when routes are officially confirmed to go on the official map.

CR commented that the Bristol Ramblers' homepage was somewhat crowded when viewed on a smartphone although it appears fine on a laptop, and contrasted this with the national site. The use of a smartphone is more common. TP noted that we use Joomla in constructing the website whereas Ramblers' HQ does not. HT summed up the discussion by noting that TP and SM had put a lot of work into revising the local website and that it is now much better than before. Unless HQ impose any changes, the layout of the site should remain as is.

BG asked whether minutes are put onto the website as required. They should be uploaded once ratified by the following meeting, and be removed after 3 years have elapsed.

ACTION TP, SM to check on status of minutes on Bristol Ramblers' website and to ensure that the minutes from recent meetings have been uploaded.

9 TREASURER'S REPORT

BG summarised his Treasurer's report for January 2025 as follows.

Expenditure:

£245 year to date

£1,340 anticipated at year-end

Reserves:

£3,737.26 in total (Main £1,653.39, Restricted £1,440.15, Self-funded £643.72).

Main reserves are anticipated to be 89% of unrestricted annual spend at year-end (the target is between 40% and 100%).

Budgeting process:

The budget request for 2024/25 for the 'basic allocation' of funds (based on the number of members of Bristol Ramblers) was approved by Head Office, and is currently being disbursed to us by the Area treasurer. The budget process for 2025/26 is anticipated to begin around June this year.

10 DLYW

BG noted that the change to deadlines for getting walks added to the national map, which has been proposed in a government press release, has not yet formally taken place. There is also a considerable backlog in processing DLYW submissions at the Council. BG indicated that he would raise the issues at the forthcoming Area AGM. It should also be raised with the appropriate local MPs.

ACTION BG to send a note to CB regarding contacting MPs about DLYW timescales, for inclusion in eBoot.

11 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Committee is expected to be held in the second half of June. HT will arrange a Doodle poll to fix the date.

ACTION HT to arrange date of the next Committee meeting.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Area AGM is taking place on 22nd February. HT indicated that she was unable to attend but that BG will be in attendance. BG will report back at the next Committee meeting or by email sooner if there is an urgent need.

TP reported that following the survey from Ramblers' HQ, ICE information was now shown on the reverse of the membership card.

TP also noted that the meeting place for Sunday B walks in St. George Street would be difficult to access and parking might be threatened should the proposed changes to Park Street go ahead. It is necessary to watch for developments.

BG mentioned that some of the Committee roles on the BR website were out of date, mainly due to the changes associated with Walks Manager. The roles of TP in particular were likely to have changed.

Committee members agreed to look at their role description (link subsequently circulated by TP), and let SM know of any changes prior to the next meeting. The proposals should be brought to the next meeting for ratification.

ACTION All committee members to review their role description (link circulated by TP following the meeting) and let SM know of any changes so that she could bring the proposals to the next meeting.

Peter Budden

24th February 2025 (Draft 2 *for comment by Committee*)

LIST OF DECISIONS

DECISION It was agreed that Bristol Ramblers will provide a £1000 cash contribution to Walk Fest 2025.

DECISION The Committee supports Walk Bristol. However, no publicity on its behalf will be offered.

DECISION The date of the 2025 AGM was agreed as Wednesday 29th October 2025.

LIST OF ACTIONS

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

ACTION CR to send the current list of Ramblers' Walk Fest walks to Walk Coordinators with a reminder of the Walk Fest deadlines.

ACTION HT to send revised advertisement for Bristol Ramblers to Walk Fest coordinator.

ACTION ALL to actively seek replacements for vacant Committee roles whilst they are on walks, in particular Chair, Vice Chair and Minutes Secretary.

ACTION ALL to consider volunteering to be the named Chair in the event of no volunteer from the wider membership.

ACTION CR to contact Redland Bowls Club regarding to book the venue for the AGM.

ACTION TP to arrange printing of AGM documents.

ACTION HT and SM to talk to John Wrigley and Paula Cannings, respectively on the topic of a quiz for the AGM.

ACTION TP, SM to check on status of minutes on Bristol Ramblers' website and to ensure that the minutes from recent meetings have been uploaded.

ACTION BG to send a note to CB regarding contacting MPs about DLYW timescales, for inclusion in eBook.

ACTION HT to arrange date of the next Committee meeting.

ACTION All committee members to review their role description (link circulated by TP following the meeting) and let SM know of any changes so that she could bring the proposals to the next meeting.

Attachment 1 – Status of Bristol Ramblers’ Walks for Walk Fest 2025

2nd eve	Hidden Stoke Bishop	KB
6th am	Sea Mills	Patsy
6th am	Purdown and Eastville Park	RG
7th am	Westbury Weaver	KB
7th eve	Long Ashton and Failand	Tony P
8th eve	Hambrook and Frome Valley figure-of-eight walk	KB
9th pm	Mr Bump	Graham Symonds
10th pm	Troopers Hill and Conham Vale	Carew
13th am	Ashton Court and Clifton	RG
14th pm	Royate Hill	Carew
15th eve	Blaise Maze	KB
16th am	Failand Fanfare	KB
20th am	Stapleton/Greenbank	KB
21st am	A ramble on the edge of Bristol	Anne C/Mick B
21st eve	Maes Knoll	Tony P
22nd am	Riverside Revelations	KB
22nd pm	Dundry	Patsy
27th am	Abbots Pool	Wendy
		Jeff Rowland
		Graham H
		Ky

	Blaize Maze	Marlies
	Blaize Maze	Marlies
		Aubrey, Margaret R, Paula



Come walk with us !

**Explore new places, make new friends and
boost your health and happiness !**



We offer led walks 3 days a week.

- Choose the difficulty that's right for you - from a flat 5 miles to a hilly 15.
- Explore the Bristol area and surrounding countryside - from the Black Mountains to the Mendips, Cotswolds and beyond.
- Enjoy your first three walks for free!

Find out more: <https://www.bristolramblers.org.uk>