



Committee Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday January 19th 2011 at 7pm

**VENUE: The King's Arms, Leg Square, Garston St, Shepton Mallet
BA4 5LN. Tel: 01749 343781**

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

Clive welcomed Mary Birchall, Brian Underwood, Peggy Frampton and Tony Parsons to the committee.

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Caverley, Carol Griffen and Peggy Frampton

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

3. Matters arising

Les updated the meeting about the Mendip ring. The current legs of the ring have been split into two and some adjustments made. The working party will be walking this over the next 12 months, writing it up and publishing it on our web site.

4. Officer & Sub-Committee Reports

a. Membership Secretary

Membership numbers at 31 December 2010 were 346 which included 2 new members and 2 transferred from another group.

This means we are 6 down on the number reported at the AGM - however, the lists that I receive seem to be about 2/3 months late so I am now contacting people before I send out welcome letters and programmes and I am finding that some people have already been walking with us for a while!

There is a membership drive in March whereby we will receive the first years membership.

b. Treasurer

c. Footpath Officers

Mendip West

1) No reported problems from members.

2) One path restriction in Wookey in hand with SCC.

3) Co-operation with SCC from PPLO perspective good, all requests dealt with promptly.

4) Communication between PPLO's and Ramblers to be requested via Andy Stevenson.

5) Emphasis on car share to help footprint / cost/ease of parking.

Mendip East

Problems reported by
Margret Nuth.

Footpath no FR6/33 at Turners Tower made site visit and entered faults on interactive map

FR14/32 at Blatchbridge south of Frome faults already on map

Diane Smith
FR18/19 Shearwood and Asham Wood damage by 4 X 4 vehicles
I think this has been happening over a long period

David Goldstein
SM18/19 at Tadhill Lane Stoke St Michel site visit and faults entered on interactive map

Liz Taylor PLO for Buckland Dinham
FR3/18 obstruction: At Barrow Hill farm?

- d. Publicity Officer , Social Secretary
A disco is being planned for July.

5. Walking Festival 2011.

The Festival Committee will meet on Monday 24th January. The walking festival is expected to take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Priddy.

6. Working Party Update.

Clive informed the meeting of the successful meeting with SCC portfolio holder David Hall and the SCC Rights of Way team. Details can be seen in the appendix to these minutes.

7. Map Reading Course next steps.

The map Reading Course was very successful. There were 23 people at both evenings and the majority completed the practical exercise the following Sunday. Tony Dyson suggested that we run a follow up desk based refresher in the spring

8. Welcoming New Members on Walks.

It was agreed that committee members would ensure that new members were made welcome on walks by ensuring that the leader asks if there are new members at the start of the walk. It was also suggested that committee members should talk to new members at the end of the walk to ensure that they enjoyed it or see if there were any problems.

9. Any Other Business

Les asked for approval to get rid of financial records more than 5 years old. This was approved. However after the meeting Les found that records need to be kept for 6 years. In light of this records greater than 6 years old will be destroyed.

10. Date and venue of next meeting

12th May 2011 at 7 pm at the Dusthole Shepton Mallet

Appendix Output from Meeting Between Mendip Ramblers and SCC Rights of Way inc David Hall Portfolio Holder.

Please find below the main points I captured from our meeting. Please let me know if you wish to change anything.

A meeting took place on Thursday the 13th of January between representatives of Mendip Ramblers, Somerset Area, the Somerset Rights of Way team and the portfolio holder.

The purpose of the meeting was to form a closer working relationship between Somerset Ramblers, represented by Mendip Ramblers, and the Somerset RoW team in order to improve / sustain the RoW network at this time of financial cut backs.

The meeting was agreed by all to be very successful.

The main outcomes of the meeting were

1. David Hall, in his opening remarks, agreed the importance of the RoW network and their contribution to health and tourism
- 2 The RoW team were happy with the current working relationship they have with the Mendip Ramblers Working Party
2. The RoW team were happy with the quality of work carried out by the Working Party
- 3 A line was drawn under any previous issues
3. If there are any problems in the future between the Working Party and the RoW team that cannot be resolved between the two parties then this should be escalated for resolution between the Chair of Mendip Ramblers, currently Clive Edney, and the portfolio holder, currently David Hall. The Chair of Mendip Ramblers would keep Somerset Area Footpath Officers aware of any such issues.
4. Mendip Ramblers are keen on getting more work. The RoW team find it difficult to organise a significant piece of work in the same area. Mendip Ramblers suggested that they could review the interactive map and identify potential tasks to rectify faults . This would then be forwarded to Chris East for approval say four weeks prior to the work being done. This would give sufficient time for the RoW team to approve the work and source any materials required.
5. Mendip Ramblers understand that there will be a significant cut back in the budget for furniture and are happy to repair rather than replace in order to save money.

6. The RoW team agreed that the Ramblers volunteer work should be rolled out to other groups in a phased way and that Sedgemoor was probably the most appropriate to be next. The importance of proper training for work parties and, particularly, the designated work party leader in each Group was essential for trust to be developed. To achieve this the RoW team would like the Mendip Ramblers Working Party to work with Working Parties from other groups in Somerset in order to pass best practice and maintain standards.

7. The Working Party have volunteered to be trained in the use of brush cutters.

8. It is understood that a brush cutter costs about £500 which equates to 5 years of our current tools budget. Although it is not possible for Mendip Ramblers to purchase one from funds Carl Earl from Area will look into potential ways of groups sharing one.

9 The issue of sponsorship was raised for transport , tools and equipment.. The next Local access Forum meeting taking place on the 7th of February is devoted to the subject of volunteers. The RoW team will get back to Mendip Ramblers to see if they can attend.

10. David Hall suggested that there may be opportunities for the working party to carry out work on behalf of parish councils. Careful thought needs to be given about how we take this forward.

11 A closer relationship between Somerset Ramblers and Parish path Liaison Officers (PPLOs) is required. Subsequent to the meeting Les Stather has received a full list of all PPLOs in Mendip. Mendip ramblers footpath officers and PPLO liaison will be discussed at the next Mendip Ramblers Committee Meeting.

12 Mendip ramblers volunteered to help out with the Ease of use BVPI survey. If the paths to be surveyed are sent to Les Stather then he will see if he can get volunteers to survey them.