

Mendip ramblers

Committee Meeting on 10th October 2018 at 11.00 am at the Highwayman

Apologies : Nancy Moynihan

Present : Mike Plaskitt, Les Stather, Peggy Fortunati, Brian Underwood, Martyn Hart, Kevin Moynihan, Mary Dadley. Mary Davis, Jane Dyson, Tony Dyson and Janet Morland

- 1 Membership Secretary. Numbers of members has been fluctuating around 345. Monday walks are classed as community walks and membership is not required. Report enclosed. Mary Davis is resigning. We thank her for her years of service.
- 2 Tony Dyson presented the treasurers report and it was accepted. It needs to be audited before the AGM. It was agreed that the Work Party Christmas Meal would be paid for out of our funds as they do not claim mileage.
- 3 Footpath report East Mendips. Les has sent in a comprehensive report which is included.
- 4 West Mendips. Alpacas block footpath WS/33 but there is an alternative route along quiet lanes.
The Working Party has replaced the bridge on the Meare to Godney footpath.
Andrew Strutt, a farmer, complained about walkers going through a hedge, but the stile was very overgrown.
Brian needs assistance, this should be put in the next programme and Ken Masters asked if he will help Brian.
There is a concern that trespass may become a criminal offence.
- 5 Peggy reports that leaders are still needed for 4 Thursdays and 11 Sundays. Many clubs are now using their website for programmes instead of printing programmes. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- 6 Publicity report. Mary Dadley said that publicity before Christmas was near impossible. She will try to get the Festival of Winter Walks in.
- 7 Social Secretary. Jane reported that the BBQ was well attended.

The AGM will be at The George, Gurney Slade, cost £8.00 including the meal. Emails will need to be sent to all members and a reminder given on rambles.

Future social events will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 8 Martyn gave his report on our last walking festival. We thank him for his hard work. Kevin will organise the 2019 festival in Shepton Mallet. The hall hire is £150.
- 9 Spring Holiday 2019 in Eastbourne. 45 people have booked, twin bedded rooms may still be available. Mike, Les and Kevin will lead the long walks, Janet is willing to lead a medium walk if she gets a lift to do the recce. As Eastbourne is very flat and has a good bus service there will be no led short walks.
- 10 Any other business. Peggy will send the list of email ignorers to Les and Mike. Answers are required because of Data Protection.
- 11 An enquiry came from George Hitchins about group membership of the RA for the Hartington Vale public rights of way group. He should ring the RA about this.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 11.00am

Mendip Ramblers: Publicity report to Committee for meeting on 10/10/2018

Tasks completed since last meeting:



A: Ditchheat Walking Festival

- 6 Item to **Somerset Life**
- 7 Festival poster
- 8 Reminders to **all Ramblers** groups
- 9 Reminder to **Mendip Society**
- 10 Item to local press

Post Festival:

- 11 Short item and photograph to Cath@Openreach
- 12 Item to Mendip Times
- 13 Item with photograph to local press and Somerset Life

B: Other tasks:

- Report to Committee October meeting

C: to be completed in 2018

- Editorial, past/new programme to press in November (early)
- Report to AGM

Issues arising:

Preview of next programme to avoid Christmas and Santa - is this possible?

Elaine Dadley

Footpath Officer West Report for May to September

Path closure.

Baltonsborough WS 1/33 .This issue goes back to 2012 and more recently was reported by Granville who wanted to include it in a walk.. I visited the site with him and found no sign of a path and in fact the field had been developed by new buildings and paddocks for alpacas.This has been reported to Chris East and deemed as low priority.The path cuts the corner of the road and either end is only a short distance apart.

Meare, WS 6/7 Path closure notices re unsafe bridge still in situ 6 months after new bridge installed.Removal approved by C.East

Public complaint.

Binegar, A member of the public who wished to remain anonymous had complained to SCC regarding the condition of paths in the locality .Clare Haskins has now been involved and Gus has visited the paths in question....

SM 3/11 Concern about horses in field but none encountered on Gus' visit.Home made stile was unsatisfactory and Clare will contact owner/

SM 3/12. Complaint of a collapsed fence but this didn't affect access to kissing gate.

SM 3/13A. A new stile or gate required where new fence crosses the path .Owner to be contacted by Clare,

SM 3/14. A field gate on path always remains unlocked as it is access to Fairfield Cottage.

Clare will contact owner to make insulated electric fence across stile easier to detach.

Yarley WS 16/13A Farmer complained that ramblers had taken easy route through hedge instead of over stile so not stock proof. PPLO filled hedge and opened up stile.

Shepton Tunnels Gates have been put in place on the path (not public) but well used and Ramblers help sought to have it put on the definitive map.

Footpath Officer Report Mendip East October 2018

WN4/6. North Brewham

Clare has passed the problem onto the enforcement office. I have chased this up but not heard anything.

Colliers Way from Cheese and Grain to Welshmill Weir

Neither this path nor the path on the opposite side of the river is dedicated rights of way. I have been informed by Frome Town Council that they own the path on the allotments side of the river and sustrans manage the path from the Cheese and Grain. Carl Earl is checking with the ramblers if this is sufficient to protect these paths.

FR 4/50 Newbury Farm Highbury

A report from path watch has been received regarding numerous problems around Newbury farm Highbury. I have written to Clare to see if she is aware of this and has spoken to the land owner. She has reported back that all issues have been addressed

SM 7/53 The locked gate issue at Doultong

It was agreed at the last Mendip Ramblers committee meeting that we would not pursue this any further.

Lost Path In from The Retreat to Aderwell

This path has been claimed, The Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) is visible on the interactive map and its status is under investigation. We have been told that this status could remain for around 20 years due to the back log. I have advised Simon Keyes of Frome, who submitted the DMMO that it would be better to get witnessed statements from the people who have regularly walked the path as witnessed statements are admissible in law even when the person making the statement and the witness becomes deceased.

Frome Gets Walkers Welcome Status

There will be a walking day in Frome on the 18th of November at 11 am from the Cheese and Grain

Footpath Improvements in Bruton

This group has identified at least 7 walks from Bruton. They have reced them and produced a list of issues that need to be addressed. I have checked to see if they are getting appropriate assistance from Somerset Rights of Way but have not heard back yet,

CL 19/3 Farrington Gurney Golf Course

Modification 249 to re route this path is now closed. I am checking to see if the path has been diverted and way marked,

FR 14/65 Cottle's Oak Frome

This path has been reopened

FR 18/ 17 Whatley

A diversion has been received for this path to follow the field boundary rather than go diagonally across the field. I have expressed concern that this path will become corralled and therefore become overgrown.

WS 2/36

I received a phone call that someone has moved this path to accommodate a new build. Maggie Seaward has offered to take a look and take some photos.

Lamyat SM 13/9

This path has been closed since 2010. I have been approached by the chairman of the parish council to help them, open this path. I have wrtten to Clare Haskins asking her to explain what the issues are.

Frome Missing Link Route 24 Cycle Route

An application is being made to divert FR 20/12 and FR 20/8 as oart of creating the cycle path from Frome to Great Elm. We are looking at this.

Lost Paths in Frome

I have identified two paths that are not on the definitive map. One goes from Egford Lane to join FR 14/59. The other is from Packsaddle Way to FR 20/2. I am sure both of these paths have been worked over a 20 years period and will be collecting evidence for a DMMO.