

Minutes of the meeting of the Mendip Ramblers

held on 19th June 2019 at The Highwayman.

Present : Mike Plaskitt (chairman), Nancy Moynihan, Peggy Fortunati, Mary Dadley, Les Stather, Brian Underwood, Tony and Jane Dyson, Ken Masters, Mary Birchall and Janet Morland.

Apologies : Mo Bennett

- 1 A plaque for Dave Owens has been put on a gate by Rodney Church.
- 2 Mary Birchall gave her membership report, enclosed
- 3 Tony Dyson gave the treasurer's report, enclosed. Should we have a project?
- 4 Brian said that Granville Roberts has reported the footpath problem at Millfield School, Street privately. Tony mentioned problems on SM 9/5 at Pennard Hill Farm. The signs at the start of the footpath over Wearyall Hill on the Roman Way has been modified. In Godney if a farm is claiming subsidies they must keep the footpath open. The footpath at Stileway, Meare needs bridges and stiles. There is a need to find out who is responsible for the Sustrans cycle path at Hartlake Bridge.
- 5 Les gave his report, enclosed.
- 6 There are 8 gaps for Thursday walks and 6 for Sundays. Peggy cannot add walks after the deadline.
- 7 Mary Dadley has A4 posters for our Walks Festival and Roger needs to send Peggy details of the walks. Footpath clearing will be needed. A banner showing the start point is needed.
- 8 The 2020 Festival will be at Chilcompton Village Hall.
- 9 There was a bring and share social at Oakhill on 25th January and there will be a BBQ on 12th July at Holcombe at 6.30, £5.
- 10 The working party has been working hard putting up gates.

AOB

- 1 22nd September there are 2 walks in Wells for Dementia Support.
- 2 Next year's holiday will be at the Valley of the Rocks Hotel, Lynton, 23rd March for 4 nights £156 sharing and 10 single rooms for £180. We pay for parking.

Future dates

Next Meeting Wed 9th October

AGM 7th December at The George, Gurney Slade at 7.00pm

Christmas Lunch on 19th December 2019

Mendip Ramblers Social Secretary report June 2019

The After Christmas Bring and Share supper in Oakhill went very well, and I think everyone enjoyed trying their hand at indoor Boules.

At Eastbourne we managed to have the customary Whist Drive (thanks to Ruth and Chris) and a short quiz which kept all our brain cells moving.

Our next event is the Barbecue at Holcombe Village Hall 6:30 Friday 12th July. Gill Moxey and Jane have tickets, priced at £5 to cover the hall hire and food. Usual rules- bring drinks and glasses. Depending on the weather we can play Rounders and/or outdoor boules, or use the indoor curling.

Jane Dyson

JUNE 2019 Ramblers Membership Report for Committee Meeting

19th June Membership Secretary Report

New members		Lost members
February	3	
March	4	7
April	6	5
May	1	5
June	1	
Total	15	17

At the beginning of June there are 326 members on the Mendip Ramblers roll.

Mary Birchall

Mendip Ramblers: Publicity report to Committee for meeting on 19/06/2019



Tasks completed since last meeting:

A: Festival 2019

- Somerset Rambler mavis@monahan.co.uk
- Plan B Poster to Kevin
- Advance notice to all Somerset Rambler groups
- Festival information to **Ordnance Survey**
- Editorial to **Walk Magazine** walkmag@ramblers.org.uk
- Information to Ramblers groups around Somerset
- Information to Mendip Society
- Draft poster to Festival Committee
- Festival information to Street U3A
- Festival item to editor@localreach
- Festival item to Mendip Times, Mark Adler
- Poster to Jo Smith for Mendip Council offices
- Listing to **Somerset Life**

: Other tasks:

- WP item to Localreach for March publication
- Media contacts for Peggy
- Item to LocalReach - new programme, can't remember
- Update to Mendip Times
- Editorial, past/new programme to press
- Report to Committee for June 2019

C: Forthcoming tasks:

Festival reminders to Ramblers, Mendip Society, Festival item to local press.

Post festival item to press, Mendip Times, Somerset Life and Coral.

Elaine Dadley

Footpath Officer Report Mendip East June 2019

WN4/6. North Brewham

This has been referred to Rob Cotes, Clare's manager. Rob has assured me that this is being dealt with

SM 13/9 Lamyat

This path has been blocked since 2010. Apparently it is waiting a diversion order. I am trying to get more information about this.

Lost Path In from The Retreat to Aderwell

This path was claimed and subsequently blocked by the land owner. Carl Earl is pursuing this with the ramblers as we may need to get the secretary of state involved. As the path was claimed a year ago we can now apply to the secretary of state. I will be getting advice on how to do this from Carl Earl.

Frome Gets Walkers Welcome Status

Frome Walkers are Welcome festival will take place on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November. There will be walks on Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday afternoon.

Footpath Improvements in Bruton

I have still not heard anything from this group but have chased them up by asking them if they are aware of the footpath categorisation exercise as they need to ensure the paths on their promoted routes are not classified as 3.

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

The waymarkers have been replaced

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. This is in Brian's area.

Need an update. Is this issue closed?

Frome Missing Link Route 24 Cycle Route

An application is being made to divert FR 20/12 and FR 20/8 as part of creating the cycle path from Frome to Great Elm. We have no issues with 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. No progress on this as yet.

SCC Re categorisation of Rights of Way.

Jake will update us in August

Meeting with Head of Somerset RoW –

It is intended to add RoW subject to temporary closure Orders to the on-line “Roam” map as soon as possible.

Various other up-dates were being finalised in the detail provided on this map, including a facility for an aerial photo background to show the line of RoW.

More generally on faults, Rob Coate was undertaking a review of faults that were more than 5 years old to see what progress could be made. Ramblers were asked if they could help by identifying paths that had been blocked for 5 years on key routes without an easy alternative around the obstruction.

We also agreed to see if a Ramblers volunteer would be willing to help with copying records needed for determining claims for unrecorded RoW. (Carl has put an item in the next Newsletter).

On missing bridges we were told that RoW now had access to highway capital budget and they were hopeful that more work could now be undertaken on bridges.

On the extra “pot hole” funding we were advised that on footpaths, only work requiring some physical structure was eligible. This could include a retaining wall for a collapsing path or a collapsed culvert or regular flooding that could be culverted. (Bridleway needs would be well covered by Bridleways Assoc.). Any suggestions should be sent to Pete Hobley as soon as possible.

Cropping –

There was a discussion on cropping problems, especially in relation to the increased planting of maize., at the annual footpath officers’ meeting. It was stressed that cropping problems should be reported early so that action, which SCC claim they would act on, can be taken before the crop grows and blocks the path. SCC said that if a problem was reported 2 years running they would write a formal letter to the landowner reminding them of their legal responsibilities. This is especially important with crops such as rape and maize which become impenetrable. Having checked with Ramblers Head Office Carl said that as well as reporting cropping problems to SCC or NSC, as appropriate, such obstructions could continue to be reported to the Rural Payments Agency (Details previously circulated). If the landowner is in receipt of RPA payments, pressure can be brought by the RPA to clear cropping obstructions on penalty of losing some of the payment the landowner receives. Ramblers are working to ensure that a similar system will operate post-Brexit. Carl wondered if modern high-tech sowing could identify cross field paths and leave them clear. SCC RoW will look into this and Carl has asked Ramblers Head Office also to do so.

Footpath Secretary Report ..West Mendip .

February/ May 2019

Path Diversion Orders/ Planning Applications.

None received during the period.

Matters outstanding

Millfield School

WS 15/87 The padlocked gate issue ..Chris East to negotiate a suitable diversion...outcome awaited.
WS18/24 Footpath diversion..Objection not withdrawn.(R A member.)

Recording RoW

WS 15/28 Glastonbury This path ends by a field at a kissing gate . A path continues to a road but is not recorded as a RoW although it is signed at the road with a finger post..apparently installed some years ago by an enthusiastic local councillor. The path is understood to be included in book of local walks but I'm unable to locate it.

Padlocked Gates

Wookey..WS 16/23 ..Two gates on a regularly used path are padlocked and reported as an issue. I previously reported one of these as un- surmountable..the issue was closed as being "invalid" What is the attitude of SCC RoW team?

PPLO

Two new PPLO's for Wookey are now taking over from me although I will still look after paths east of the village. Ken Masters has agreed to be a volunteer.

Mendip West Footpath Secretary

After nearly 10years as Fps I've reluctantly decided to finish and Ken Masters has agreed to take over. I will continue to support him wherever possible.

Brian Underwood 30.05.19

Report from programme co-ordinator for committee meeting 19/06/2019

It is still going up and down with the number of walks in a programme.
I have taken a "handful" of programmes and put the open day numbers in a table.
It is at the end of this report.

From December 2018 – March 2019 there were 11 open days.
Of these, 3 were later filled in.

In this programme (April – July 2019) 6 days were open, of which 2 have been filled in.
Three days in July still waiting.
At the same time, the new schedule is out for August – November. Lots to choose from.

Are open days missed by the walkers?

Programme	Sunday	Monday	Thursday	Filled in
Apr 17 – July 17	4	-	1	3 Sundays , 1 Thursday
Aug 17 – Nov 17	4	-	8	2 Sundays, 4 Thursdays
Dec 17 – Mrch 18	1	-	1	Both days
Apr 18 – July 18	6	1	4	4 Sundays, 2 Thursdays
Aug 18 – Nov 18	6	2	6	1 Sunday, 3 Thursdays
Dec 18 – Mrch 19	8	-	3	1 Sunday, 2 Thursdays
Apr 19 – July 19	5	1	-	2 Sundays

(Does not include Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve)

Peggy

Mendip Ramblers Statement of Accounts as at 17/06/2019

Opening balance 01/10/2018

Restricted Funds	£2,360.60	Workparty Donation	£1,865.60
		Ramblers Holidays	£27.00
		Book Sales	£468.00
Self-Funded	£5,111.91	Holiday pre-payments	£1,280.00
		Holiday Residuals	£3,875.85
		Social Residuals	-£43.94
General Funds	£671.49		
Total	£8,144.00		

Income

Area Funding	£323.60	3 of 4 quarter payments
Ramblers Hols	£280.00	
Deposit Interest	£0.00	
Fundraising	£0.00	Walk festival donations
Holidays	£7,480.00	
Socials	£1,022.99	
Work Party Donation	£0.00	
Book Sales	£33.00	
Total Receipts	£9,139.59	

Expenditure

Courses	£0.00	First Aid course
Walking Festival	£150.00	Hall Hire etc
Festival Prog/Publicity	£9.45	
Programmes	£393.17	
Tools	£332.26	
Work party costs	£280.00	
Trailer Insurance etc	£0.00	
Meeting/AGM Costs	£0.00	
Admin	£3.30	
Holidays	£8,573.00	
Gates donation	£0.00	£0.00 From Ramblers Holidays
Socials	£911.00	-£111.99 From Social Residuals
Total Expenditure	£10,652.18	£612.26 From workparty donations

Funds as at 17/06/2019

Restricted Funds	£2,061.34	Workparty Donations	£1,253.34
		Ramblers Hols	£307.00
		Book Sales	£501.00
Self Funded	£4,130.90	Holiday pre-payments	£71.00
		Holiday Residuals	£3,991.85
		Social pre-payments	£0.00
		Social Residuals	£68.05
General Funds	£439.17		
Total Funds	£6,631.41		

At bank	£6,631.41	
To bank	£0.00	
Awaiting presentation	£0.00	
Total	£6,631.41	£0.00
		£0.00