

Minutes of Mendip Ramblers Committee Meeting Thursday 11th June 2026 at Red Roofs, Holcombe

Present: Connie Moore, Lucy Rowntree, Les Stather, Tony Dyson, Jane Dyson, Mike Plaskitt, Tony Strange, Claris Brown

Apologies:, Janet Morland

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

Matters Arising First Aid training for Mendip has been arranged to take place in a hired room at Wells Museum at 1:30pm on August 3rd. 13 people have signed up. The trainer will be Sue Rushforth, and she would like to have a list of topics to cover. West Mendip Walkers will do the same training in November

Treasurers Report: We are currently very well funded, partially through funding from Ramblers and also the expenses paid to the work party fund. We have money to fund suitable projects if anyone has any ideas.

The First Aid training will cost us for room hire and a donation to the trainer and assistant.

Membership

Mendip have 247 members, no new, but we have lost 3. A lot of these are not active West Mendip have 40 active members, and all are walk leaders. They encourage the back marker and middle marker for any walk to recce it with the leader.

Les told us that a lot of people are joining Ramblers through a civil service scheme and join the area but not a specific group. This suggests that a lot of the membership is joining Ramblers as a good cause, but not necessarily to go walking.

Footpaths

Les has put together a process for recording and following a fault from start to finish, which has attracted positive interest from the footpath people at Somerset.

Publicity

Once again, Lucy asked that where possible walk leaders advertise their walks to the locality they are walking in, via facebook, local whatsapp etc.

She has been putting notifications in local papers, but as we don't ask new people how they came to hear about a walk we don't know how effective this is.

Lucy will look at the costs to use some of our spare cash to put paid adverts in local press such as the Mendip Times.

Walking Festival

There is no walking festival in 2026.

West Mendip will cohost for August Bank Holiday 2027. Gus Halfhide is chairing the committee. Easton Village Hall has been chosen as a suitable base and a local farmer is happy to make a field available for parking. Alan Hancock has been involved

with this. The Hall costs £270, and a donation will be required for the farmer. Gus and his team will provide a budget in due course, they are considering getting sponsorship to cover the cost. It was pointed out that donations for teas and coffees on the day usually more than cover the costs.

Tony D reminded us that he has the “walkers in road” signs stored safely.

The plan is to have long, medium and short walks plus a family walk every day, and walk leaders will be needed in due course.

There was some discussion about how people from farther afield find out about walking festivals – usually by searching the internet. A quick search showed that our Mendip Festival web site comes up – it just needs a better front end to show the current festival (all walks from previous festivals are already on this site). Tony S will talk to Gus and get him to liaise with Tony D to design a front page.

Walks Manager

Connie reported: After the call to arms at the AGM in January this year, which asked for an 8 week rolling programme of walks, there was a keen response with many members stepping up to lead walks which took us through to the middle of March. However, after that, there has been a noticeable downfall in the number of people offering to lead walks and the 8 weeks rolling programme has gone to pot. In May not every Thursday or Sunday had a walk. However Trevor’s Saturday tea walks have been reasonably well attended. June is struggling with 3 Thursday walks and 2 Sunday walks. July has no walks to date.

Lucy has offered 2 walks. Les and Jane both said they would fill dates in July.

AOB.

Claris reported that while Oakhill Parish are saying that the Village Hall Car Park is only for people using the Village Hall, she has spoken to a councillor who agrees we can still use it to park for walks. The gates are being locked in the evening. As a courtesy, if we want to use Oakhill for parking, we should check with the village hall management.

Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 14th October 2pm in Wetherspoons in Wells.

Lucy will organise for us to have a back room..