

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 18 July 2017 *Present: Bernard Parker (BP); Tessa Smith (TS); Celia Broom (CB); Dorothy Webley (DW); Eric Evans (EE); Keith Probert (KP); Alan Robinson (AR); Rosie Rayner (RR); Paddy Jewry (PJ); Val Rose (VR); Maggie Cahm (MC); Julian Fisher (JF).*

- **Welcome and apologies**

There were no apologies. BP had invited JF to join the committee as Webmaster (this was an Action Point at the extraordinary meeting) and BP started the meeting by welcoming Julian F on board.

- **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting 12/06/17 and the Committee meeting 11/04/17 and Matters Arising**

1. Re: Maddacombe Bridge: KP followed up but has had no reply as yet from Nick Boulton.
KP to pursue
2. EE is going to lead Jack R's walk on 31 August and Chris W is to give EE the route.
3. *BP intends going back to the Redcliffe to see if we can have our October meeting there when we would be able to test the equipment for the AGM*
4. Future of the Teashop walks. TS spoke up in favour of continuing these. While they may not attract large numbers, they are important to some members who prefer shorter walks. The social element is also enjoyed by several each time. It was agreed to continue to schedule these on the walks programme for another 12 months, as long as offers to lead come forward.

All other issues were being dealt with or are subject to further discussion at this meeting so the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Website

JF has rationalized the whole look and practicality of the website aiming for visitors being able to find what they want with as few clicks as possible.

Thanks to BP and JF organizing a large screen TV, the committee were able to re-appraise the effectiveness of this re-structure.

The points discussed covered:

1. The look of the Home Page and whether the photo behind the announcement of the Next Walk suggested that they were images of the route itself. It was felt that if the pictures were on a continuous loop changed it would be clear that these are scenes from the area rather than highlighting a walk in particular. *JF to check the feasibility of this.*
2. Maps: Some members regretted the loss of the OS version. The flexibility of the map section was demonstrated and the decision was made to put the Grid Finder link on to the walks page.

3. Gallery: an explanation of the Flickr mechanism and the security of the proposed SDR Flickr group. Members will have to ask to become a member of the Flickr group and it was felt as far as possible these should be members of Ramblers or at least should come as recommended by a member. The risk of anything salacious appearing there was considered to be low. JF would look into the mechanism for deletion.
4. The John Musgrave Heritage Trail (JMHT) sections needed some work if the ambition to post detailed trail guidance is to be realized but this is work in progress and demands a lot of time.

It was felt sufficient information was already on and this need not hold back the go-live date. The feedback form as posted by TS is insufficiently clear and needs adjustment. The feedback/comments should be directed to [secretary@southdevonramblers](mailto:secretary@southdevonramblers.org) rather than a name to ensure a degree of continuity. KP reminded everyone that originally the Trail was designed so as to be easily navigable from *both directions*. AR reiterated the importance of feedback and that the few instances when people had submitted comments these had been carefully considered and followed up appropriately.

5. TS asked for the Paypal button to be restored so that the booklet can be purchased from the website. The term should be consistently *booklet* and the tab heading 'buy the booklet' rather than simply 'the book'.
6. Links: **TS needs to renew any links which are felt to be appropriate** and the heading 'Associates and Links' was felt to be more fitting. The use of the 'tickertape' is not restricted to links and associates but can be used to highlight urgent or important messages and hopefully pull people into the site.
7. Go Live date set as Friday 28 July. JF will liaise with Mat at Binary Integration to smooth this along as well as the archiving of the 'old' website for a time.

BP will send an email to members to introduce the re-launch.

BP asked JF to make himself available on 8 Nov at the AGM to address questions.

JF to revisit and action the points raised as far as possible.

- **JMHT**

Before moving on to the agenda items, minutes of the extraordinary meeting convened on Monday 12 June were approved. Following that meeting BP had sent a letter as agreed to South Devon Highways. BP was somewhat dismayed as the speed of the reply suggested little real consideration had been given but Ros Mills had promptly arranged for the vegetation to be cutback.

- (i) **Deer Park** In view of the importance of this matter, BP invited each member of the committee to reaffirm their position on Deer Park which had now been given further consideration. The difficulty of a decision had weighed on all but clear views were aired.

Three members felt strongly that the funds should be committed to the longer term remedy valuing safety above all other considerations and reminding members of our duty of care. Seven voiced the opinion that the cost was too high, that walkers did use roads where extreme caution was needed and that the depletion of the legacy to that extent would be hard to justify. BP regretted the lack of unanimity but accepted the majority decision not to proceed with the works.

However, it was decided that we should keep up the pressure on the authorities to cutback the vegetation on a regular basis. **BP would seek some form of reassurance on this from Ros Mills and would contact her again.** MC asked if a face to face meeting might be preferable and BP already has a meeting pencilled in for 12 December

(ii) Legacy Funds

The exact figure left in the legacy was confirmed. It was agreed also that the main use for the legacy funds should be for the maintenance of the Trail. At the moment without extraordinary expenditure, income more or less keeps pace with expenditure, though this is only because AR undertakes the labour and charges only for materials and car mileage. The Trail is in good shape at the moment, far better indeed than many other such trails.

ALL to have thoughts and explore how to generate funds to top up the maintenance fund.

BP confirmed again that the JMHT is seen as an important asset of SDR.

(iii) Kennels Rd

KP has spoken with Keith Rennells whose report was due to be submitted in May. Mr Rennells had anticipated our crossing could be an easily implemented improvement at no great cost as the landowners were already 'on board'. It should be a speedy resolution by the end of the summer. KP will try and get an update.

In response to a comment received in an email, KP will ask for the waymarking in Alston Lane to be looked at again.

(iv) Public Liability

An exchange of emails with George Redmayne at Central Office has been helpful. Summarising his advice: the waymarks along the Trail as done by the County Council implied that the Council would stand by us in the unlikely case of injury by a post/waymark. Where we had erected waymark posts it would be more our

concern and we would bear some responsibility. KP feels we should reconvene a meeting of our partners, chaired by BP to clarify the position.

Insurance by Ramblers pertained to matters of negligence.

BP suggested asking other authorities with an interest in long distance footpaths how they deal with issues of liability.

KP had spoken to Keith Rennells who felt we were worrying unnecessarily as we were taking great care and acting responsibly and would receive the support of our partners if a claim was ever made.

(v) **Website**

This was discussed in Matters Arising and needed no further comment at this point.

- **Holidays**

BP reassured the committee that all was in hand for the Brittany trip 2017

MC has booked all 40 beds on offer at The Welbeck Hotel in Douglas for 16-21 September 2018, 5 nights half board. There are only 6 singles.

Grey Car Coaches were the most competitive and MC has made arrangements as outlined in her report. MC will keep on checking EasyJet but it will probably be December 2017 before the flights and prices are released. The scheduled flight times are favourable. The hotel offers picnic lunches.

The unit costs: (approximate estimates) £500 pp sharing £ 580 singles to include travel, accommodation and meals.

MC to ask Jackie M if she would do a flyer. Participants could request a place and would need to bring cheque for £250 (amount to be confirmed) to the AGM to enable the flights to be booked en bloc

BP thanked MC for all the work to date and asked **committee to have some thoughts about Holiday 2019** as hotels need to be reserved well in advance.

- **Walking Festivals**

TS informed the meeting that the dates of The Festival of Winter Walks are 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018. A flyer about this initiative, aimed principally at attracting new walkers, was circulated. Any walks scheduled for those dates will come under the umbrella and it is to be hoped new walkers will turn out.

Similarly for Walkabout 2018 which runs from Sat 26 May – Sun 3 June 2018.

There are grants available for groups who put on special events to promote these events both of which have attracted funding by the People's Postcode Lottery and TS asked **members of the committee to consider whether we could organize something, eg a JMHT event.**

- **AGM 2017**

BP checked to see if members were willing to stand another year. At this stage, AR affirmed his decision to stand down for personal reasons. BP thanked AR sincerely for his superb work as Footpath Officer and in particular his meticulous maintenance work. KP endorsed this praise. KP will stay another year and it was suggested that in future it may be a good plan to have in place a team for the Footpath and JMHT Officer roles.

TS asked **members to refer to previous minutes about the streamlined version of the AGM format. All to give thought to their input.**

- **AOB** There was no other business

- **Date of next meeting** – *Tuesday 10 October at the Redcliffe -to be confirmed*