

THE RAMBLERS TRAFFORD GROUP

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 23rd June 2025 at 10 South Drive, Timperley

Present: Kath Thorley (Chair), Jan Moore (Secretary), Rosie Hurley, Tony Reynolds, Richard Longbottom, Frances Bennett.

1. Apologies for absence.

Kath Smith and Phill Connolly

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday

Accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

All action points have been completed with the exception of the valuation of the footpath maintenance equipment which remains ongoing.

Action: Tony to maintain a check on progress.

Five members have indicated an interest in first aid training

4. Chairman's remarks

The new ICE cards have been received and distribution commenced amongst members.

The latest Area booklet of walks is being prepared. Kath feels the RTG wording is fine but any amendments need to be made by July via Jan.

The Ramblers paper **Access to Nature** has been received. Members are asked to invite their MPs on walks to highlight the issue.

Action: Kath will write to the Trafford MPs after clarifying the recommended action at the Area meeting on Thursday 3rd July.

5. Committee members' reports

Treasurer:

No change from the previous report with the balance standing at £1877.48. £300 is owed to Phill for payment of the meal deposits in Keswick.

Groups are now invited to submit requests for the annual round of Area funding. Currently RTG have not identified any need but first aid training is an issue that the group might consider.

Action: Kath to check Jacqui Knowles's recommendation that we should claim the basic allocation as there is some disparity with the Ramblers' Treasurer's guide.

Frances confirmed that RTG can apply for funding if needed at a later date.

Secretary:

Nothing to report.

Walks Coordinator:

Report tabled.

No requests were received outside of RTG members to join the GM Walking Festival events.

Richard queried the level of publicity by Area commenting that people had to actively search for

details.

Action: Rosie to ask the GM Walking Festival organisers for any information on the take-up of walks advertised.

Eight evening walks are being offered but numbers have been small so far. This will be reviewed once all have been completed.

Rosie has not received any comments about the expenses proposal. However, claims do not have to be submitted until the end of the quarter, which is 30th June. Hopefully, we should know more by the next meeting.

Lesley will be leading some longer Strolls over the summer.

Numbers attending walks has generally remained high but Rosie added that one of the longer walks offered in this quarter had not had any takers. Kath remarked that she senses people are looking for slightly less demanding walks.

Action: Rosie to discuss the level of walks being offered with walk leaders.

Membership Secretary:

In the absence of Kath S, Kath T reported that there are currently 319 members. Two members, both recently joined, have left and one has died.

Communications officer:

No report

Web master:

Richard will post the review of the Lakes walking week on the RTG web site following some amendments by the chair. A gallery of photographs will also be posted. Discussion followed on the need for permissions to post photographs where members were recognizable. It was agreed that general shots would be good.

Footpath Officer:

Footpath Inspectors

The next meeting of the Footpath Inspectors is in August. They are seeking new volunteers and hope to allocate all paths in Trafford at that meeting.

A meeting has been arranged with Trafford Highways (Amey) alongside Martin Hampar of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society on 1st July which may provide further ideas for the way forward.

Action:

Tony to advertise for new inspectors and footpath maintenance volunteers via email and social media. Richard will post on the RTG web.

Agreed:

The term 'inspectors' to be used rather than wardens.

A draft to be circulated for comment.

Details to be sent to all known walking groups in the M31, M32 and M33 areas – e.g. Timperley Community Group, Well-being Group, SWAG, and Altrincham Ramblers.

Footpath Maintenance Team

Aims to revive the Footpath Maintenance Team that has not functioned for several years and meet with The Community Volunteer group based at Sale Water Park who may be able to assist with the loan of hand tools and training.

Action:

Tony will contact existing maintenance volunteers that are listed on the Ramblers volunteer database.

Tony to explore the provision of training with Trafford MBC

Kath suggested a need is emerging for a second person to assist Tony so that Tony can take charge of the management and administration involved leaving the second person to oversee maintenance.

Action: Tony to develop an organisation chart of how the different groups fit together

Other:

Tony attended the Trans Pennine Trail Greater Manchester Group online meeting as Ramblers representative. Nothing of note to report.

6. Walk Leadership

Report tabled.

In response to the Ramblers initiative to regularise and improve training for walk leaders, Rosie has ascertained that 10 members need to undertake the online training modules or to have led 12 walks in the last 3 years and read the walks leaders handbook in order to remain on the Ramblers database of volunteers.

Rosie is willing to assist members through this process and will invite them to indicate whether they would like to join group sessions to work through the modules together.

Action: Rosie will email the requirements individually to the leaders that this affects. indicating the number of walks required to meet the threshold of 12.

7. Provision of defibrillators for Walk Leaders

Kath reported that we had received a request to discuss this from a member who is in another walking group where these are provided. In advance of the meeting, she had contacted the Ramblers, the British Heart Foundation and the Resuscitation Council UK requesting information and advice specifically geared to remote environments, and reported their responses. Ramblers had responded to say they wouldn't expect leaders to carry defibrillators.

There was a discussion re the value of using defibrillators in very remote locations without very prompt back-up support and also that the evidence suggests that the number of cardiac events occurring on country walks is very low.

Committee members were not convinced that the purchase of defibrillators was appropriate given the almost negligible chance one would be needed, the need for urgent medical back up to provide any real chance of survival, and also the expense involved in the purchase and maintenance of the equipment.

Action:

Committee members were asked to send any relevant information to Kath. Jan stated she has access to the British Sub Aqua Club AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training manual which might be helpful.

Kath will raise this as an issue at the next Area meeting on 3rd July

Kath to make further contact with Ramblers to request the numbers of incidents of the two most serious categories.

Kath to chase the Resuscitation Council UK for their response.

Kath to send a reply to David Wigley who had raised the issue

8. First Aid Training

Rosie has identified interest from 5 members. Ramblers have indicated there are 2 organisations that can assist.

Action:

Rosie will follow up further with Ramblers to ascertain availability and cost.

Jan to contact Area to see if they have any recommendations for training providers and /or if any local groups have undertaken such training or might wish to join RTG in a training event.

(After the meeting, it was suggested that rather than standard first aid training, it might be more useful to offer 'incident training' which could include some first aid. Some of this might be provided in-house or we could request a tailor made training session.)

9. Lakes trips 2025 and 2026

The chair's review was tabled and will be posted on the RTG website.

Suggestions for 2026 were:

- a change of venue in 2026 (Ambleside?) to facilitate new walks being offered
- a change of dates to week commencing 22nd May as several members are known not to be able to attend the 'normal' week.
- adjusting the programme in terms of options to reduce the pressure on walk leaders.

These will be taken forward at a later meeting.

10. Llanberis, 3rd to 4th September, 2025

This has been advertised on the web site. Three walks may be offered – Snowdon and Conwy on the Wednesday (NB Snowdon only if there is sufficient demand and suitable weather) and Llanberis on the Thursday.

Action:

The walk leaders to discuss and finalise arrangements.

Kath to post walk summaries on the Walks Information WhatsApp to see if there are other members who may be interested, and to assess numbers interested in Snowdon as an option.

TG members to be reminded to keep abreast of details on the Llanberis WhatsApp

11. Any Other Business

Richard raised the issue of the impact of very hot weather. Ramblers have not set any guidelines. There was a discussion about whether we should have group guidelines for cancelling walks in extremes of weather, but it was agreed it was up to the walk leader.

Action: Rosie will reiterate to walk leaders that it is acceptable to cancel when the weather conditions are extreme.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th September at Rosies, commencing 4.30pm

The main topics items to be

- First Aid Training
- Lakes 2026
- Footpath developments
- Walk leader training

Signed.....

Date.....