

THE RAMBLERS TRAFFORD GROUP

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2024 At Witley Drive, Sale

Present: Richard Longbottom (Chair), Frances Bennett (Treasurer), Jan Moore (Secretary), Vicky Longbottom, Rosie Hurley, Phill Connolly, Kath Thorley, Kath Smith

1. Apologies for absence.

None

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2024

Accepted as a correct record

3. Matters arising

Frances is happy to bring her views on Strollers matters to meetings and Rosie will continue to ask Sheila Kabbani for a Strollers' report to be included in the Walk Coordinator's report.

There had not been an agreement on the venue for the walking week in May 2025 but informal discussion since has resulted in Keswick being chosen for another year.

Frances reported on the GM Ringway celebration on 26th August. It had been well attended with over 100 joining the morning walk. She is now a Guardian for Stage 19.

4. Chairman's remarks

None

5. Committee members' reports

Treasurer: The current balance is £1509.97. Frances is currently preparing the accounts for annual audit by Malcolm Hunter.

Secretary: Jan reported on the Area meeting of July 11th which Rosie and Kath also attended. The main topic was walk leader training and there was unanimous consensus that the proposed changes are not very helpful and may well have a negative impact upon recruitment of future walk leaders. Ramblers HQ appear to be unwilling to engage in further discussion. Unfortunately, the next Area meeting clashes with the Grassington walking trip so no member of the committee is able to attend what might be a useful follow up.

Action: Jan to ask Judith Hunter if she might be willing to attend on this occasion and report back

The consultation period is now underway for the proposed housing development at Davenport Green (aka The Timperley Wedge). RTG have been asked by Area if they would like to submit comments separately or sign the document that has been prepared by Area. As we no longer have the expertise of June Mabon to draw on, it was felt that a joint submission would be appropriate.

Action: Jan to circulate the response drafted by Alan Manning on behalf of

Area Ramblers.

Jan had recently circulated details of the Area Secretary role which will become vacant in November

Action: Kath T to send out an all-member email with the details

Walks Coordinator: Report tabled. The programme for the next quarter has now been drafted. However, a number of walk leaders are currently unavailable and this will impact upon the opportunity for split walks offering both more challenging and more leisurely options. They have proved very popular in recent months. Could offering walks on days other than Thursday attract more volunteers? Other ideas for next year might be walks on New Year's Eve, at dawn, at night.

Agreed: a mince pie walk and a ramble in Castleton to see the Christmas lights to be offered in December

Action:

Elaine Connolly to be asked to organize the mince pie walk scheduled for Thursday 5th December at Lyme Park.

Rosie to confirm the Hayfield walk scheduled for 12th December with Dave Wigley

Kath T to lead the Castleton Walk to be scheduled for 19th December

Rosie to seek offers for a walk between Christmas and New Year

Rosie reported evening walks had been trialed over the summer and had proved very popular.

Agreed: evening walks to be organized in 2025 between Easter and the end of August. These should avoid walking along roads to ensure safety as darkness falls

Action: Kath T offered to lead a couple of these walks.

The Strollers' report highlighted the memorial walk to remember the contribution of June Mabon. A Christmas lunch and mince pie stroll are confirmed for December.

Membership Secretary: Membership is currently 290 which is slightly higher than previously. Vicky felt RTG has a high level of engagement. There are many reasons why people join Ramblers but do not actively participate.

6. Arrangements for the AGM, Wednesday 6th November

This will be held on Zoom commencing at 7.00.

Discussion took place as to whether nominations could be accepted on the night and how proposers and seconders would be identified. Does there need to be completion of paperwork? Richard said it is acceptable to take nominations at the meeting. The roles of Chair and Social Secretary will become vacant with 2 members indicating interest. The role of communications officer has been resumed.

Agreed: it would be helpful to have another member involved in the development and maintenance of the RTG web site. A member has indicated an interest in this role.

Action:

Jan to book Zoom and send out notices for the AGM

Committee members to send written reports for Jan to circulate to those

attending by 28th October

A meeting of the new committee would normally take place immediately after the AGM.

7. Venue and Dates for the Lakes walking week, 2025

The week will be 4 nights starting on Monday 12th May based in Keswick.

Action:

Phill will resurrect the Keswick WhatsApp group and start communications as appropriate. These will commence with a request for offers to lead walks.

Kath T to send out an all-member email to encourage Strollers who are interested in coming to sign up to the Keswick WA group.

Phill to explore the options with the Fellpack for the Thursday meal

A meeting to take place before Christmas to discuss walks in detail with a view to circulating the programme in April. Rosie emphasized that there is a need to identify more leisurely walks.

8. Grassington Walking Trip, 3rd to 4th October

Kath T has created a What's App for this.

Action:

Kath T and Phill to determine how best invite those still to join.

Kath T to circulate the menu for the Old Hall Inn. People will need to respond with their choices by September 24th

Possible walks were discussed. Richard advised that these should be planned for lower levels due to the time of year and possible weather issues.

Agreed:

Thursday 3rd October – Grassington North (with back up of Buckden to Deepdale)

Walk leader = Rosie with support from Kath T

Friday 4th October – Kettlewell to Arncliffe (with back up of Buckden to Deepdale)

Walk leader = Phill

Action: Rosie and Richard to advertise on the RTG web site

9. Any Other Business

Phill requested that storage be organized for the strimmers which are still in storage at his house.

Action: Richard will draft correspondence to Area to elicit ways to progress this

10. Date of next meeting

To follow immediately after the AGM for handover and agreement of the following meetings

Signed.....

Date.....