

White-Cliffs Ramblers Association
Committee Meeting –Minutes
March 21st 2023

Held at The Black Robin, Kingston, CT46H7

1) Present: John Pye (JP), Tony Bristow (TB), Anne Bristow(AB), Helena Trevelyan (HT), Lee Pickup (LP), John Shale (JS), Pam Brivio (PB); Deborah Quow (DQ), Margaret Milsted-Williamson (MMW)

2) Apologies for absence: Andrew Swarbrick (AS)

3) Matters arising from previous minutes:

- Margaret's Kissing Gate,- the one identified for Les Preston, not in Heather Waller's jurisdiction, but Ed Denne. Ed has advised that we need to contact the landowner but due to GDPR requirements he cannot advise us who that is.
- **PB-** will try to seek information from Land registry
- **AH-** John Polden might be able to help
- Still looking for a suitable location for the gate in memory of Margaret Lubbock
- **AH** to contact John Polden for help and **JS** to contact Averil
- Maura Pell need not be included in future emails
- Walk Leaders' Day was 13.00- 17.00
- Point 3 on last minutes should read David Russell
- Quiz to be lead by Colin Hodges

4) Feedback from Walk Leaders' Forum

- **JP-** an excellent event and thanked **DQ, MMW and LP** for organising and delivering the event
- **DQ-** good verbal feedback. Aim to hold an annual forum. Some attendees committed to leading walks as a result.
- Need to ascertain how many First Aid kits are needed for Walk Leaders, both new and existing. **DQ** to send out an email to Walk Leaders and **AS** will arrange the purchase and distribution of them.
- **AH** to ask John Polden about obtaining more high viz jackets
- **JP** commented on breadth and depth of Walk Leaders

5) Walks Programme- DQ

(Note order of items different to Agenda to allow DQ to leave the meeting early)

- Average of 19/20 on each walk
- February driest ever! Lots of feedback from Walk Leaders

- New programme for April to end of June has been published.

6) WCR Walking Week- July 17th- July 23rd

- **JP** asked **DQ** to email all Walk Leaders regarding the Walking Week
- **TB** to give out details in next newsletter; this will then go on the website within the next 10 days
- **DQ** to contact Walk Leaders at the end of April
- **LP** to send something to SW Walker, Robert peel and LDWA
- **LP**- maybe Robert Stearn could do a long walk
- **DQ** is the main contact for the new Walks Manager system to replace GWEM for Ramblers HO.

7) Kent Area AGM-2025- JP

- Committee approved WCR to organise the Kent Area AGM for 2025
- Venue? Wye Village Hall proposed by **JP**. Richard Blackford (ex WCR Chair) was on the committee for Wye Village Hall and an excellent response from the Village Hall to meet the requirements set out by Robert Peel had been received by **JP**. It has been used before and a nearby station can be used for transport.
- All agreed to holding the Kent Area AGM at Wye Village Hall.
- **JP** to confirm with Wye Village Hall for the event- First Saturday in February in 2025
- Cost will come from Kent area and **JP** will check the date with Robert Peel

8) Use of Meet Up for attracting younger members

- A question of coming up with an enticing walk
- **JP**-If numbers are picking up, do we need to move forward with this?
- **TB** has been in touch with head of Membership at Area- 50-60 years is the younger group!
- £60 to join up for six months
- **TB**- should aim for taster length walk
- Committee agreed to look into it further, action by **LP**.
- If it was deemed suitable an appropriate walk should be identified in the next July programme.
- Suggested **JP**'s walk on June 29th

9) Potential for purchase of web/app version of OS Maps

- **JP** spoke to **AS** about this. As a charity, can purchase a group membership for OS Maps- £99 per annum. Committee happy for **JP** to do further research.
- It's such a useful app and a further tool to encourage Walk leaders. Necessary to download map of area you are walking in case there is no phone signal there.

10) Further developments of WCR Website

- **JP** said the new WCR Website is now up and running and Keith Ross is encompassing the White Cliffs Walking Festival website as part of the WCR website, so there is one website covering both. There will be separate galleries for WCWF photos

- **JP** to set up a committee area for the website protected by a password where Committee meeting reports, minutes and agenda's can be stored to save emailing around to everyone and be available for future reference.

11) Big Help Out Day

- Andrew Searle- part of the Coronation planning is to hold a Big Help Out Day
- Anything we should do to advertise ourselves?
- Decided to leave it to Ramblers who are doing a Big help Out day for the Coronation

12) REPORTS from: (refer to separate Meeting Report)

A) Treasurer- JS –

B) Membership Secretary- AS

C) Walks co-ordinator- DQ

D) Publicity Officer- LP

E) PROW news/updates - Roger King

F) Vegetation Clearance - JS

G) PFO Co-ordinators - MMW

H) Social Secretary- AH

13) Replacement for single Farm subsidy Payment by the Environment Landscape Management schemes and the possible affect on PROWs

- Ted Roche has advised that farmers and landowners had a subsidy to protect Rights of Ways and Footpaths. Now a new scheme will start that means farmers will no longer have a responsibility to do this. Graham Rushling (sp?) thinks it's an oversight
- TB thinks it will be taken up by area because it's so significant

14) 2024 WCWF update

- **AS** hasn't had any volunteers for this, so far.
- **AS** to prepare request for Volunteers in the next Newsletter.

15) Navigation Course

- **AS** has compasses and has offered to do a one to one for anyone who is interested.

16) AOB

- **AS** still sending paper copies to 8/9 members who are not on computers
- **JS** to write a small report about a footpath that's been cleared for the newsletter next week
- **PFO meeting** coming up on Friday. MMW to let TB know of any PFO vacancies
- WCR are holding their annual lunch on April 2nd-(the first since Covid!) 33 people attending
- Someone will give a speech as the Chair is away then
- **Meeting finished at 14.00 hours and HT booked our next meeting at the Black Robin for May 23rd, starting at 12.00 hours.**