



White-Cliffs Ramblers Association
Committee Meeting –Minutes
September 13th 2023

Held at The Black Robin, Kingston, CT46H7

Present: John Pye (JP), Helena Trevelyan (HT), Lee Pickup (LP), John Shale (JS), Pam Brivio (PB) Margaret Milsted-Williamson (MMW), Andrew Swarbrick (AS).

- 1. Apologies for absence: Tony Bristow, Anne Hickey**
- 2. Matters arising:**
 - a. Title for Webinar: Safety on Group Walks, Project Conversation
- 3. AGM- November 5th at 13.30**
 - 1.1. Apart from **HT**, all committee members prepared to stand
 - 1.2. Notice to members- **JP** to send to **AS** to send out to all members.
 - 1.3. AGM Agenda- **HT** to send agenda to **JP (completed)**
 - 1.4. Guest Speaker: Steve Roberts, Chair of Herne Bay Photographic Society. He will also select the winner for the Les Preston trophy and will speak for 20-30 minutes
 - 1.5. Refreshments- **DQ** and **LP** to arrange
 - 1.6. Pre AGM walk will start at 10 am, **JP** to lead.
 - 1.7. AGM Reports: **HT** will write a short report as she will be away. All reports to **JP** by October 14th
 - 1.8. **JP** to bring register to AGM
- 4. Holiday Update:**
 - 4.1.** Mallorca October 2024- **MMW**
 - 4.2.** Italy, October 2025, potentially- **MMW**
 - 4.3.** **JP** in contact with Ramblers holidays- 2024 for 4 nights, walking holiday in Yorkshire- Settle in June 2024
- 5. Walk Leaders Forum/ongoing support of existing walk leaders and recruitment of new walk Leaders-DQ**
 - 5.1. Repeat forum in 2024 but for all Walk Leaders, as well as anyone interested in becoming one.
 - 5.2. **DQ** circulated a summative document about how to shape the Walk Leaders Forum Day
 - 5.3. Continue to recruit potential Walk Leaders, maybe advertise on WCR website
 - 5.4. Date: March 9th 2024, **JS** to book small hall at St. Margaret's Village Hall 13.00-18.00
 - 5.5.** PFO meeting will also be potentially arranged at the same hall

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6. **Safety on Group Walks- Rambler's Project and our own group's thoughts**
 - 6.1. **DQ** circulated a summative document
 - 6.2. Working towards having the skills, knowledge and confidence to lead great walks and to be safe
 - 6.3. Possibly will not need paper Risk assessment
 - 6.4. Committee agreed that they wished to avoid too much prescription and bureaucracy to avoid deterring WLs. Proportionality was key.
 - 6.5. Awaiting for definitive guidance from Ramblers before firming up WCR approach
 - 6.6. WCR Walk Leader and Walkers guide sent to Ramblers for information
 7. **Memorial- Update and plaque ceremony**
 - 7.1. Nearly there!
 - 7.2. Gate installed and plaque needs to be put in (now completed)
 - 7.3. **AS** circulated photos of the gate and its installation
 - 7.4. **JP**- ceremony for unveiling the plaque- **Tuesday November 21st**. **MMW** suggested a 2 hour walk before the ceremony.
 - 7.5. **AS** offered to lead the walk, includes a steep climb and will be 4.3 miles, starting at **11:00hrs** from Elham village square. Unveiling will take place towards the end of the walk at around 12:30hrs.
 - 7.6. Heather Waller, Ed Denne and Margaret and Les's family to be invited, and Averil and Steve
 - 7.7. Suggestion that attendees meet at **The King's Arm in Elham** for a drink following the ceremony **AS** to inform pub.
 8. **Photo Competition-judging of final 12 by our Guest Speaker**
 - 8.1. **MMW** and **LP** and **JS** will send out 12 photos each
 - 8.2. Committee will whittle it down to 12 photos for Guest Speaker to select the best one from the 12
 - 8.3. By end of September, **JS** will ask **MMW** and **LP** to send him 12 photos each
 9. **Calendar for 2024?**
 - 9.1. **JP** to create a calendar using the 12 best photos
 10. **Secateurs for Walk Leaders**
 - 10.1. **DQ** to ask active WLs whether they want secateurs for this programme
 11. **Walks programme potential clash with key events e.g. Elham walking festival, Five Churches Walk, MND walk?**
 - 11.1. **HT** to email Sue Mott to enquire whether there is another MND walk this year or whether it was a one off
 - 11.2. To accommodate the Five Churches walk it was agreed to put a short walk on the Sunday before 05/05/2024
 - 11.3. Decisions on any further Walks Programme clashes to be reviewed at next meeting.

12. Evaluation of the Walking Week 2023 – DQ

- 12.1.** DQ circulated a document detailing data
- 12.2.** Very low key, numbers a bit lower than norm, possibly because there were 2 walks daily
- 12.3.** AS- stated we should decide whether to have a WCWF next year
- 12.4.** Committee agreed to repeat the Walking Week but with more publicity in 2024 and advance notice
- 12.5.** **Date: Monday July 15th – Sunday July 21st 2024**

13. Social events

- 13.1.** **March 3rd 2024 –Annual Dinner at the Rising Sun in Stourmouth, AH** asked for people to be given notice for this date
- 13.2.** DQ to liaise with AH for a Walk Leader for the pre lunch walk
- 13.3.** **Quiz on 29th September at the Five Bells Easry which starts at 6.30 and pause for supper at 7.30**

14. Beach of Dreams PB

- 14.1.** Anita Sedgwick, our contact has been off since July
- 14.2.** PB now has list of invitees and will email them
- 14.3.** Next meeting is October 10th
- 14.4.** Main problem- who will actually lead the hub? (not something WCR wish to do)
- 14.5.** Peter Morris is very supportive
- 14.6.** Pennants are really expensive, which is a key concern. Maybe Big Local could produce pennants at a much lower price

15. New Rambler's Strategy

- 15.1.** Ramblers is in process of developing a new strategy about the direction of the organisation. JP is attending a Zoom meeting on 23 Sept and will report at next meeting.

16. Reports attached from:

- 16.1.** Treasurer
- 16.2.** Membership secretary
- 16.3.** Walks Co-ordinator
- 16.4.** Publicity Officer
- 16.5.** PROW Co-ordinator
- 16.6.** Vegetation Clearance Co-ordinator
- 16.7.** PFO Co-coordinator
- 16.8.** Social Secretary

In addition to the reports:

A very quiet month, £215 to Averil leaves £215 in self funded account

Several new members since report

Out of new WLs, only a half wants to lead another one. Still need WLs for

October 1st and 5th, December 24th and 28th

Articles sent to KM

See report

October 5th – Strimmer Training Day

As report

As report

17. AOB

17.1. AS concerned that the Kent Ramblers rep for the Aldington solar farm may not be able to attend the next consultation meeting.

17.2. AS to attend next Kent area meeting in place of **JP** who is on holiday.

17.3. HT thanked the committee very much for all their contributions to making this wonderful walking group such a successful one. **HT** is handing over the Secretary's baton after 6 years, but will continue to support the group in any way she can. The committee gave HT a very beautiful bunch of flowers and a card. This was such a kind gesture.

18. Meeting finished at 14.00 hours and HT booked next meeting at the Black Robin for Wednesday November 29th at 12:00hrs.