

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Wed 11 October 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); Maggie Cahm (MC); Julian Fisher (JF).

- **Welcome and apologies**

Apologies received from Val R

- **Minutes of the Committee meeting 18/07/17**

KP apologized for not having sent in a report. He updated committee on the Maddacombe Bridge: he had learnt that Nick Boulton had retired which explained the lack of response. **KP to pursue the matter further.**

- **Matters Arising (unless listed as agenda item)**

It was decided to address the matter of fundraising for the JMHT under the JMHT section of the meeting*

- **AGM 2017**

This item was brought forward as a priority. BP and TS both outlined their ideas and there was some divergence. BP was particularly concerned about members of the committee being sidelined and not being given sufficient voice. He was also anxious not to 'hog the limelight' and felt he might be seen to taking too prominent a role.

A lengthy discussion ensued. In this discussion, points logged were:

General agreement that last year's AGM had been too lengthy.

A willingness by several members to take a role in presenting.

Preference for a streamlined format.

TS asked JF if he could help to ensure the smooth-running of the slides. The exact timing of items on the agenda need to be worked out.

A compromise format of three speakers for the 3 sections was also considered, as was a suggestion by AR that members' fuller reports could be posted on the website.

In order to move things forward it was agreed that those members of the committee who had not already submitted the points for the AGM they wished to be covered should do so, emailing them, plus any pictures they feel appropriate, to TS and BP no later than Wednesday 18 October. TS to help work up the presentation, fleshing it out, before handing it to BP for his personalisation.

TS felt strongly that writing the full presentation for another to deliver would result in a stilted delivery so collaboration will be key. BP also felt that a complete run through was essential and this found general agreement.

- **JMHT**

- (i) **Deer Park**

KP reported that the verge at Deer Park was well-trimmed at the moment. There is to be a meeting in December. He felt that as long as the verge was trimmed 3 times a year it is sufficiently safe for walkers. BP will contact Ros Mills again to finalise the date for the next meeting when he will also discuss Kennels Road.

- (ii) **Kennels Rd**

The report by Keith Rennells has been submitted with an email from KP also being sent in. This matter was pursued last week and KP will keep an eye on things for developments.

KP to monitor

- (iii) **Monitoring Scheme**

KP referred to two vacancies on the monitoring scheme left, one sadly by Les G and the second with Jack R being out of action for the foreseeable future. It was agreed that the AGM would be the time to ask for offers to fill those vacancies.

This led to a discussion about other vacancies and the way forward with AR and RR both standing down in November and not seeking re-election.

TS to check about any ruling in the constitution about nominations and applications.

BP reminded committee that in fact we all stand down at the AGM. The procedure then follows with re-election if no notice has been given that a member does not wish to serve a further year.

BP felt that no notice about the members of the committee standing down need be given expressly as it would be in the minutes on the website.

(iv) *Fundraising

While consideration about ways to raise funds to replenish the JM legacy coffer was an action point from the last meeting, DW questioned whether this was now strictly necessary since committee had decided against spending significantly on the Deer Park crossing. She felt there was no urgency.

BP insisted that it had been an action point and must be considered but he was content that the matter be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

TS to itemize on agenda for January meeting.

- **Holiday 2018 – Isle of Man**

MC outlined the problems caused by Easyjet changing their schedules and the limited accommodation options. To an extent, the lesson learnt is that flights with a large group are not easy!

The current state of play sees the group taking the coach on Sunday. The sailing time is favourable and the holiday would include 4 full days' walking. We would leave on the Friday morning. Her concern was: are 4 days enough? AR asked whether we might consider tacking on a day in another area en route but this was not felt to be easy to do.

MC to confirm accommodation at the Welbeck and to confirm also with Grey Cars. She will get flyers ready for distribution at the AGM

RR raised the question: is the Isle of Man going to be very busy if there is a car event at that time? This was discussed but committee was reasonably confident that it would not impact negatively on our walking.

BP advised MC that a deposit of £250 should be collected by the end of November 2017.

- **Holiday 2019**

CB talked about her holiday in Greece with Totnes Ramblers. The costs of this week seemed to compare favourably with other such holidays. MC pointed out that not all of our own group are strong walkers. Ours would be a larger group with a wider range of walking stamina. **CB was asked to gather more information so this destination can be considered for the future.**

Committee are all too aware that the difficulty lies not in choosing a destination, but in finding people to take on the work of organizing it. With this in mind it was suggested that **members of SDR at the AGM should be asked to see if anyone has a particular familiarity with a destination which they would share and so help to organize a future holiday.**

- **Grading walks**

EE reported a recommendation by George Coles that we grade our walks according to difficulty. EE explained that our walks are not graded on our own programme but that a grading was mandatory when inputting into the Walksfinder site. He found this somewhat arbitrary and had some concerns about liability.

The matter was well aired with points made about the subjectivity of such grading, consideration of other groups' practice, leaders' responsibilities and past experience. It was agreed that leaders submitting walks to the Walks Co-ordinator should indicate the level of challenge to aid EE in his logging onto Walksfinder.

EE to adapt the walk leaders' form and issue grade descriptors for guidance in future.

The committee did not feel compelled to add grades to our own programme at this point.

- **AOB**

1. BP asked JF to offer a workshop on the use of Flickr at the AGM and he agreed to do this.
2. RR mentioned a radio programme Ramblings by Claire Balding which featured the Isle of Man. Members agreed this would be worth listening to.
3. DW expressed her concern about the use of the database of members' email addresses. She reminded committee that these addresses were not to be used for commercial purposes and the recent forwarding of messages about events was

therefore questionable. TS accepted that this should not have happened and contravened our own policy. Committee saw no real harm had been done as the 'non Rambler' messages related to events by charities similar to the aims and objectives of our own but the point was well made.

MC asked if there was an 'unsubscribe' mechanism on our database and TS admitted there was not. **TS to look into adding an unsubscribe line to the mailings.**

4. KP asked if there was any further news on the closure of Watcombe Beach car park, a useful start point for many walks. CB reported that the car park would indeed be closed.
- **Date of next meeting**
Committee liked the new venue and agreed to meet at The Redcliffe Hotel again on Wednesday 24 January at the same time.

TS 13 October 2017