

## MINUTES of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 11 April 2017

Present: Bernard Parker (BP); Celia Broom (CB); Eric Evans (EE); Keith Probert (KP); Alan Robinson (AR); Rosie Rayner (RR); Val Rose (VR); Maggie Cahm (MC); Tessa Smith (TS)

- **Welcome and apologies**

Paddy J; Dorothy W

- **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising and Action Points (APs)** – unless APs are covered in advance (if possible, to keep the meeting to a reasonable length) in members' reports or in agenda items

KP reported he had heard nothing about [Maddacombe](#) Bridge (reference item 4 of the minutes 24/1/17). This is a section he considers to be 'not particularly safe'.

**Action Point: KP will pursue the matter of [Maddacombe](#) Bridge.**

- **JMHT** (a) Deer Park Lane update

BP reported on the recent communication with Yvette Wilbraham **regarding the dangerous road crossing on JMHT at Deer Park Lane**. The matter is going through the appropriate channels. For the benefit of new members of the committee, BP reiterated the fact that it had not been possible to persuade the Council to contribute to the work as it is not a Public Right of Way (PROW) and they are under no obligation. Indeed, without our persistence and funding this improvement would not be happening. KP pointed out that when the Trail was established, the safety of this section had been highlighted and addressed, though insufficiently well, hence the current imperative.

MC asked if there were other similar sections where such expenditure may be incurred in future. KP alluded to an ongoing plan for improvement at Kennels Road but reassured that this should cost the group no more than a stile or a gateway.

KP told the committee we have been invited to a site meeting before the work at Deer Park Lane commences.

(b) Legacy funds

CB outlined the status of funds and current liabilities. The commitments are to the Deer Park improvement and to the 2017 John Musgrave Memorial Excursion in June (Slad Valley) which will again be subsidised for SDR members. The annual memorial walk, plus ongoing maintenance of the Trail, are the main demands on the legacy and the committee discussed whether it was prudent to cease the subsidy of the Memorial Walk to better preserve the funds. It was pointed out that very few remained who knew John Musgrave personally.

MC ventured that the maintenance of the Trail was the most important thing and this found agreement with the committee.

Tribute was paid to AR who goes over and beyond the call of duty to work on the Trail, saving us money and also, with the use of met posts, ensuring that maintenance costs will be lower. It was pointed out that future Footpath Officers may not be so assiduous!

KP questioned the long-term interest in the Trail and several members explained how it worked often as an introduction to walking in Torbay. EE pointed out the level of interest at Greenway as evidenced by the disappearance of the JMHT leaflets. TS also referred to the sale of the booklets which had not dipped despite the cessation of one outlet, the Totnes Tourist Information Centre.

The decision to cease subsidising the annual excursion was taken with members voting unanimously. It was agreed, however, to retain the outing specifically as the ***John Musgrave Memorial Excursion*** to celebrate John's generous contribution to SDR and to walkers in the area.

TS asked at what level we felt we needed to retain the investment to meet future liabilities. This was discussed and a notional figure was agreed. Future issues were discussed but there was no foreseeable future draw on the purse to cause concern.

MC asked about return on investment of the legacy fund held in the interest-bearing account and CB addressed this to everyone's satisfaction.

To be clear: the 2017 excursion to Slad valley will be subsidised. BP will announce on the excursion the change in funding for future years and this will also be announced again at the AGM when members would be able to air any objections.

(c) Public Liability (PL)

KP traced the history of the Trail, explaining that all the relevant bodies at that time had their own PL policies and provisions. AR had raised the question of liabilities stemming from our own work and activities which have increased since then. He asked, where would we stand, for example, in the event of a waymarker post falling on someone? So far neither AR nor KP had been able to find an answer online or in the Blue Book. Names mentioned as possible help were Eugene Suggett; Janet Davies.

AP: TS to contact Central Office and explore this matter.

Some other matters: KP is now unable to lead the JMHT walk on 4 June. EE volunteered and will fulfil the three aims: to see the new viewing platform; to talk about the Kennels Rd Crossing; to check up on The Grove. MC pointed out that this is also the day of the Airshow but it was not felt this should pose too much of a problem for walkers.

KP referred to areas of the Monitoring Scheme where people had been unable to complete their monitoring. Jack R is incapacitated at the moment and down to lead several walks.

AP: EE to check leadership of walks.

- **Website**

Binary Integration have been paid for their work to date on the new website. There is much work to do on the various sections before it can go live. A target date was discussed and the thinking was that the end of April may be over ambitious. TS hoped that the work could be shared and agreed to send login details and the 'manual' to help committee find their way around it. EE offered to input the walks for May onto the current website so that the pressure was not too great.

Once the updated entries had been done, an announcement about the new website would be sent in a group email. BP agreed with Matt that the old website would be archived.

TS felt that if the new website was live by May there would be ample time for people to become accustomed to the new layout and the Google Maps before the AGM when any issues can be aired.

MC offered help and TS suggested she look at the home page to see what needs to be done. AR and KP could look at the JMHT pages and AR is keen to get the feedback form on the site.

APs: TS to circulate login and admin notes

MC to check Home Page

AR and KP to look at JMHT pages

TS to review links

EE to put May walks onto OLD website

TS to ask PJ about social events section

- **AGM 2017 - format**

The streamlined version of the AGM proposed by TS generally found support. The aim is to curtail the meeting to approximately 1-1.5 hours rather than 2-2.5hrs allowing valuable time for social interaction!

APs: BP to check out the technology at The Redcliffe, including a PA system.

TS to compile a list for information from members of the committee for the presentation text/ members to submit any information they want covered.

**AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING**

- **Holiday 2018**

Various options were considered with brief reports from:-

1. VR (Ramblers Holiday to Yorks Dales) This was possibly too demanding and too expensive as an option
2. Diane B's very detailed proposal for the Isle of Man
3. TS had dismissed the idea of Bulgaria for which she had received a mailing but she felt it had little appeal for SDR
4. KP outlined the types of offer from HF. KP also mentioned Malta and said he would be prepared to take a small group of up to 20. This had great appeal but it was felt the priority was for a destination for 40+
5. PJ had come up with the suggestion of Ireland.

Two facts were aired: (i)CB reminded the committee that at some stage it had been agreed that the holidays would alternate between UK and overseas destinations. She felt the Isle of Man could arguably be construed as 'overseas' and therefore the 2018 destination should be UK

(ii)TS pointed out that the destination was less difficult to find than a person or persons to take the lead and do all the organisation.

There ensued a discussion of roles and responsibilities and the postholders for the foreseeable future. Several members of the committee are considering stepping down and a 'cabinet reshuffle' was also discussed.

After a lengthy consideration it was felt that the Isle of Man proposal was the best offer on the table though exactly how this could take shape had yet to be determined. MC and RR generously offered to form a Holiday Sub Committee. A number of possibilities regarding the recess for walks were suggested. TS offered help on this aspect as was needed but RR and BP emphasized the need to get hotels and flights booked soon.

From this discussion the following decisions were reached:

APs:

BP to contact Diane B, to thank her again for the work she has put in and also to ascertain if she is willing to work with the subcommittee to put the plan into action.

MC and RR to liaise with CB and BP regarding booking, payments etc

Members of the committee should gently communicate to SDR members that new people will be needed, without mentioning at this point who is likely to stand down.

**AGENDA ITEM for JULY – Holiday 2019 as well as 2018**

- **Any other business**

CB explained that there was a good surplus from the Offa's Dyke project. BP asked if he had support for these funds to be used for a celebration for all those who had taken part in the long distance walk, even if for part of the distance. A cream tea at The Livermead was suggested and this met with enthusiastic approval. The event would be held at the end of June, depending on venue availability. Certificates are also being sourced.

AP: BP to contact Tim Rew at The Livermead to book a date.

The tea shop walks continue to be popular in the summer but less so in the winter months.

AGENDA ITEM: the future of the winter tea shop walks

- **Date for next meeting**

Tuesday 18 July 6.30 for 7pm at The Paignton Club