

MINUTES of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 24 January 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); Val Rose (VR).

1. Welcome and apologies

Maggie Cahm sent her apologies.

BP welcomed all, extending a warm welcome to new members of the committee.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

All action points were covered.

3. 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

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2016 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Deer Park Lane update (KP, BP, AR)

Several emails and reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. BP outlined his lengthy meeting with Devon County Council and referred to the quotation for the work. He pointed out that the Council bear no liability for this crossing as it is not a Right of Way but they acknowledged it was a dangerous crossing for walkers. AR reiterated his point about the very real risks to walkers at Deer Park once the vegetation further reduces safety.

The work amounts to approximately £5,000

BP stressed the importance of keeping the momentum on this issue. He outlined a possible reply to the council which he will draft and KP, CB and AR will review. How much of the cost will be borne by the Council remains to be seen.

ACTION POINT: BP to reply to DCC to take things a step further.

KP added that they were asked to raise any other similar issues and as a result, a footway between Kingskerswell Church and Maddicombe Bridge will also be considered.

KP enlightened the committee on progress on the Kennels Rd crossing. The outcome of his meeting with Keith Rennells 19/1/17, recorded in his emails, was very positive for this dangerous crossing also to see improvement this year.

ACTION POINT : AR to liaise with Keith Rennells regarding Mill Lane as in AR's report.

KP also wished to record the work done and by Peter Butler in the JMHT work. KP expressed his thanks to Peter who has photographed the JMHT information boards in his studio and on site at Berry Pomeroy so that we now have a record from which to produce additional boards in case of future loss or vandalism. CB,

AR and KP now hold the picture files on a memory stick. Peter has been thanked and the Committee is grateful for his contribution to our work.

5. Authorisation of Purchases: draft policy to be discussed/approved

This matter was initially raised by the independent reviewer George Coles. It was agreed to formally minute the appointment of Matt Day as webmaster as this is a significant invoice.

After some discussion the policy was accepted as suitable without being restrictive to the day to day running of the group.

ACTION POINT: TS to print off and file the copy of the policy which incorporates edits suggested by MC

6. Website

Once again BP consulted with the committee to check they agreed with the need to retain our own website and the need to update. This found agreement. The proposed cost was also discussed and the committee endorsed the suggestion made by CB for a three way split of costs so that the various activities and requirements of the group were met equitably.

ACTION POINT: BP to approach Matt Day and ask him to begin work while keeping us fully informed as to progress and costs

BP, TS and EE will work on this project. TS suggested RR have a look at the website to see if she feels it is meeting needs – as a relative newcomer she is well placed to have an objective view as Janet Evans' comments had been very worthwhile.

ACTION POINT: RR to have a good look at the SDR website and make any suggestions she has.

EE is interested in seeing if there is a mechanism by which SDR walks can be uploaded to Walksfinder without having to key them in line by line. TS suggested EE speak to Janice W as Plymouth group has managed to do this.

ACTION POINT: EE to discuss uploading walks with Matt Day and possibly Janice W

7. AGM 2017

This will be on Wednesday 8 November at the Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton in the Isadora Duncan Suite. The committee decided to forego a speaker this year and for the sake of reducing the length of the meeting TS suggested she and Bernard 'top and tail'.

Further discussion centred around ways to reduce the overall time. BP felt that, like the new version of the Impact Report, brevity had merit.

It was agreed to revisit this point at the next meeting when a bulleted 'all inclusive' format would be considered.

AGENDA ITEM for APRIL MEETING

8. Holiday 2018

Preparations for 2017 to Brittany are well underway as is documented in BP's report.

Destinations for 2018 were considered but first a decision on who is to organize needs to be made.

BP asked if the committee favoured a number of short breaks rather than one main holiday. DW and VR voiced the opinion that an annual get together was enjoyed by a large number.

Various models were considered.

ACTION POINTS: TS to place a notice on the website inviting members to volunteer to organize a holiday. It had been pointed out that this is how it used to operate and some groups work to this model.

KP: to explore HF holiday possibilities and come up with some suggestions.

VR: to similarly explore Rambler Holidays

PJ: Ireland!

TS: to resurrect an offer that came for a break in Bulgaria!

KP offered to plan a short break in which members might drive to the destination as was done in other years. Malta was also suggested.

AGENDA ITEM for APRIL MEETING

9. Communications 2017 (TS)

BP handed to TS a list of members' contact details with a view to building a database.

TS explained she had drafted a brief Data Protection policy which she would send out to members for their perusal. **ACTION POINT**

The chairman also commended the secretary on her efficiency in composing and producing several policy documents over the last few months.

10. Any other business

- **PR EVENTS** TS raised the matter of the ERTC event held annually in the Spring. Costs had risen steeply and as a result it was felt we should not support this year.

There was little enthusiasm for the Totnes Show either and we decided not to promote Ramblers this year there.

All agreed to look out for events at which to promote Ramblers.

- BP aired his concerns over a recent health and safety issue. As a result it was decided to continue to encourage the use of the medical forms in plastic wallets.

Also it was agreed it would be good practice to have as a general measure the appointment of a middle marker when the group numbered more than 20

The role of the back marker should also be emphasized in the light of the recent worry. Ideally the backmarker should carry a whistle.

All of these guidelines can be incorporated into the leaders' notes which will be on the new website.

- PJ highlighted the First Aid course scheduled for 3 November 2017 outlining the proposed arrangements for the day and the costs incurred, approximately £280. All agreed this is an excellent way to use residual funds in the Mike Mason legacy. This is to be a members only event and limited to 20 maximum.
- KP queried the change from an Annual dinner to a Christmas lunch. Reasons were given and the change was met with general approval. Even if it deterred some from attending, others would favour a daytime event.

11. Date for next meeting

Tuesday 11 April 6.30 for 7pm start at the Paignton Club