



**Loughborough
& District**

Loughborough Ramblers Committee meeting
1st May 2024 at 12-30
Sue Mears House

Agenda

1. **Present** Richard Jack, Dave Twigg, John Samson, Sue Mears, Liz Jones.
Apologies from Chris Rimbault.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** DT noted that the minutes should imply that the Ramblers website had difficulties in navigation and not the Loughborough website.
3. **Action** has been taken to give access to the membership area of the Ramblers website to enable CR and SM to be able to contact members. Members need to be added to the leaders walk list to enable them to lead walks. This needs to be done by the 15th May 24. SM to follow this up.
4. **Garendon Park Development** This issue was discussed. The developers and council have issues regarding the Country Park and the money involved in maintaining it. Max Hunt the councillor will keep the Ramblers informed via JS and we will keep abreast of the development.
5. **Ramblers Walk leader Guidance** There is a handbook for walk leaders and guidance in the leader resources section and a check list of a short version. DT to organise printing of this to give to walk leaders. One of the new requirements of leading a walk is to have emergency contact details as well as the usual mobile phone contact details which are used to book onto the walk. It was agreed that DT would give all walkers a tag to write these numbers on and have them with them when walking. There was discussion about group walking sizes which varied according to difficulty of walk. It was agreed that leaders could buddy up and co-lead and use back markers. It was also agreed to hold meetings to talk about the good practise of leading walks. Planning routes, key features, communication, pace, and emergency 999 registration. The new e-learning resources will be implemented on the 15th May, possibly including first aid and navigation?
6. **Ramblers Assemble Programme** Group membership details are accessed through this.
7. **WhatsApp group** DT has been concerned about the usage of the new information WhatsApp group. It has been set up to share information regarding upcoming walks, transport details and issues regarding the walks. Members have enjoyed seeing the photos of walks and have added a thank you to the leader. In moderation this has been considered acceptable and enjoyed by several members. It

has been particularly useful for the gathering of information for the new Soar Feet. To reduce the number of photos JS has agreed to put a link to the website to see additional photos. SM will send a reminder out about the group and advise members to use other social groups for individual random comments.

8. **Day Trips and Holidays** The recent trip to The Malverns was enjoyed by the members but there were concerns about walking group size, planning the walk and it was decided that costing and funding the day trip should be discussed later when CR was present. Ideas for next year to be considered. For the group holiday SM thought that a working party could be set up to discuss what holiday we could do in the future. Costs are rising and there is an issue of walk leaders.

9. Reports

Membership update – 129 on 16/4/24

Financial Report Account Balances Main £574.97 Self -Funded ££861.05
Total £1436.02

Social Events- Christine and Ted Wells have offered an evening walk around Rothley followed by fish and chips on 26/6/24.

Footpath issues Only the Garendon Park issue discussed?

Area Report Quiz to be in October/November. Area Walk to be held on Saturday 29th June in Rutland. Area AGM on 25/1/25.

Websites Future walks were discussed and DT to put them on the website?

Walk Programme To collect and put on the programme also look at National Forest Walks.

10. **AOB** Co- opt Tess Kay onto the committee as she is the new editor of Soar Feet.

11. **AGM** is 2/11/24, it was proposed to hold it at St Joseph's café after a walk. A date for a meeting prior to this date will be arranged.