

LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday 8 April 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom

Present: Dave Twigg (Chair), Chris Rimbault (Treasurer), Sue Mears (Social Secretary), Sue Bicknell (Area Rep), Stuart Tyler (Footpath Officer), Lynne Atkinson (Membership Secretary), Margaret Machin (Elected Member), Tony Coates (by invitation)

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

3. **Minutes of the last Meeting** (17 December 2020)

There were two number 5 items on the Minutes, the second one needed changing to 6.

Apart from that, the Minutes were approved.

4. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

6(f) Nothing could be done about the footpath in Shepshed which runs along the old railway track as it not a public footpath.

The footpath that comes out near Junction 23 is an on-going problem.

SB raised the issue of not having a Secretary and thought Area had put pressure on us. At the last AGM the Area Chairman said that we could still operate with either a Chair or a Secretary.

5. **Officers' Reports**

(a) Treasurer

The balance on the account is £944.55 made up of £391.72 in the main account and £552.83 in the self-funded account.

(b) Membership

Membership stands at 126. There have been 5 new members this year.

(d) Social

The date for the holiday was changed again to 14 August 2121 and 25 are now booked on this.

(e) Report from Area

SB had been asked for details of the Area Walk taking place on 21 August for the Rights of Way Magazine. There would be a long and short walk both starting from Nanpantan Sports Ground. DT would get the details to SB.

(f) Footpath Officer

(a) Planning permission is going through for building a cemetery at Nanpantan.

(b) An application has been put in for a bund to be built around a property at Ratcliffe on the Wreake which may have implications for the Leicestershire Round.

(c) Programme Report

DT had been on a zoom webinar held by the Ramblers on restarting walks and had circulated some guidance notes to the Committee before the meeting.

The Loughborough group restarted walking again on Saturday 3 April on the same basis as before limiting numbers to 12 with the booking system and risk assessment. 11 people were on this walk. There was another walk on Wednesday 7 April led by Paul Wilcock with 8 people on it.

There was a slight issue with numbers on walks as they were quickly filling up with regular walkers and other members may miss out. What do we do about this? Should a regular member give up their place?

A big problem was lack of leaders due to all the admin of running a walk, i.e doing risk assessments and booking people onto walks. If we can't get leaders then we may have to just offer walks every other week or just once a month. It was suggested that we could do an evening walk maybe once or twice a month starting and finishing at a pub which would more social.

DT had circulated leaders asking them to lead walks but no positive offers had been received.

If people were willing to offer to lead a walk but didn't know where to go they could be provided with a walk that had already been led before. There were also lots of walks on the database on our web site.

It was agreed that TC would keep all the risk assessments and attendance forms for the required year.

Most of the contacts in the GWEM database have both landline and mobile phone numbers for leaders. It was agreed that the landline number would be taken off.

Although the Annual Walking Festival had been cancelled TC had been asked what we were doing as they were going to produce an online magazine of what walks each group were offering. They would be told to keep an eye on our website.

6. Review of contact information on the website

There are some issues on our web site with the mapping at the moment but DT is trying to resolve them.

ST queried the location of some of the information on the web site particularly reporting of footpath problems which was under Leader Resources. DT would discuss with ST at a later date.

At this point there were internet connection issues and DT was frozen out of the meeting.

7. Memorial ideas for John Harper

SM suggested that a tree could be planted in John's name in the National Forest. TC suggested a plaque at the new Visitor's Centre at the Outwoods. SM would contact Yvonne to see if she had any ideas.

8. Use of Assemble

SB had been asked by Area about walk leaders being registered on Assemble. LA informed SB that she had registered all of our leaders on this.

9. **Date of Next Meeting** To be advised.