

LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS

DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday 3 August 2020 at 5.30 pm

Present: Sue Mears (Chair for evening), Lynne Atkinson (Secretary), Dave Twigg (Webmaster), Chris Rimbault (Treasurer), Sue Bicknell (Area Rep), Stuart Tyler (Footpath Officer)

1. Welcome by Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for absence

Three Committee Members did not attend the meeting but no apology was needed as the meeting was restricted to the six Officers.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting (Monday 11 November 2019).

The Minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising from previous Minutes

- (a) Although not all numbers on walks had been recorded, the average per walk for 2019 was 10 and from 1 Jan-11 March 2020 the average was 11.7.
- (b) DT would ask John Samson to link our Facebook page to the Area Facebook page. **DT**
- (c) The article re going paperless went in the Winter issue of Soar Feet.

5. Officers' Reports

(a) Treasurer

The balance on the account is £720.84 made up of £143.01 in the main account and £577.83 in the self-funded account. Another £50 is due from HF Holidays for advertising and the next £50 quarterly payment is due from Ramblers.

(b) Secretary/Membership

Membership stood at 128. There were four new members in January and one in July. One member had resigned, one had moved group, four memberships had lapsed, one was suspended and there were three payments pending.

(c) Programme Report

There are no walks at present on the web. At the beginning of March we still had two months of walks on the programme for March and April. DT circulated everybody asking for walks for the following months and had a good response as May and some of June were filled. Asking for walks once a month for three months ahead seems to be working. After shutdown these walks were all put into the system and saved with a 2021 date to be reactivated when we can walk again.

DT had taken the opportunity to use a new format for the way the programme is presented. This will be tested when we have a walk to put on. Some of the maps of walks already done are now available on the web site for people to use.

(d) Social

The skittles evening on 31 January 2020 at the Soar Bridge Inn was attended by 20 people and was enjoyed by all.

The Derwent Bank holiday was cancelled due to the virus but this was transferred to Whitby in May 2021. 15 people are booked on this. No more bookings would be taken for this due to the current situation re the virus.

(e) Footpath Officer

There was nothing to report.

(f) Report from Area

SB and ST attended the AGM. There was a talk by the Woodland Trust and RA Trustee.

An Area Treasurer has now been appointed.

Area are keen to encourage young members and are seeking anyone interested in setting up a group or joining one with child or grandchild.

ST is a representative to attend the National AGM on behalf of Area.

Discussion as to whether Area need a publicity officer.

Area reps were keen to obtain nominations for best footpath award.

AGM on Saturday 30 January 2021 hosted by Loughborough. Room needed from 9.00-1.00 pm for 50+ people with presentation facility. Tea/coffee and biscuits to be supplied for members. Area meets costs. A short walk around 4 miles will be expected after the meeting.

6. Pre-walk Expenses

A long discussion took place but it was clear that we needed to look into this in a lot more detail and produce a set of criteria for putting this into place. We would also need to work out how much would be required and put a claim into the Ramblers before the end of July next year. SB had an Area zoom meeting coming up soon and would ask groups if they had a scheme like this. **SB**

It was suggested that we could have a separate meeting to discuss this once we have done some investigatory work on what other groups are doing. **LA**

7. Restarting Walks

There was little enthusiasm from the Committee for restarting walks. The Ramblers had produced a 15 page document entitled 'How to return to organised group walks in a COVID-secure way'. This involves leaders going through a very detailed Risk Assessment Form. This would put a lot of pressure on our walk leaders which could mean they would be reluctant to lead walks. The Committee were also concerned about the difficulties of ensuring government guidelines re social distancing during walks are adhered to.

SB would find out at the Area Meeting who had restarted walks and what their experiences were. **SB**

The Committee made the decision to delay starting walks at present but would review this in the Autumn. DT would alter the Coronavirus message on the web site accordingly. **DT**

8. Any Other Business

John Harper had sent an email to leaders asking for volunteers to lead two walks he had put in for the NFWF. Tony Coates had offered to do one of them. SB had the details and would sort this out. **SB**

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be advised.