



RAMBLERS

Loughborough & District

Loughborough Ramblers Committee meeting
21st August 2024 at 2-00
Dave Twigg's House

Agenda

1. **Present** Richard Jack, Dave Twigg, John Samson, Sue Mears, Liz Jones, Chris Rimbault, Tess Kay.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** These were read through, and some action still needs to be taken on some aspects regarding putting walks on the programme and the role and training of leaders.
3. **Membership Update** CR and SM are now able to access the membership details. CR noted that there were 138 members and he had recently written to the latest new members welcoming them to the group.

4. **Finance**

The Total Amount is	£1549.67
Main Account	££688.62
Social Account	£861.05

The Ramblers are concerned about our funding so it was thought that we need to see how we could use our money to enhance the group's experience.

We agreed to spend more money on First Aid kits, SM to order some more. Also investigate holding leadership workshops and pay for a venue and refreshments for meetings. Various suggestions were made so we will explore these in consultation with our walkers.

5. **Walks Programme** RJ is very concerned about the Walks Programme. It has gone to a rolling programme with walks being added to it at late notice. Walks are added after committee meetings and then they run out. DT stated that it is necessary for members to learn skills of leadership and he had asked for walks, but few came to him. There was a lot of discussion about how the number of walks could be increased and how help and support could be given so that more people felt confident in leading walks in the future. Ideas that came forward were to have help for members.
This could include the Use of maps, IT skills, phones. Try to break down barriers and encourage people and not be too demanding. The committee could help with sharing their expertise which could range from leading people through the IT skills, buddy up and support recces, give ideas of routes etc.
It was agreed to take the calendar to walks and discuss dates then pass back to DT Also advertise in Soar Feet TK and Facebook JS. Use walks leaders from other groups. Communicate using different methods WhatsApp, email, verbal.

6. **Footpath Officer** the Area officer Martin James would like Loughborough to register an officer to report any problems on the local footpaths. TK stated that her husband Guy might be interested in doing the role, pending a job description.
7. (1st January 2025) It was agreed to put a footpath notice in Soar Feet.
8. **Social Programme** It was agreed to carry on with the annual coach trip in April and perhaps revisit the Cotswolds SM. The holiday is still on hold and SM is researching this. An idea of having a night away to Derbyshire in the summer could be an alternative, perhaps to Buxton area SM, TK to investigate. The Christmas lunch date walk is Wednesday 11th December 2024. SM to look for a walk and venue that is suitable.
9. **Reports** Website DT stated that the operating system is being changed and updated.

Membership update – 138

Financial Report Account Balances £1549.67 Main £688.62 Self-funded £861.05

Social Events- As stated but also Quiz is 1st December 2024 Newtown Linford?

Footpath issues 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. Points discussed were complaints about the Ramblers website, footpath officers, volunteering, and campaigning.

10. **Soar Feet** TK successfully edited the new Soar Feet programme in the Spring. and is now working on the next edition. Photographs from the WhatsApp group and good communication help to get the basic content. It is a newsletter to show what the local group is doing, inform issues, developing the walks programme, footpath details, training, vacant committee positions, administrative roles. It will be emailed out and put on the website.
11. **AGM** is 2/11/24, it was proposed to hold it at St Joseph's café after a walk. DT to book a room for the meeting on the Saturday at 1 pm.
It is noted that Richard is standing down from the Chair so we will need a new Chairperson, other vacant posts are Secretary, Membership secretary, Footpath officer.
AOB A date for next meeting will be 2nd October 2024 times and venue to be confirmed.