

LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS

DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 7.00 pm by Zoom

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

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Heather Jennings

3. **Minutes of the last Meeting** (Monday 3 August 2020)

The Minutes were approved.

4. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

(a) 4(b) Response from John Samson re linking Facebook. "While I mention the Area in the group description, the link doesn't become live. I have put the link in a new post. I can only link pages if I manage them myself. The rules of what can and can't be done by groups and pages are confusing and Facebook keeps changing the interface." SB will contact Georgina Sears who deals with Facebook.

(b) 6. SB reported that countrywide claims for pre-walk expenses are exceptional. Leicester pay them for pre-walks for coach trips but they are refunded from the charges made from the coach. Leicester also get an occasional claim but not for local walks. Melton use their own rate of 22p per mile but no-one has claimed for years.

(c) 7. Leicester, Melton, Rutland, LWRG, Hinckley restarted walks in August. Lutterworth started in September. There was no info on Coalville. Some of these groups were having difficulty finding leaders.

(d) SB will deal with the NFWF walks.

5. **Officers' Reports**

(a) Treasurer

The balance on the account is £828.42 made up of £250.59 in the main account and £577.83 in the self-funded account.

(b) Secretary/Membership

Membership stands at 128. Five memberships had lapsed and three members had resigned.

(c) Programme Report

Following the decision at the September meeting, mid-week walks were restarted at the beginning of October on a trial basis. Booking has been required on each walk

with the number of places limited to 12, with the intention that a group could be split into two when passing through busy places or pinch points. Some Covid information has been put in the published walk details and further guidelines have been given at the start of each walk.

Four walks have taken place so far but numbers attending have only ranged from 5 to 8. Very few members of Loughborough Ramblers have taken part. The walks have attracted one new member and 2 prospective members plus members from other groups. The walks have been enjoyable though and a further 3 have been added to the programme. Greater leader involvement is required for the programme to continue.

Since the introduction of the three-tier system the latest advice from the Ramblers says that walkers should not travel to or from very-high alert areas (tier3). This affects the location of our walks and who books onto them and leaders should be aware of this.

The Ramblers Risk Assessment template and a walk recce form have been added to the Leader Resources section of the website.

(d) Social

The Derwent Bank holiday has been transferred to Whitby in May 2021. 17 people are booked on this.

(e) Report from Area

Sue explained that the reason for Area wanting to get involved in AGMs is that Area Chairs and Secretarys have regular Zoom sessions with other areas and Headquarters, and that Headquarters are doing everything they can to keep the organisation going which means using Area Reps to go to AGMs to make sure they are held and that groups are running as best as they can.

Kim Vallance the Area Secretary has now moved to Scotland so they are looking for a replacement. SB asked if anyone had any suggestions.

Area have a Zoom facility which they pay for and which groups can use for meetings with no time limit. This would be useful for our AGM.

(e) Footpath Officer

Nothing to report.

6. **AGM**

LA would contact Martin James or Kim Vallance to see how we would go about using the Area Zoom facility for our AGM. LA would send out the Agenda to members with a request that they let her know if they are going to attend in order to send them the Zoom link.

The date for the AGM was set for Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

7. **Another Other Business**

A short discussion took place about continuing the weekday trial walks. It was felt that this was a good idea as one of our new members had been attending and two non members who said they would join after the third walk. If we are to continue this then we would need more leaders to come forward. DT said he would contact leaders to see if they would offer to put some walks forward.

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