

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Wed 15 January 2020

Welcome (and apologies)

Apologies from Tessa Smith. Present: Eric Evans (EE); Celia Broom (CB); Janet Evans (JE); Bob Ward (BW); Nicky Ward (NW); Dorothy Webley (DW); Paddy Jewry (PJ); Julian Fisher (JF); Val Rose (VR).

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 October 2019 (previously circulated)

2. Matters Arising

The minutes were reviewed. Action points were all acknowledged as having been addressed and the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Walking Events: EE reported as follows:

- a) **RNIB walk** – SDR had been asked to assist again this year in the walking programme for a group of visually impaired holidaymakers staying at the Cliffden Hotel, Teignmouth. Help with their high-level walks of 8-10 miles during April had been requested. The committee were happy to assist in providing a walk with the stipulation that it was similar in length and difficulty to the one provided last year round the Cockington Estate, and that June would be our preferred month. EE was happy to assist in organising the walk and called for 4 or 5 volunteers to assist once the date had been agreed.

***ACTION:** EE to contact Carole Butler the event organiser to agree the arrangements.*

- b) **Whiterock School Family Spring Walk 2020** – EE reported that the schoolchildren were keen for us to put on another family walk on Dartmoor, and permission had been received from the Headteacher for it to go ahead. A historical focus was favoured by the school. The plan would be a walk of four and a half miles around Grimspound. Four or five helpers would be needed. The committee were happy to support this community initiative, and Saturday 21 March 2020 was agreed as a suitable date. EE to make the necessary arrangements.

***ACTION:** EE to carry forward.*

- c) **Dartmoor Way Launch weekend – Friday 22 – Monday 25 May 2020.** The following plans as outlined by EE were agreed.

Walk offered starting at Buckfast Abbey on both Friday 22 and Sunday 24 May 2020.

EE to lead Sunday walk (this to be included in the summer programme)

Friday walk to be led by Bob A (still to be confirmed)

ACTION: *EE to liaise with appropriate people to take this item forward.*

4. **SDR guest speaker/s at meeting of Totnes U3A** – EE had accepted an invitation by the Totnes group to be guest speaker at their meeting on Thursday 23 July 2020, at St. John’s Church, Bridgetown, Totnes, 10.00 – 12.00 noon. EE would be accompanied by TS and Arthur C. The title of the talk was “How we walked 17,000 miles in a year”. VR offered her input at this event.

EE and TS had been asked by The Ramblers Association to speak on behalf of SDR to the National Trust at a future date.

ACTION: *EE to take forward with TS, AC and VR*

5. **Holidays:**

- a) **Mini break 2020** – BW reported that a preference had been shown by members for Pembrokeshire over the New Forest for the next 5-day low-cost walking holiday, and therefore he was offering the same format as last year i.e. own transport, own accommodation, and long and short dip-in walks, from Monday to Friday 18 – 22 May 2020. BW and NW would reccy walks, caravan park at Pendine Sands Caravan Park, Pembrokeshire and suitable evening eateries as well as devising flyer to go out to members. EE thanked BW and NW for their hard work in researching and putting on this event which last year had proved extremely popular with members.

ACTION: *BW and NW to take this event forward.*

- b) **Lake District holiday Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 September 2020** – EE reported that 24 people had so far signed up. Another 6 were required to make the holiday viable. The daily walking itinerary was outlined with an alternative walk provided on the excursion day but there were still two long and two short walks outstanding and some back up leaders to be identified. EE and JE were planning to travel again to the Lake District in early June and volunteers to contact him if they would like to join in this reccy excursion.

ACTION: *EE to take this event forward. Substitute leaders to contact EE.*

- c) **Foreign Holiday 2021** – **NOTE:** VR did not participate in discussion of this agenda item.

The committee decided that no further discussion on this matter was necessary as the pros and cons of the two holiday destinations (Italy and Malta) had been put to the membership at the 2019 AGM. However, NW

reported that the latest consensus from some members was that the holiday in Italy was a preferred choice. Therefore, EE called for a vote, and with a majority of 7 in favour and 2 abstentions, it was agreed that a walking holiday in Italy would be offered to members for the first or second week in September 2021. **NOTE:** At this point TS was FaceTimed, informed of the committee's decision, and asked to contact the holiday provider in Italy asap. A small working party was duly formed – TS, BW, NW, JE and VR – the first meeting was provisionally booked for Tuesday 5 May at 4.00pm at VR's.

NOTE: VR resumed participation in the meeting.

ACTION: *TS to inform Adam and Yenka from Ecowise ASAP. JE to firm up date of first meeting with working party.*

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020 – the following points were agreed during discussion of the date and format for the 2020 AGM:

The percentage of our membership attending the AGM was high compared to other groups and the format worked well so it was felt there was no need to change it.

We discussed the practice of only the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and nominated auditor being elected individually with the remaining officers being elected en-bloc. It was agreed this should continue as it saved time.

All nominations to stand for office be received two weeks before the AGM.

An impression that the numbers attending were down at the last AGM but was not evidenced; a tightening up of members signing the attendance register would help.

The ballroom was favoured over the Isadora Duncan suite although this may have cost implications.

Further refining of the presentation and issues around audio/visual technology, projector compatibility, amplification.

An evening meeting in early November for the AGM is desirable as it fits in with the end of the financial year.

Wednesday 4 November 2020 was suggested as a suitable date.

ACTION: *EE to speak to hotel manager about the availability and cost of ballroom on 4.11.20 and to report the poor projector compatibility.*

JF to cost up a presentation clicker and report back to the next meeting.

7. Any other business (AOB)

a) South West Coastal Path (SWCP) – CB raised a member's request that one of the regular monthly sections might on occasion be changed from a Wednesday to a weekend due to transport difficulties. The request was

duly noted. The committee were of the view that Wednesdays had the least impact on the regular walks programme.

EE questioned whether the SWCP project was having some impact on the club programme but this was not felt to be the case by other committee members.

- b) **Puffins and Lundy Island** – EE reported a proposal to have an excursion to Lundy Island during the April stage of walking the SWCP. This would necessitate a two night stay in the area. The proposal was to walk from Coombe Martin to Ilfracombe on Monday 20 April, followed by excursion to Lundy on Tuesday 21 April, and complete the remaining miles on Wednesday 22 April 2020. The committee agreed to this proposal.

***ACTION:** TS to email the group accordingly.*

- c) **Group Walks and Events Manager (GWEM) Survey** – NW agreed to complete the survey received from The Ramblers Association.

***ACTION:** NW to action.*

- d) **Walks Leaders Courses** – The Ramblers Association were offering courses for prospective leaders with details available on the Ramblers website. NW pointed out that she had done her utmost to encourage the participation of new SDR leaders, and the committee was reminded to spread the word whenever there was an opportunity.

- e) **Agenda items for next committee meeting** –

JF wished to discuss the a review of the SDR website now that it had been up and running for two or three years; and

BW wished to discuss questions for the next survey of members to be presented to the 2020 AGM.

The committee was asked to bring their opinions and views to the next meeting for further discussion.

***ACTION:** All to bring views to next committee meeting.*

TS – agenda item.

8. **Date and time of next meeting**

Wednesday 29 April 2020. EE to book with hotel.

***ACTION:** EE to book with hotel.*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

POST-MEETING COMMENTS

Sunday 28 June 2020 – planning to do a section of SWCP as a John Musgrave excursion. This would be on the Summer Programme.

ACTION: *EE to discuss with Arthur C. NW to include on Summer Programme.*

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Date:

jae/16.1.20