

Rossendale Ramblers

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 7.pm on Monday 4th July 2022 .

ATTENDEES- David C (Chair)
Glyn (Secretary)
Arnold (publicity)
Mark (Webmaster)
Graeme (Walks Co-Ordinator)
Judy (Footpaths)
Sue (Social Secretary)
Roger (Treasurer)
David R (Assistant Webmaster)

IN ATTENDANCE- Bernie H

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-Gill (Member without portfolio)
Maureen (Social Secretary)
Diana (Membership Secretary)

1. THE CHAIR- The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Walk Rossendale Boards-Philip Holden of Rossendale Leisure Trust joined the meeting to talk about walk boards. Rossendale Connected rossendaleconnected.org)

are committed to trying to improve physical and mental well being in Rossendale. It has been involved in running a Sport England pilot to work out what is needed to help more people to be more physically active. He said one problem they had identified is that people often don't know where to go to find help, but there is a need to get the inactive to become more active to extend life expectancy. Part of the project has resulted in the development of walking boards with walks from the centre of Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Waterfoot, Bacup and Whitworth. There are 3 different routes with an approx. 30, 60 and 90 minutes time frame (details on above web site).

At present there is no plan for us to be directly involved but that may change in time.

Sue Holden memorial plaque- it has been suggested we should have a memorial plaque for Sue. It was felt that if we did this it would set a precedent, Roger also pointed out as a charity it would not be classed as appropriate use of funds.

The Chair said Bury Ramblers have a obituaries gallery with the names of former members and in some cases with tributes and photos attached. It was agreed that this would be worth following up and looking at the Bury website it looks to be an excellent idea.

Footpath maintenance-Danny is doing the bulk of the work at present but is trying to get others involved. The Chair advised he and Mark are going to do some work on the 12th July.

It was noted under current legislation if a stile falls down it must be replaced with a gate but gates cost up to £300. It may be possible to make a gate for about £100. The Chair will try to get costs for the various parts.

2.TREASURER- Roger advised that the current bank balance was £947. Ramblers say we shouldn't have more than 100% of our annual expenditure, which so far this year is £560. So we have more money than we should. There is therefore a need to spend more on footpaths to bring the balance down. He advised that with current membership at 175 we were eligible for £271 of capitation from Ramblers nationally but unless our funds are reduced we would not be able to apply.

Roger advised that he has to write to Harry Almond (regional treasurer) to let him know we won't be preparing a budget as we don't want more than the basic capitation.

3.WALKS- A number of issues had been raised by members regarding walks.

Graeme explained that there had been requests for walks on the Sundays which had been left blank for coach walks or not filled at all. He proposed that next year we try to fill all the Sundays but ensure the 10 mile one didn't clash with the coach ramble. He said he would talk to Diana, who has some ideas to vary the type of walk.

Graeme had raised the question of doing walk schedules on a quarterly rather than annual basis but on reflection he felt it was simpler to stick with the annual schedule.

The issue of multiple walks on the same day had been raised. At present there is only the stop and stare ones that are on the same day as the main Wednesday walk. Everybody agreed the stop and stare walks were excellent and nobody wanted to discourage Gill. It was agreed that from next year there would be only one Wednesday walk but that there could be adhoc walks on Monday or Friday, which would accommodate the Stop and Stare.

The issue of having one walk leader for a whole month was discussed and because of the unfortunate situation this year it was agreed that we would not do that again.

Car sharing has been raised by some members, Mark proposed putting a posting on the website asking members to contact him and then we can see what arrangements might be made. Subsequent to the meeting Mark has posted an item on our website.

Walk grading- this was discussed and the Chair produced Bury ramblers gradings, which didn't seem to fit. Graeme will look at this when he has time.

Walk reports- Mark raised this and said there was a need to get more walk leaders to do the reports on their walks. This needs to be followed up in due course. Judy mentioned there is a need for more "websters" to select/load photos and write/load walk reports on the website. Too much of the burden of doing this falls on Judy and Mark, with the number of walks we have.

Round the Hills- Arnold noted that with funding from Rotary we said we would help them when we were able to. He will be helping to marshal on the 4th September and if anybody wishes to help they would be welcome. Rotary have asked if we could check the walk instructions that will be issued to entrants to the walk. Judy and Bernie have undertaken doing that.

4. GENERAL ITEMS- the matters that were raised were:

Risk assessments-utilise new Rambler's risk assessment form and ensure with the Secretary 7 days before the walk.

Xmas meal venue, it was proposed to investigate Marl Pits as a possible venue.

AGM- please note the time, date and venue.

The meeting will be held at Sunnybank Social Club (as last year) at 7.30pm on 15th November 2022.

5. SOCIAL- Sue is looking for ideas, all suggestions welcome. Arnold said the Whitaker film night might be a possibility. Mark said the quiz will resume in autumn.

6.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Judy raised the issue of the problem of paths that are not rights of way but have been used for many years. One in Newchurch is potentially being closed by the landowner, should we oppose the closure? It was felt this was not part of our role but to be sure the Chair asked Judy to contact Ramblers.

There being no further business the meeting was terminated with thanks to the Chair for the use of his home and to Linda for the tea/coffee and her delicious cake.

7.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged.