

Rossendale Ramblers

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 7pm on Monday 12th September 2022 .

ATTENDEES- David C (Chair)
Glyn (Secretary)
Arnold (Publicity)
Mark (Webmaster)
Graeme (Walks Co-Ordinator)
Judy (Footpaths)
Diana (Membership Secretary)
Roger (Treasurer)

IN ATTENDANCE- Bernie H

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-Gill (Member without portfolio)
Maureen (Social Secretary)
David R (Assistant Webmaster)
Sue G (Social Secretary)

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

Stile repairs etc.- Danny joined the meeting to discuss stile repairs and possible gate installations. A candidate for a gate is at Marl Pits but part of the land the path crosses, whilst it is a right of way, the owner who borders onto it doesn't want the path to be accessible. It was agreed to install the gate but a small team need to be working on the clearance because of his objections. It was felt we should report him to Lancs CC.

The Chair has done some work on types of gates and costs and has sent details to Danny. The proposed type of gate was agreed, Mark suggested we should have a hook latch to ensure the gate is firmly closed. The Chair will get a kit of parts and then arrange a working party. The cost of the kit is approximately £120. It was suggested we might look for sponsors for the gates. It was suggested we ask Steve Barton if he would like his name on the first gate in recognition of his sponsorship.

Judy stated that following the last meeting's discussion on concessionary paths, Ramblers HQ have confirmed that it's not part of our role to formally oppose closures of concessionary footpaths, unless we particularly want to.

Judy reported with regard to 14-2-FP376(Snig Hole), a section 130 notice has been served on the LCC, who report they are trying to negotiate with the landowner.

Coach Rambles-The Chair advised he had been to the Regional General Meeting. Barbara who organizes the coach rambles said she could organize ones specifically for our group if we wanted. It was agreed this would be a possibility for next year.

Absent Friends- Arnold noted it had been setup on the website but nothing had been posted. He suggested we should have some sort of template for any posting- dates, some photos and a few words (100 max.) This was agreed, something now needs to be organized.

Webmasters-walk reporting. Mark said David R had done a good job whilst he had been away. He said we need volunteers to load walk reports because it is down basically to himself and Judy to do it. If walk leader can generate a report and send by email to be posted onto the site.

Mark mentioned the Ramblers new walk management site, if we used it we would have to update it as well as our own site. It was felt this was too much time.

2. Walk Grading - Graeme has spent a lot of time on this and has circulated detailed proposals. These were agreed but it was suggested strenuous be dropped from the 4th category. It was suggested we have the gradings numbered 1 to 5, with leisurely be 1 etc. There would be a key to the gradings to avoid excessive detail on the walk postings.

Gill had raised the question of grid etc references being put on the walk details, as the amount of references has been reduced causing problems with some satnavs. The old details will now be put on.

3. Membership issues - Some people have walked more than 3 walks without becoming members. After investigation it was found most of them were registered with other groups and there is now only one person involved. If anybody does 4 walks, we should send them an email pointing out the requirement to join, if they don't they will be crossed off from any walk.

4. Car sharing - Mark has received 15 responses to the posting on the website. It was suggested one of the 15 should organize a WhatsApp group.

5. Finance - Roger noted we had £837 in the bank, 115% of our annual expenditure. If we get the gate purchased before the year-end, we will be in line with Rambler's requirements. He noted that at the present time he didn't know whether we would get any sponsorship next year.

6. Social events - Xmas lunch will be at Marl Pits on 21st December, Roy has agreed to lead the Xmas walk.

The first walk of the year will be 8th January, Sue will lead the walk at Scorton with lunch to follow at The Apple Store.

7 Any other business.

Thursday evening pub walks- following on from Adam's point on walking in the dark, this week's walk will have HiVis front and rear and when it goes dark everybody must be together and have appropriate lighting. Graeme felt that the leader needed to be in front and if required a road monitor could be appointed.

Walking advice - we have been contacted by a woman called Sam, who wondered if her group could be affiliated to ours. It appears this is not feasible. She is a volunteer footpath inspector for Peak and Northern Footpath Society so felt we could work together. This was thought to be a useful proposal.

Committee - it was noted this would be Glyn's last meeting as Secretary, he is due to retire at the AGM. Bernie H has indicated that she would like to take over and will be proposed at the AGM. It was noted this does not stop anybody else putting their name forward.

