

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held: Wednesday 24th May 2023

Committee Members In Attendance	
Chair (DC)	Membership Secretary (DM)
Secretary (BH)	Assistant Webmaster (DR)
Treasurer (RP)	Social Secretary (SG)
Webmaster (MJ)	Walks Co-ordinator (GA)
Footpath Officer (JT)	
Apologies Received	
Publicity Officer (AS)	Member Without Portfolio (GH)

1. Chair (DC)

Welcome – DC welcomed everyone to the meeting. DC confirmed apologies from GH and AS.

Pathway Fixes – DC advised that he had invited DA (Footpath Fixer) but he unfortunately could not attend. DA provided an emailed update which DC read out verbatim to the committee. In summary, DA advised works to date along with his frustration that on 2 separate occasion's work undertaken had been subsequently replaced soon after. DA suggested that if we had sight of LCC's work list, such duplications of effort could be avoided. JT has agreed to write to LCC to request visibility of planned works. DC will share the update directly with committee members.

DC suggested that now the weather is improving, should we consider allocating set days to get the team together to work on improvements to styles/gates and utilise available funds.

DC also advised of request for support from Millennium Green in Lumb in advance of the big help out day. Kudos insofar as people of Lumb are now aware of what we do and, with Rotary.

2. Secretary Update (BH)

First Aid Kits & Training – Update from last meeting. BH wrote out to all walk leaders to identify who held first aid kits, only 4 responses were received. Several committee members acknowledged that they too held a first aid kit. BH advised that she had been made aware that a previous chairperson had arranged first aid courses circa 3-4 years ago, maybe longer. Most poignant response/suggestion was read out to the Committee. Main concerns were around who bares the cost, appropriate training and concerns with increased bureaucracy. BH advised that in line with the Ramblers website, an Incident Form is only required following an incident that required support from the emergency services. An in depth discussion ensued on this topic and it was agreed the key priorities are i) Identify suitable first aid training as a priority; ii) Re-introduce ICE cards to new members via our welcome channel; iii) Purchase first aid kits. BH suggested we should consider a First Aid Champion, it was suggested that DH would be an ideal candidate. DC agreed to have a conversation with DH to ascertain if he would be interested in volunteering for this role.

3. Treasurer Update (RP)

RP advised that the account balance is currently over £1000 but this will reduce once expenses for Navigation Training have been reimbursed.

RP advised that Ramblers are placing considerable stress on end of year balances, these should be no more than 100% of the annual expenditure. Our spend to date is circa £300 so we need to spend about another £300-£350 to bring the balance down to more or less where it was last year. RH confirmed that whilst we have retained the sponsorship of Steve Barton, we cannot guarantee receipt of another generous donation from Rotary. Therefore we need to spend with caution until further sponsorship is secured.

4. Walks Co-ordinator Update (GA)

The schedule is ticking over nicely and a walk leader has been identified for a Sunday walk in June. 3 of our members attended a 2 day navigation course, GA has advised them that their expenses will be reimbursed.

At the area meeting it was advised that there is “Walk Leader Training” on assemble. GA advised he has not done this but will look at completing this and report back.

5. Webmaster Update (MJ)

DC advised MJ that DH is interested in providing webmaster support. MJ to engage with DH directly to get him set up.

Camera Update – MJ has been back and forwards re repair/replacement but to no avail. Choice is limited as there is nothing within the original price bracket. Do we go for a cheap one which may need replacing more frequently or do we opt for something more expensive. Another option is looking at second hand on EBay which the committee supports.

National Website update – for information only the new site will be up and running 31st May. Only input from us relates to link to our about us page which now includes footpath fixers and our annual holiday.

Everything is up to date in preparation for MJ's pending holidays.

6. Footpath Officer Update (JT)

38 stiles now reported through to DA, 3 more have been received but not yet looked at. Also a few blocked paths and a collapsed bridge have been reported to LCC. LCC Footpath signs for Rossendale are still outstanding. Milne Street issue (path from Helmshore to Irwell Vale) is ongoing. RBC have rejected the application and ordered that the land is fully reinstated. The applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State (SOS). JT has received a form from the SOS to fill any comments. JT advised she has rephrased previous comments observations submitted.

7. Membership Secretary Update (DM)

Currently our membership stands at 171, since May we have had 2 new members and nobody has left us. GA attended the Area meeting and was thrilled to advise that our membership has jumped ahead of Burnley & Pendle and we are narrowing the gap between Rossendale and Clitheroe. GA advised he is keen to identify the 33 members who are not assigned to a club.

8. Publicity Officer Update (AS) – Emailed updated received below.

“At the previous committee meeting I was asked to prepare a publicity piece for “Walk Magazine” about our footpath fixing efforts. This was prepared, agreed and sent off with the final agreement to use the photos being sent on 28 March 2023. Nothing has since been heard or seen, but the lady (Carol Flint) did say that she would use our stuff whenever appropriate.

The other action was to investigate putting a donation button on our site. This was completed on 21 March 2023. So far I suspect the only donation has been the £1 that I made to try it out initially. No surprises there!

Finally, no further movement on the question of Rossendale Rotary becoming a sponsor, but another membership meeting is due soon, and I will suggest it again”.

RP advised that whilst there is a PayPal account in place for Rossendale Ramblers, this is not free. Of the £1 sent by AS, only 67 pence was received into the account.

9. Social Secretary (SG)

SG raised AGM and requested a date be considered so that Sunnybank Social Club can be booked. RP advised the deadline for the annual accounts is the end of September. AGM dated agreed - Monday 23rd October 2023. SG has confirmed this with the club.

10. Any other business

GA advised he is in possession of the groups map stock and no requests have been received during the last 2 years. JT advised that she is also in possession of the books donated to the group earlier this year. It was agreed that these would be taken to the BBQ (24th June) to allow members to help themselves. BH suggested that any residual stock should then be donated to charity or World of Books who are based in the Valley.

GA advised that he had received notification of AGM from the P&NFPS. The documentation lists all the areas covered, including Rossendale which is one of only a few areas that has 100% footpath inspectors, our very own footpath fixer DA being one of them.

11. Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 20th September