

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, 13th May 2025

Committee Members in Attendance	
Chair (DC)	Social Secretary (SG)
Secretary (BH)	Footpath Officer (JT)
Webmaster (MJ)	First Aid Coordinator (DH)
Membership Secretary (DM)	Walks Co-ordinator (GA)
Publicity Officer (AS)	
Apologies Received	
Treasurer (RP)	Pathway Coordinator (DA)

1. Chair (DC) – Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies have been received from DA with advice that due to his Fells man training, stile repairs have been on hold. So far this year 3-4 repairs have been completed including the ladder stile below Musbury Tor.

DC raised a discussion point of Stile-v-Gate based on feedback from Ramblers following our request for a story covering the new ladder stile at Musbury Tor. In short, Ramblers advised that to support their drive re inclusivity, they did not want to promote ladder stiles as the preference is to replace stiles with gates where possible. A lengthy discussion ensued around the practicality of gates, particularly the delivery of them. JT suggested that an approach might be that when we report stiles, we should consider if the site has the potential for a gate and track it into a “gate team”? Also, it may be worth asking if LCC could deliver a few gates to someone’s garage which would be easier than trying to coordinate the delivery of a gate to the location on a given day at a given time. JT confirmed that LCC only have one size of gate, and she has the dimensions. This is the starting point going forward. DC had hoped that DA would be part of the discussion and requested that the minutes should be sent on to DA. JT confirmed that she does send things through to him. MJ also suggested that there are council depots gates could be delivered to. JT asked if we have the necessary skills/capabilities and DC confirmed that we do and the installation of the gates is straightforward. We will move forward on a case-by-case basis.

DC attend Rotary for AS. Rotary have asked if we can recce the route by mid-July before their next meeting which is on 22nd July. They want us to clarify how many way markers we have left. AS confirmed, he would do this. Rotary believe there is a mile or so with no way markers. DC will forward email to JT with specific details and photos outlining their concerns. DC advised rotary that usually we recce the route with someone who has never done it. MJ advised he fits that bill. JT suggested that the recce be done as a Tuesday bubble walk.

2. Treasurer (RP) – Apologies sent with advice that balance on the account is £323 following receipt of £200 from sponsor SB.
3. Secretary (BH) – Risk assessments up to date.
4. First Aid Co-ordinator (DH) – No accidents reported. DC requested that any references to ICE discs are now removed from the website. MJ confirmed he would do this. DH has eight remaining discs to distribute. AS & SG took some to pass on directly, the rest will be posted to the individuals.

5. Walks Co-ordinator (GA) – Walk schedule running well. Two gaps in December but doing nothing now as KD who has done a successful lead, wants to do another later in the year. This weekend saw our first family walk and the next one is scheduled for the Sunday 8th June which AS is leading. The walk scheduled for 13th July has no leader yet and AS is leading another in September. GA posed the question are we going to continue with these and if so, are these being publicised widely? Our presence on social media (FB) is a bit hit and miss. Do we need to consider advertising these walks more broadly. Should they be advertised earlier, currently they go out a week before. GA advised some follower stats for local social media sites. AS also suggested activities for children so that it is no just a walk. JT advised that if we advertise more widely, we need to ensure that parents are solely responsible for their children.
6. Webmaster (MJ) – Website still plays tricks now and then, but we manage and continue.
7. Footpath Officer (JT) – Reporting quite quiet mainly because we are walking outside of our area more. Not a lot coming in re stiles and the growth is only just starting. Still chasing foot path signs, Rossendale should have been done 2022, still well behind due to resourcing. Rossendale now designated for 2027.
8. Membership Secretary (DM) – 167, 1 new member in May. At AGM we had 178 members, so we are losing more than gaining.
9. Publicity Officer (AS) – Nothing to report.
10. Social Secretary (SG) – Reminder of annual BBQ Saturday 19th July. AS advised that Rotary are hosting a fundraising event at Marios in June or July and requested that this is advertised on our website. All agreed.
11. Any other business – MJ raised that a preference has been raised for Sat pub walks to continue rather than switch to Thursday for the summer. Several walkers drop out of Thursday walks as not wanting to drive in the evening when its dark. Some miss the social meal. Originally, evening walks were introduced to attract people that work. It was agreed that this would be looked at and considered for next year's schedule.
12. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 30th September @ 7 pm
Date of the AGM 14th October @ 7 pm for 7:30 pm