

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, 15th September 2026

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

1. Apologies for absence – As detailed above.
2. Chair Welcomed everyone and raised the following items for discussion
 - a. AGM Tuesday 20th October 7pm for 7:30 start @ Sunnybank Social Club
 - Officer Reports to be provided to MJ by 2nd October latest.
 - MJ has tested projector.
 - MJ will update website to include Agenda and reports ahead of the AGM.
 - MJ will update website to advise refreshment & raffle donations.
 - SG to confirm if she has raffle tickets to handover to committee.
 - BH to finalise agenda and submit to MJ by 2nd October latest.
 - Guest Speaker from Rossendale Mountain Rescue (Peter Leonard).

b. Update on Path Maintenance requirements

A separate meeting was held, JT kindly provided the minutes below.

A review of the comprehensive document showed that RR already addresses many of the recommendations and should focus on new developments.

- Equipment Training - DC/RP have made an application to Ramblers to fund a City & Guilds course. Once confirmed, a provider will be sourced. DC to ask RP to chase the funding application. Priority for training will be MC/DC/SS. Equipment risk categories identifies training is required for use of chainsaws, and brush cutters with metal blades. Strimmers, brush cutters without metal blades and hedge trimmers are excluded. It was agreed that chainsaws will not be used.
- Risk Assessments - Completion discussed and agreed this will be done on site. Records will be filed on Google Drive, listed by the year. DA to set up with sub folders for stiles, gates, and clearance. The form needs modification to include other workers. The risk assessment front sheet needs to be uploaded to the RR website. DC to ask AS.
- First Aid - We have enough kits and at least one will always be present when team is working. Training required focusing on potential injuries, possibly St Johns Ambulance one day course. DC to ask DH to source - any funding implications to be requested from Ramblers.

- Toolbox briefing - From a time and practical viewpoint, it was agreed the leaders would ask workers if there were any tools they do not know how to use.
 - Ramblers database - all workers need to be registered volunteers. The WhatsApp group has everyone on it. DC to check if all are registered and check the separate path clearance team members as well.
 - Warning signs - DC to source and buy.
 - Emergency contact details. DA to collect at start of each job.
- c. D. Path/Stile Improvement Signs
- All reviewed the proofs received from AB. Preference is to retain the current green background as well as incorporate the new Ramblers design. DC to revert to AB.
- d. Trial of Dog-Friendly Walks, the way forward
- It was agreed that this would be taken to the AGM for a vote. BH to include within Agenda.
3. Treasurer Update
- Current balance is £447.
 - Sponsorships confirmed £250 Rotary and £200 Steve Barton
 - £2,500 budget requested for Path Maintenance Training. Our basic allocation is £300. No decision expected until October.
4. Secretary Update – RAs on track no issues.
5. First Aid Co-Ordinator Update – Apologies received. DH advised no incidents reported and he is looking to schedule First Aid Training in January 2027.
6. Walk Coordinator Update
- We have just one gap in schedule.
 - We have 2 new walk leaders that have completed WLT.
 - Handover to new incumbents is progressing well. Need to consider additional tech & website support.
 - GA will remain a committee member without portfolio.
7. Webmaster Update
- DR kept website updates ticking over whilst MJ was on holiday.
 - MJ feels more individuals are required to support.
8. Footpath Officer Update – JT advised that focus is required for Rossendale Way as signage needs improving. JT is looking for quotes.
9. Membership Update – 170 as of 1st September, no change.

10. Publicity Update – Apologies received. AS advised that some recent walks have not appeared on FB and asked is this a new policy or oversight. MA advised oversight.
11. Social Update – Apologies received. SG to confirm by response what is required re raffle tickets, refreshments etc, so that committee are aware.
12. Any other business
 - DA advised that the repaired RTH stiles held up well however, one stile still gives cause for concern and needs to be reconsidered.
13. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 19th Jan 2027 @ 19:00 hours (Chair's House).