

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

25.04.2024

Conference Call – 19.30

Present: Steve Nicholas - Chair
Neil Pritchard - Walks Co-Ordinator
Neil Elder - Treasurer
Miranda Shoebridge - Secretary

Apologies: None

1.	Our position on the new Walk Leaders/Walkers Guidance	ACTION
	We had a discussion about the new Walk Leader Guidance and Walk Leader Resources issued recently by Ramblers. These are seen as recommendations for groups to consider and adapt. New Walk Leaders will be required to complete 2 e-learning modules before leading a walk and will need to read and sign up to The Walk Leader Handbook. All current Walk Leaders will be encouraged to do this too. The updated online modules will be available on the Ramblers website from 14th May. Steve will share links on the Walk Leaders FB page. Information for Walkers - things to know when joining a walk This resource, seen as a charter between walkers and leaders, will be adapted for our group and widely promoted through all communication streams. Steve will ask Stephen to build a page for the website using this template. It is recommended that all Walk Leaders add a link to this, when available, in their walk descriptions. ICE - we will recommend that walkers carry ICE information in an easily accessible place eg rucksack pocket. It was agreed that Walk Leaders cover Ramblers expectations by using experience and common sense - welcome all walkers at the start of the walk, outline the walk plan/ any safety issues and have back markers for larger groups. Walk Leaders can assist the safety aspect by doing a recce reasonably close to the walk date eg within 3 weeks. Registration of walkers/and dogs will be left for individual Walk Leaders to consider. The Information for Walkers resource will be adapted for our group then shared with Walk Leaders via the Facebook group. Walk Leaders will be invited to give their input.	Steve

2.	Facebook Walk Leaders Group - review members? It was agreed that the group needs to be updated and people removed if they haven't lead a walk or been on a walk for 3 years. Committee members to agree list of names for removal.	All
3.	Publish 2023 draft minutes on website MemberZone? It was agreed that a copy of the 2023 AGM minutes, marked DRAFT, would be added to the MemberZone on the website. Stephen will be requested to do this. Steve agreed to indicate on the Facebook page that the draft minutes are now available. It was discussed whether AGM minutes can be agreed at the next committee meeting - Steve confirmed that group practice has been for Members to agree minutes at the next AGM.	Steve
4.	Walks booked with little or no details ie TBA It was agreed that all walks submitted at the planning stage should show location and length of proposed walk to avoid TBAs, therefore allowing walk leaders to plan ahead to create a balanced walk schedule.	
5.	Possibility of more than one walk on a day if leaders available eg a slower paced Sunday walk? It was agreed that during group trips away, planned walks for those remaining in Hampshire would be good. Apart from the above, it was agreed to keep the current principle of only one walk per day being offered. This group policy will be kept under review.	
6.	Possibility of a less formal Xmas dinner eg in a pub accessible to public transport The idea of a less formal Christmas celebration in a pub was welcomed, in addition to having the traditional dinner dance. Organisers would be needed for both. Neil E volunteered to organise the formal one. Details to be discussed at the next committee meeting.	

7.	AOB Dogs: see section in Information for Walkers which will be made available for Members to review. Discussion around registration of dogs attending walks - it was agreed it would be up to individual Walk Leaders. The benefit would be managing numbers of dogs (and walkers) and would allow potential walkers to contact the Walk Leader if they wish to take this into account when deciding about joining a walk. Winchester Walking Festival: the first walking festival in Winchester is being held on 14th - 16th June, organised by Winchester Ramblers and it was agreed to publicise this on our Facebook page.	Miranda Steve
8.	Finances Neil E confirmed there is £401.60 in the main account and £142.69 in the surplus account. There have been no transactions in 2024. Neil recommended that we say no to the half yearly financial contribution from Ramblers as we do not have a use for the extra money. This can be reviewed in 6 months' time. Steve attended a Hampshire Area Meeting recently and it is common practice to decline the funds, which have typically been used in the past for paper communication costs and paper maps. We discussed purchasing further first aid kits for Walk Leaders / refreshing the current ones - Neil E will check expiry dates. These can be bought out of existing funds.	Neil E