

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday 23rd March 2026**  
**Conference Call – 19:00 hrs**

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| <p><b>Present:</b> Neil Elder Chair and Membership Secretary</p> <p>David Brettell Walks Co-Ordinator</p> <p>Carolyn Dyer Treasurer</p> <p>Alison Shepherd Secretary</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> None</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting called as the first committee meeting with the change of committee members.</p> <p>Alison and Carolyn were welcomed as replacements for Miranda and Steve.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | I |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>AOB: Walks</b></p> <p>Neil noted that the group have a good range of walks, both short and long and that there are now 23 Walk Leaders.</p> <p>Numbers on the walks have been good with many have new people joining.</p> <p>The last walk (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March) had 27 people on a 12 mile walk.</p>                                                                                                                   |   |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>AOB: Long Weekend Walks</b></p> <p>There are currently two long weekend walks on the calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cotswolds (Saturday 16th - Monday 19th May) organised by Peter Williams</li><li>• Dorset (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June) organised by Elaine Cooper</li></ul> <p>It was thought that there were at least 20 people who had shown interest in the trip with</p> |   |

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|    | <p>possibly 14 booked onto the Saturday meal.</p> <p>Dave to contact Peter to check on numbers and update Facebook to remind people of the walks and to contact Peter if they want to go.</p> <p>Details for the Dorset weekend will need to be provided in due course.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dave                   |
| 4. | <p><b>AOB: Membership</b></p> <p>Neil confirmed that membership numbers were good (approximately 200).</p> <p>Many Ramblers members are now not aligned with a specific group. Neil recommended that when talking to new people they be asked which group they belonged to and advised to join a group so that funds could be assigned to the group.</p> <p>Neil to update the group Facebook page to ask people to join a group and to check on how to align / re-align their membership details.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>All</p> <p>Neil</p> |
| 5  | <p><b>AOB: Area AGM &amp; Area Council Meeting</b></p> <p>Neil attended the Area AGM and Area Council Meeting and provided details of discussions on the centrally proposed governance review which indicatively are likely to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolutions - it is proposed to allow all members to vote on Resolutions.</li> <li>• Voting – all members to be able to propose resolutions. Only those with 100 seconders will be accepted.</li> <li>• Online – future AGMs may be held online.</li> <li>• Area Group Structure – to be reviewed.</li> </ul> <p>The Area Committee encouraged groups to include walks that are on the Charles III England Coast Path and to promote as being part of the new National Trail <a href="#">King Charles III England Coast Path - National Trails</a></p> |                        |

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|   | <p>Neil noted that large sections of the South Coast are now in place but there are still gaps involving diversions inland.</p> <p>Dave thought that there have been some walks on the trail in the past which could be re-visited such as a walk around Warsash led by Debbie.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 6 | <p><b>AOB: New Forest Parking</b></p> <p>Parking charges are shortly to be introduced in the New Forest. Thought to be £8 for 4+ hours which would be most of the walks we undertake.</p> <p>Neil suggested that walk leaders could contact local village halls for free parking or voluntary donations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 7 | <p><b>AOB: Finances</b></p> <p>Neil confirmed that the 40+ group finances were good with a Management Account balance of £497.90.</p> <p>There have been a limited number of transactions since the September 2026 year end: £30 out in October 2025 for hire of the hall for the first aid course in January and £40 in from a Ramblers World Holiday incentive.</p> <p>Neil noted that if the balance is above £500 then we should consider returning surplus cash to Area. We will continue to decline our annual financial contribution from Area for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Neil suggested that funds could be spent on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits for new walk leaders</li> <li>• Secateurs – proposed 6 be bought and allocated to main walk leaders</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> aid training – Dave thought that this should be reviewed next year as it may be difficult to get the numbers from walk leaders.</li> </ul> |  |

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|   | <p>Alison has seen walkers with a fob style ICE (In Case of Emergency) card on a ring attached to the outside of their rucksacks. These are more easily accessible than the larger ICE cards issued by the Ramblers. Alison has already contacted the Ramblers and they do not supply them. If other groups have them then they have purchased themselves.</p> <p>Alison to investigate where the fobs can be purchased and cost.</p> | Alison |
| 8 | <p><b>AOB: Social Events</b></p> <p>Dave suggested that some people prefer informal events rather than the usual formal Christmas Dance.</p> <p>It was suggested a summer event (BBQ, Hog Roast) or other events such as barn dance, skittles.</p> <p>Neil to review options.</p>                                                                                                                                                     | Neil   |
|   | <p><b>AOB: Winchester Walking Festival</b></p> <p>Neil is leading a walk as part of the Winchester Walking Festival.</p> <p>The Walking Festival organisers have asked that the details be added to the 40+ Walk Leaders list and be promoted in a specific format.</p> <p>Dave confirmed that non 40+ group members could be added to the group walk leaders list using their Ramblers membership number.</p>                        | Neil   |