

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 8th December 2024
Gilbert Room, Twyford Parish Hall
14.20pm

MInutes

Present:	<u>Committee Members</u> Steve Nicholas - Chair Neil Pritchard - Walks Co-Ordinator Neil Elder - Treasurer Miranda Shoebridge - Secretary <u>Members</u> Vivienne Scales, Richard Boardman, Andy Parks, Alison Shepherd, Jane Hudson, Chris Ward <u>Apologies</u> Dave Morris, Pat Kelly, Dave Brettell
1.	Welcome Steve Nicholas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for the cake contributions.
2.	<u>Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes of 8/10/23 were accepted as an accurate record. Richard Boardman approved the 2023 AGM Minutes and Jane Hudson seconded this. Matters arising are as follows: Error: It was noted that Peter Williams had been listed twice as attending the 2023 AGM. Draft Minutes:

	A copy of the 2024 AGM Minutes marked DRAFT will be added to the MemberZone on the website.	
3.	<u>Chair Report (Steve)</u> I'd like to start by saying I feel it's been another good year for the group. It has been very encouraging to see so many new faces on the walks, along with those who've supported the group for many years. Our annual excuse to get dressed up, the Christmas Party last December at the Winchester Holiday Inn was great fun, and the anticipation as I write this, is building for our 2024 return. The highlight for me this year was our late May Scottish Highlands trip, brilliantly organised by Dave Brettell. Being part Scottish, this is an area that I've personally wanted to visit for most of my life. It didn't disappoint! It's fair to say we were spoilt with good weather and the lack of midgies 😊 Dave put on a great selection of walks and a couple of group meals during our week. His attention to detail even included places of interest to stop on the long journey to and from Lochinver, our base for the week. In fact, one was so good we enjoyed its delights twice, the Bad Girls Cafe which interestingly morphed into The Good Girls Cafe on my bank statement, can't think why! Thank you to all the walk leaders who contributed Dorset coastal walks weekend in June. I only attended one, but understand all were well supported. National Ramblers Membership currently stands at just under 104 thousand, slightly down on this time last year. Hampshire 40+ Walking is 189, which is similar to last year. Our Facebook page currently has 3872 (2425 last year) followers so we're clearly creating a buzz that others are keen to follow. Just would be nice to convert a few more of them into boots on the ground. Finally, I would like to say a few more thank you's ... - to the walk leaders for offering the wide range of walks across Hampshire and occasionally further afield. - Dave Brettell for the previously mentioned excellent Scottish Highlands week. - Neil Elder for arranging this year's Christmas Party. - Neil Pritchard and Jane Hudson for the North Cornwall weekend taking place in May next year. - Peter Williams for the recently announced Somerset weekend taking place over the August bank holiday weekend next year. - to my fellow committee members. Your continued help and support is greatly appreciated, and I hope never taken for granted by both me, and I'm sure, most of our members!	

Treasurer's Report (Neil E)

The finances of the Group have continued to be maintained in a satisfactory fashion.

The finances of the group are divided into two elements, firstly Main income and expenditure in support of the Ramblers objectives and secondly income and expenditure related to social activities e.g. Christmas parties

Activity through the Main Income & Expenditure Account has been modest with the income during the last 12 months being £218.91 made up of a Ramblers Grant of £138.91 and a £80.00 Ramblers World Holiday incentive and expenditure of £20.00. Additionally, we did return £600.00 to Area Ramblers as we have no current use for this money.

This meant that at the financial year end we had a carry forward balance of £451.60.

During the year we did receive one of two grants that we are entitled to from Area Ramblers. For now, we retain ample funds to meet anticipated expenditure, so we have informed Area Ramblers that for the foreseeable future we do not need our annual grant.

If any Group member has any suggestions at any time about any expenditure or activities we could be considering then please discuss with any member of the committee.

As at the 30th September year end the Surplus Bank Account was carrying a healthy credit balance of £760.69. There was still the balance of the 2024 Christmas party to pay, and this was paid out early November. This has left a balance of £142.69 for future use.

Income & Expenditure Account to 30th September 2024

Main Account

<u>Income</u>	
Ramblers Grants from Area	£138.91
RWH Travel Incentive	£80.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£218.91</u>

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Flowers for outgoing Secretary	£20.00
Returned to Area	£600.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£620.00</u>

<u>Cash book reconciliation</u>	
Cash book at 30/9/2023	£852.69
Add income	£218.91
Less expenditure	£620.00
Cash book at 30/9/2024	<u>£451.60</u>

Bank reconciliation	
Bank balance per statement 30/9/2024	£451.60
Add receipts not yet on statement	-
Less payments not yet on statement	-
Closing bank balance 30/9/2024	<u>£451.60</u>

Surplus Account

Income	
2023 Christmas party receipts from members	£33.75
2024 Christmas party receipts from members	£768.00
Total	<u>£801.75</u>

Expenditure	
Payment to Castlebridge Hotels re 2023 Christmas party	£508.75
Payment to Castlebridge Hotels re 2024 Christmas party deposits	£150.00
Total	<u>£658.75</u>

Cash book reconciliation	
Cashbook as at 30/9/2023	£617.69
Income	£801.75
Expenditure	£658.75
Cashbook at 30/9/2024	<u>£760.69</u>

Bank account reconciliation	
Bank balance as per statement 30/9/2024	£760.69
Add receipts not yet on statement	-
Less payments not yet on statement	-
Bank balance as per statement 30/9/2024	<u>£760.69</u>

	<u>Walks Co-ordinator Report (Neil P)</u> Another great year for the Hampshire 40+ Walking Group: 91 walks led by various walk leaders since the last AGM in October 2023. A big thank you to David Brettell for organising and leading his group trip to Scotland with 9 walks and for arranging such good weather. A very enjoyable long weekend of walks back in June on the Jurassic Coast which included 5 walks and a well attended Saturday night pub meal. The group has continued to put on a very good mixture of walks covering a variety of distances not just in Hampshire, but also West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Wiltshire in addition to the previously mentioned group trips to Scotland and the Jurassic Coast. Finally, it was very good to see many familiar faces on the walks as well as many new faces who joined us over the last year. Here's to the next 12 months!	
4.	Election of Committee Members All Committee Members stepped down and roles were agreed for the following year as follows: Steve Nicholas - Chair (Proposed by Miranda Shoebridge, Seconded by Neil Elder) Miranda Shoebridge - Secretary (Proposed by Jane Hudson, Seconded by Richard Boardman) Neil Elder- Treasurer (Proposed by Steve Nicholas, Seconded by Vivienne Scales) Dave Brettell - Walks Co-Ordinator (Proposed by Steve Nicholas, Seconded by Neil Pritchard) Steve thanked Neil Pritchard for his years of service in this role which was echoed by all present. In addition, Steve has emailed Stephen Cocks to ask if he is happy to continue in the role of Web Administrator outside of the formal committee structure – Stephen Cocks has now indicated he's happy to continue in this role. Miranda Shoebridge volunteered to represent the Group at Hampshire Area Meetings. Steve welcomed any members to come forward with ideas for other roles.	
5.	<u>Any Other Business</u> Alignment of Group Facebook administration with Committee Members confirmed as done by Steve after last AGM.	

	<u>New Walk Leader Training</u> Several members have expressed an interest in leading walks and are undertaking the online training for new leaders. This training is recommended for current leaders too. Andy Parks offered to lead some walks in central Hampshire and on the coast. <u>Walks accessible via Public Transport</u> Richard Boardman offered to lead walks accessible via public transport - he is looking at some Saturdays and mid-week. There was a good general discussion about the need for a variety of walks with some shorter walks to encourage new walkers. <u>Weather Warnings and Walks</u> It is the Walk Leader's call regarding cancelling or going ahead with a walk, taking into account the weather and any issues getting to/from walks. <u>Welcoming new Walkers</u> There was a discussion about the best way to make new people feel welcome and comfortable on a walk. Some groups introduce new people at the start. It's the Walk Leader's call and Steve recommended giving a brief overview of the walk including any safety requirements like crossing busy roads, need for dogs on leads etc. Generally, walkers are a friendly bunch and look out for new members and each other. <u>First Aid</u> The group had a discussion about First Aid and Neil confirmed expenses are available to update/buy more first aid kits for leaders - Miranda and Steve requested kits. We discussed First Aid Training for Walk Leaders, which members present thought a good idea, and has been recommended by Central Ramblers. Andy Parks has just undergone First Aid at Work training and volunteered to contact the course leader, Gerald Pilkington, to see if he might offer a day's training for walk leaders. Andy will get more information for the committee. It was agreed generally that this would enable Walk Leaders to feel more confident in dealing with incidents. <u>ICE Cards</u> Hampshire Area has a supply of ICE (In Case of Emergency) cards and key fobs. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have a supply of these cards which can be handed out by Walk Leaders to any walkers who would like one. It is recommended they are kept in the top pocket of an individual's rucksack for easy access. Miranda agreed to request 50 from Hampshire Area. <u>Registering your mobile with emergency services for text messages</u>	Neil E Miranda
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	There was a brief discussion about registering your mobile with emergency services for text messages - this is most useful in remote areas where you may not be able to make a phone call but may be able to send a text. If interested, text 'Register' to 999 and you will be asked to confirm that you would like to register. <u>Promoting the group</u> It was suggested that obtaining a group QR code for interested people to scan to get group information would be a good idea - Steve will organise this. <u>Business Cards</u> It was agreed that it would be good to order a new supply of group cards to give out to interested people. Steve to organise. <u>Dogs on Walks</u> There was a question about the group's policy on dogs and Steve confirmed it is the Walk Leader's call whether dogs are allowed or need to be kept on leads. This will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.	Steve Steve Committee
6.	Close of Meeting Steve thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 15.45pm.	