

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 16th November 2025
Gilbert Room, Twyford Parish Hall
14.20pm

MInutes

Present:	<u>Committee Members</u>	
	Steve Nicholas - Chair and Membership Secretary David Brettell - Walks Co-Ordinator Neil Elder - Treasurer Miranda Shoebridge - Secretary	
Michael	<u>Members</u> Richard Boardman, Stephen Cocks, Jo Daniels, Ian Farley, Sarah Goss, Andrew Matthewson, O'Connell, Andy Parks, Alison Shepherd, Anne Weir, Paul Wolfe	
	<u>Apologies</u> Dave Morris, Pat Kelly, Jo Sofaer, Carolyn Dyer	
1.	Welcome Steve Nicholas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for the cake contributions.	
2.	<u>Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes of 8/12/24 were accepted as an accurate record.	

	Matters arising are as follows: <u>Matters Arising</u> First Aid kits are available to Walk Leaders via Neil and can be reordered as required. Andy Parks requested one. ICE cards will be printed on the back of Ramblers membership cards which will be distributed centrally when membership is renewed. Neil and David have a small supply of current ICE cards if required by Walk Leaders. Alternatively, in the interim, encourage walkers to write their name and emergency contact details on a piece of card and keep in top rucksack pocket. Actions from 2024 AGM outstanding - for consideration: Promoting the group via a QR code Ordering more business cards to give out to interested people Draft Minutes: A copy of the 2025 AGM Minutes marked DRAFT will be added to the MemberZone on the website	Neil Committee
3.	Annual Report November 2024- November 2025 <u>Chairman's Report (Steve)</u> <u>Chair report, November 2024 – November 2025</u> I'd like to start by saying I feel it's been a great 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 walks have covered all parts of Hampshire and further afield. In fact, we've had an unprecedented number of organised weekends away all of which have been well supported. However, I'll let David cover these in a bit more detail in his report. 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 2025 event in Botley. Hopefully my Tuxedo will still fit. For those not aware, Ramblers have introduced compulsory online training for all walk leaders. My understanding is that this became necessary after another voluntary organisation was fined for a serious incident and volunteer training was highlighted as being insufficient. As it stands, 15 of our 27 registered walk leaders have completed the training and Ramblers have set a deadline of the end of 2025. I think there will be a short extension to this date after which any walk leaders who've not done the training will no longer be allowed to lead walks. Also, walk leader training states a basic understanding of First Aid is expected. To this end, our group has arranged a session with a British Red Cross volunteer to run an afternoon workshop	

to give confidence on how to deal with situations that could arise. This is booked for early January in this hall and has been offered to our walk leaders, the take up being about 8 as it stands.

National Ramblers Membership currently stands at 107.5 thousand, about 3k up on this time last year. Our group is currently 176, which is a drop of 13 over the last year. However, this is broadly in line with our numbers over the last 10 years or so. Our Facebook page currently has 4258 which is about 400 more than this time last year.

I would like to say a few more thank you's, not only for the past year but also for the 6 years I've been chair ...

- to the walk leaders for offering the wide range of walks across Hampshire and occasionally further afield.
- And to my fellow committee members. Your continued help and support was greatly appreciated.

I'd finally add, although I'm stepping down from the committee after 9 years, I will still be regularly out on walks with the group ... you don't get rid of me that easily!

Treasurer's Report (Neil E)

The Group finances 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. Income during the last 12 months has been £162.69 made up of the transfer of £142.69 from the Surplus Funds Account (see explanation below) and a £20.00 Ramblers World Holiday incentive. Total expenditure was £126.39 represented by AGM venue costs, the purchase of first aid kits for walk leaders and purchase of tick removal kits for leaders/members. We declined receipt of our annual Ramblers grant as we have sufficient resources to meet our anticipated expenditure and we have informed Area Ramblers that for the foreseeable future we do not need our annual grant. This meant that at the financial year end we had a carry forward balance of £487.90. 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 credit balance of £841.90. There was still the balance of the 2025 Christmas party to pay. For several years there has been a balance of £142.69 left over after settling the Christmas party cost and a decision was made by the committee to tidy things up by transferring the £142.69 over to the main Income and expenditure account for use as required.

Accounts for Hampshire 40+ Ramblers Group WX51 for the year ended 30/9/2025

Income & Expenditure Account to 30th September 2025

Main Account

<u>Income</u>	
Transfer from Surplus Account	£142.69
RWH Travel Incentive	£20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£162.69</u>

<u>Expenditure</u>	
2024 & 2025 AGM venue costs	£60.00
First Aid Kits	£43.96
Tick removers	£22.43
<u>Total</u>	<u>£126.39</u>

<u>Cash book reconciliation</u>	
Cash book at 30/9/2024	£451.60
Add income	£162.69
Less expenditure	£126.39
Cash book at 30/9/2025	<u>£487.90</u>

<u>Bank reconciliation</u>	
Bank balance per statement 30/9/2025	£487.90
Add receipts not yet on statement	-
Less payments not yet on statement	-
Closing bank balance 30/9/2025	<u>£487.90</u>

Surplus Account

<u>Income</u>	
2024 Christmas party receipts from members	£48.00
2025 Christmas party receipts from members	£841.90
<u>Total</u>	<u>£889.90</u>

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Payment to Holiday Inn Winchester re 2024 Christmas party	£666.00
Transfer to Main Account	£142.69
<u>Total</u>	<u>£808.69</u>

<u>Cash book reconciliation</u>	
Cashbook as at 30/9/2024	£760.69
Income	£889.90
Expenditure	£808.69
<u>Cashbook at 30/9/2025</u>	<u>£841.90</u>

<u>Bank account reconciliation</u>	
Bank balance as per statement 30/9/2025	£841.90
Add receipts not yet on statement	-
Less payments not yet on statement	-
<u>Bank balance as per statement 30/9/2025</u>	<u>£841.90</u>

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group independent examination guidelines, I consider the Hampshire 40+ Ramblers Group WX51 Accounts to give a fair representation of the Groups financial activities for the year to 30th September 2025.

Signed Name of Examiner.....

Date

Walks Coordinator Report (David)

NOTE: all figures correct at point of creating this report.

We have had a great year of group away events – great thanks to:

- Neil Pritchard - Cornwall
- Peter Williams - Somerset
- Elaine Cooper - Dorset
- Peter Williams & Heather Farquhar - Avon

We currently have 27 walk leaders registered on Walks Manager.

- 18 have led walks this year
- 3 new not lead yet
- 1 offered but had to cancel due to personal reasons
- 4 slated for removal form the portal

All leaders will be expected to lead minimum 1 walk during 2026 to remain part of our walk leader community.

Walk leader training:

- 14 have completed training
- 1 has self certified
- Reminders have gone out to the other leaders to complete

Walks statistics for 2025:

- Number of walks- 76
- Cancelled walks - 5
- Anecdotal - fewer walks with single digit attendees

4.	Election of Committee Members All Committee Members stepped down and roles were agreed for the following year as follows: Neil Elder - Chair (Proposed by Andrew Matthewson, Seconded by David Brettell) Alison Shepherd - Secretary (Proposed by Miranda Shoebridge. Seconded by Andy Parks) Carolyn Dyer - Treasurer (Proposed by Jo Daniels, Seconded by Alison Shepherd) Dave Brettell - Walks Co-Ordinator (Proposed by Andrew Matthewson, Seconded by Stephen Cocks) Neil Elder - Membership Secretary (Proposed by Miranda Shoebridge, Seconded by Sarah Goss) In addition Stephen Cocks is happy to continue in the role of Web Administrator outside of the formal committee structure - (Proposed by David Brettell, Seconded by Andrew Matthewson) Steve was thanked by all for his 6 years' service as Chair.	
5.	<u>Any Other Business</u>	

<u>First Aid Training</u> First Aid Training for Walk Leaders has been arranged for Jan 9th 2025, 2 - 5 pm at Twyford Parish Hall - this free introductory course is being provided by the Red Cross and all Walk Leaders are encouraged to attend. Richard Boardman asked to be added to the attendee list. There are places still available for Walk Leaders - contact David. Michael O'Connell kindly volunteered that he is trained and available as a First Aid Responder. <u>Walk Leader training</u> Richard Boardman reported an IT issue with recording his Walk Leader training which is being investigated. All Walk Leaders who wish to lead walks next year will need to complete the online training or provide Ramblers with self certification by 31st December. Refresher training will be required in future. <u>Tick Removal Kits</u> These are available for Walk Leaders and members if required - contact Neil <u>Advertising walks and trips</u> There was a general group discussion on Walks and Walk Leaders with several issues and concerns raised. Walk Leaders are reminded that all walks and trips must be advertised on the website before they are advertised on Facebook to give equal access to all - especially where numbers are limited. Walk Leaders are reminded to provide necessary details of a proposed walk to the Walks Coordinator if they wish to reserve a date. Walk Leaders are reminded to cancel walks on the website, not just remove them, if plans change. The walk can be readvertised separately if the date has changed. This makes it clearer for all concerned. <u>Inclusivity</u> Walk Leaders are reminded to communicate openly, fairly and inclusively when leading walks and when advertising and engaging in social activities e.g. a post walk drink or post walk dinner. The group discussion highlighted the importance we place on Walk Leaders embracing Ramblers values as described in the Walk Leader Training - to welcome all walkers, to help new walkers feel comfortable and included, and to act as role models for new Walk Leaders. As part of the values of the Hampshire 40+ Group, the Committee would like to encourage Walk Leaders and walkers with the group to make all walkers, new or current, feel welcome on all walks and any post-walk activities such as drinks, meals or other social events. Where practical it would be preferable that if a post walk activity is planned, that this activity is included in the advertised Ramblers website walk listing.	David
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	<u>Photos for website</u> It was agreed that website photos could do with updating. Members are encouraged to submit suitable group photos to the Committee. Please ensure you have verbal permission from walk attendees. <u>Neil Pritchard</u> We would like to add that our thoughts are with Neil and we wish him all the best for his recovery. We look forward to seeing Neil out walking with the group.	
6.	<u>Close of Meeting</u> Steve thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 15.30 pm.	
