

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Wed 10 July 2019

Present: Eric Evans (EE); Celia Broom (CB); Janet Evans (JE); Bob Ward (BW); Nicky Ward (NW); Val Rose (VR); Dorothy Webley (DW); Tessa Smith (TS).

Welcome (and apologies)

Apologies received: PJ, JF

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the April meeting were signed as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising – concerning the Action Points:

- BW asked if the recently purchased mike had been put to good use and he was assured it had already been used and proved useful.
- BW agreed to do a flyer for the Lake District holiday.
- BW reported having been to Exeter to look at the Definitive Map. There is apparently no hard copy of this but he was able to look at the digital version on the terminal there and check an up to date version. He confirmed that the 'green dotted' ways are not 'lost' but recognized as Rights of Way. He had had some discussion about the status of the 'white roads' – in general they are not County roads. BW will report back and include Keith P who raised this matter.
- TS reported recent success with Flickr even though it takes a bit of discovery. EE remarked that with regular use it becomes simple. It is less straightforward than Facebook and this is deemed to be the reason why more members post their images on FB rather than the website gallery.
- TS had reported back some time previously that Central had replied there is no formal requirement for written risk assessments for events but good practice suggests this should be done even if not in written form.

All action points had been addressed.

3. Walking events

a. Dartmoor Way Project

EE announced Wed 31 July as the date allocated for SDR to put up signage for our section: Ashburton to Bovey Tracey. He has several volunteers. George Coles posted a thankyou to sponsors and a digital copy of the graphics used has been forwarded to us for future use. EE has filed copies.

b. JMHT alternative route update

BW reiterated the regrettable lack of progress from Devon County Council though someone did promise to get a quote for the additional signage which they deem necessary.

The JMHT is not being monitored as regularly, it was noted.

TS has delivered 2 dozen JMHT booklets and flyers to the Cockington Visitor Centre but explained why they are now free of charge. She was asked if the booklet would be eventually reprinted when the new route was finally approved. It was thought we would most probably rely on the digital version in future unless an easy, acceptable way to update the booklets is found.

c. 50th Anniversary walk

The plan is for all 12 groups in Devon Area to meet at Hookney Tor on 7 September. EE intends to lead a walk from Widecombe.

d. School Project

EE traced back his attendance at the 2019 General Conference where members were encouraged to see what they could do to attract younger walkers. He has a contact in his daughter Leanne, Assistant Headteacher at Whiterock Primary, who mentioned the idea of a children's ramble to her Headteacher. Consequently he and TS went in to do an assembly on the theme of Rambling to introduce the idea to Key Stage 2 children (7-10 years). This was followed up by attendance at the Summer Fayre when DW, JE and Rachel further promoted the idea, encouraging several families to sign up for the walk on Sunday 21 July. EE and TS have done a recce but more support was felt to be necessary in case either leader was indisposed on the day. JE to ask Verity; EE to ask Bernard and Rachel.

Ideas for further collaboration with the school were considered. Weekly walk suggestions were felt to be too onerous but a regular school holiday walk would be reasonable. TS is preparing a handout of ideas for families.

e. Guided walk

EE was asked if SDR could support a guided walking week for a group of visually impaired participants Mon 16- Friday 20 Sept. Though the aims include allowing the guide dogs to enjoy some off-lead time, which is normally contrary to our

policy on dogs, this was felt to be a desirable cause. EE to meet with the lady and find out more. Some members have shown willingness to help.

f. SWCP proposal from Arthur C

An email about walking the SWCP has been mailed out to members and as originator of the idea, Arthur has had several replies. Selecting a date which will work for the majority will be a challenge but there is widespread enthusiasm for this project and it was given a firm go-ahead.

The strategy was discussed and as Arthur states in his proposal, the project will evolve and the frequency of the walks will find its own rhythm in due course. It was decided this sequence of walks might be best left off the walks program to allow for maximum flexibility. In time it may be appropriate to form a splinter working group but the aim is to keep organisation as simple as possible.

4. Holidays

a. 2020 Lake District

EE presented a spreadsheet of figures with costings for uptakes of 20, 25 and 30 people. The prices, allowing for contingencies such as fuel increase, plus some contribution towards recce expenses, were felt to be acceptable and compared well with other holidays. The proposed holiday is based on 6 nights, 4 walking days and an activity on the rest day.

JE and EE were going up to Cumbria to do some preliminary recce work, checking out coach accessibility, the Riverside Hotel and some walks. Jenny B is also going up to the area and will no doubt be looking informally at possibilities and public transport.

BW asked for clarification on the reservation of rooms and EE agreed to double check that the rooms would be held for us. EE also agreed to check the price stability in the case of fewer participants.

EE pointed out that a further recce trip would be necessary in 2020.

Timing issues: it was agreed to release details and a flyer at the AGM in November. Members who wrote a cheque for the deposit of £100 per person would be accepted as would those who filled in a slip and agreed to pay the deposit by bank transfer within 5 working days. The need to be clear on this reflects the expectation that the 14 single rooms would be in demand!

Balance payments would be required by the end of June to cover our invoices from Grey Cars/the hotel.

b. Short break to Cornwall (BW)

BW and NW still 'on board' despite all and would be off to do some checking of routes and options for meals shortly. In view of the SWCP project, BW would look to include sections of the coast path to tick off some of the 630 miles!

To date there were 17 walkers and 2 non walkers who have booked accommodation in or around Mullion.

c. Holiday 2021

As always, the committee is aware of the need to be well ahead on holidays with the difficulty of finding accommodation with adequate single rooms. Equally difficult is finding a person or persons to do all the organizing entailed – no small task. Each of the committee has plenty to do and to take on the organization of a holiday as well is onerous.

EE felt that the success of Evia cleared the way for us to use a third party again. One of the main difficulties is the booking of group flights but it was felt that a reputable travel agent such as Hays would do the booking for us for a suitable fee. NW and BW offered to look into possible holidays for 2021. At the same time, the opportunity to ask at the AGM for other members to step forward if they felt so inclined should not be overlooked!

5. AGM 2019

It was agreed to play some music having seen the impact both at General Conference and at Whiterock.

The date was confirmed as Wednesday 6 November and the venue as The Redcliffe Hotel. As we are returning to our usual format, length of the meeting is an issue and it was agreed that no Guest Speaker would be included this year. My Podiatrist would be invited to have a small stand.

EE asked about the format and this was outlined. Input from committee on Membership, Social, JMHT, Footpath matters and most importantly, the Treasurer, would be considered ready for the October meeting when a run through is usually reassuring for all!

CB will endeavour to get the audit done.

6. AOB

Cotswold Outdoor are not paying their dues to support the programme and TS suggested we drop the advertisement henceforth.

DW's figures points to the success of the One Stop Jaunts led and devised by Bob A and it was agreed we would ask him to continue through the winter.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 16 October at The Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton.