

East Cheshire Ramblers' Committee Meeting

27th September 2024 @ 1.00 pm

Meeting called by Maggie Swindells

Location Macclesfield Tennis Club, Learning Zone Campus, Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 8LF

Committee	Maggie Swindells	MS	Chair
	Colin Finlayson	CF	Treasurer
	Anne Ball	AB	Membership Secretary
	Louise Whittaker	LW	Footpath Secretary
	Gina Thompson	GT	Social Secretary
	Melanie Davy	MD	Committee Member
	Sue Munslow	SM	Committee Member
	Jennefer Mellor	JM	Social media
	Steve Hull	SH	Observer
	Terry Pritchard	TP	Observer
	Margaret Kemble	MK	Observer
Apologies			
	Nigel Hersee	NH	Secretary
	Jane Gay	JG	Committee Member
	Keith Anderson	KA	Lost Ways

	NOTE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Need WiFi Code for Tennis Club	
1.	APOLOGIES	
	Nigel Hersee, Jane Gay and Keith Anderson	
2.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - approved	
2.1	No comments received	

3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING	
3.1	MS would organise another meeting with Christian Brenninekmeijer and interested parties to discuss his “Pros and Cons of Google Drive” in relation to the safe storage of ECR committee documents and Footpath Committee information.	MS
4.	WALK PROGRAMME	
4.1	Walk Coordinators Meeting – Agenda Items	
4.1.1	MD read out the current list of Agenda items for Walk Coordinators Meeting	Note
4.1.2	JM requested that the Walk Coordinators emailed her at the same time as Roger Fielding when they sent Roger their Quarterly Walk programme details (date, name, length of walk). This would be very helpful in preparation for publishing walks on Walks Manager.	MD/ Agenda Item
4.1.3	CF asked if the “Survey of attendees on walks” could be raised with Walk Coordinators again. He wanted confirmation on whether it was something they wanted to do or believed it was unnecessary to repeat. It was agreed at last year’s coordinators meeting that ECR would discontinue the questionnaire. (3.1 in the notes of meeting)	Note
5.	REPORTS FROM OFFICERS	
5.1	Chair – Refer report	
5.1.1	MS confirmed that the roles for all volunteers, apart from the Footpath Committee members’ role, were registered with Ramblers CO. AB has contacted CO to raise this issue. It was confirmed that volunteers did not need to be Rambler members but had to be registered as volunteers to be insured.	Note
5.1.2	Although Assemble has gone and information is now on the main website, it was noted that Ramblers CO are constantly changing their website so it is difficult to document pathways to areas of the website. It was suggested that ECR members add the volunteer resources or any other useful links to their “favourites”.	Note
5.1.3	There was discussion over future events for Volunteers. Various ideas were raised: an acknowledgement card; a volunteers’ picnic or a short walk and pub meal. Initially MS and AB would establish the number of volunteers. Everyone was asked to consider various possibilities.	MS/AB All

5.1.4	Recce Expenses: It was agreed that we needed our own policy to manage recce expenses. We have currently put a self-imposed limit of £10 per head for recce fees, but a group will be set up to discuss options after the AGM. MD, MK and GT volunteered to be included, and CF would attend the initial meeting.	MD, MK, GT, CF
5.1.5	Email issue: Although MS and AB have already set up their own ECR email addresses, Maggie would discuss this requirement with Christian Brenninkmeijer during the “Pros and Cons of Google Drive” meeting (see 3.1)	MS
5.1.6	We are hoping that Lucy Armitage, the Ramblers’ Trustee who came to AGM last year, will attend this year’s AGM.	Note
5.2	TREASURER’S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.2.1	The Committee gave CF a round of applause for his 11 years’ service as Treasurer.	Note
5.3	FOOTPATH SECRETARY’S REPORT – Refer report	
5.3.1	LW recently met Nicola Lewis-Smith, the new PROW Manager, who started in April. They were walking the footpaths Rainow 15/Kettleshulme 53. She seems very enthusiastic.	Note
5.3.2	LW will ask Nicola Lewis-Smith if she would like to come to our AGM, meet the group and say a few words.	LW
5.3.3	Disley Paper Mill. Planning application does not reference bridleways and footpaths adjacent to it. Cheshire East has written a brilliant letter of objection. David Barraclough is the footpath inspector and Disley Footpath Society are also on the case.	Note
5.3.4	Inspections: We have 1275 footpaths. Paths referenced as “C” are just passable and “D” is obstructed. 9% of our paths fall into these categories. MS raised the issue that perfectly good footpaths sometimes had to be categorized as D if they did not follow the definitive path. She was aware of one (in Kerridge and Rainow Low). MS requested that another category be introduced for these anomalies. LW to raise with Tony Battilana.	LW
5.3.5	Tony Battilana has requested that we have a shout out for more footpath inspectors at the AGM.	AGM Agenda
5.3.6	Kettleshulme FP 23/Rainow 15: There has been a 4 year closure notice on the	LW

	footpath since beginning of the year. LW requested volunteers to walk the route with her to give their opinion on whether the FP should be made walkable or extinguished. AB, SM, MS and MD volunteered.	
5.3.7	Torgate Farm: ECR/FP Committee will arrange to meet the landowner and discuss the issues.	LW
5.3.8	Request for Footpath from Nabs Head to Sugar Lane : Keith Hartley pointed out that this had been used by runners during the Bollington Festival. This has been pointed out to Footpath committee who will investigate it.	Note
5.3.9	Adlington FP 10 and Poynton FP 43 long term closures have now been opened.	Note
5.4	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.4.1	AB now believes that we have one “Boundless” member but will double check. We have not been inundated with new “Boundless” members. We have had 5 people resigning. It was agreed that AB would ask people who have resigned if they are prepared to let us know why.	AB
5.4.2	Publicity: Ramblers CO sends out leaflets publicising the Ramblers annually to membership secretaries. A discussion followed on the best place to leave them. Leisure Centres were suggested. AB thought they would be more productive if they had ECR details included but it was felt that online information might be more effective. MS will write a short piece on how to join the Ramblers; LW will document the work we do on footpaths and maintenance and Jennie will publish these on Facebook and other Social media sites. AB will expand the Welcome letter to include other benefits of ECR including Footpath maintenance, inspections, socials etc.	MS LW, AB, JM
5.5	SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.5.1	Quiz Night – 38 people have booked so far.	Note
5.5.2	Hoping to organise a Forest of Bowland Coach Trip. GT to check with McCarthy's on acceptable timings for the coach company (leave and return)	GT
5.5.3	GT will include requests for Social Event suggestions, and people to lead them in her AGM report.	GT
5.6	LOST WAYS REPORT – Refer report	

5.6.1	A Job Description is available. The vacancy will be raised at the AGM.		
5.7.	SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT - Refer report		
5.7.1	Getting photos from short and medium walks. AB and John Galligan to email long walker leaders to suggest they send photos to JM (with permission) <i>Post Meeting Note:</i> SM attended a long walk following the meeting and, as there were no objections, Richard Higham took and sent photos to JM for Facebook.		AB, JG
5.7.2	Social Media seems to be working as we are getting more people joining us from other groups.		
6.0	AGM		
6.1	SM was thanked for staying on to ease AB into the Membership Secretary role.		Note
6.2	Constitution: We need another change to the Constitution to make it gender neutral. Change has to go through the Area. The Area will do their change. Going to Ramblers Governance Committee this week, then the Area will let us change ours. MD to send out proposed wording to Committee.		MD
6..3	Appointment of Independent Examiner (Auditor of Accounts): CF will talk to Ken Hobbs before the AGM.		CF
6.4	LW to find out whether someone will be coming to AGM from PROW. If so, their short talk could be before the reports from Officers.		LW
6.5	Important Dates: Date of AGM Committee Reports to Secretary Motions to Secretary Nominations for committee Notice of AGM on website/email AGM paperwork circulated to members AGM reminder	23/11/24 2/11/24 2/11/24 2/11/24 9/11/24 9/11/24 16/11/24	NH/ Officers
7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None		
8.	FUTURE PLANNED MEETING DATES		

8.1	Walk Coordinators' Meeting Thursday 31 st October 2024 at 2.00 pm at Jane Gay's house.	Note
8.2	Committee meeting Friday 7 th February 2025 at 1.00 pm at Macclesfield Tennis Club.	GT to book room

Meeting Ended: 15.20.