



East Cheshire Ramblers' Committee Meeting

14th February 2025 @ 1.30 pm

Meeting called by Maggie Swindells

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

Committee	Maggie Swindells	MS	Chair
	Margaret Kemble	MK	Treasurer
	Anne Ball	AB	Membership Secretary
	Louise Whittaker	LW	Footpath Secretary
	Gina Thompson	GT	Social Secretary
	Melanie Davy	MD	Committee Member
	Jennefer Mellor	JM	Social media
	Steve Hull	SH	Secretary
	Terry Pritchard	TP	Committee Member

Apologies

Jane Gay	JG	Committee Member
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1	APOLOGIES	
	Jane Gay	
2	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - approved	
2.1	No comments received	
3	MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING	
3.1	5.1.3 MS Future events for volunteers. See below for ideas on walk leaders meeting.	
3.2	5.3.7 LW Closure of permissive footpath near Torgate Farm - ECR Footpath Committee is planning to meet with the landowner.	
3.3	5.4.1 AB No replies from resigning members have been received.	
4	WALK PROGRAMME	

4.1	Walks Programme	
4.1.1	MS gave thanks to walks programme coordinators. It is not an easy job securing leaders and we appreciate the effort they put in to doing so.	
4.2	Walk Leader Meeting	
4.2.1	It was agreed that we should hold a 'Walk Leaders' Event' for people who have led walks in the past two years. The purpose of this event would be to thank walk leaders, to share information about good practice, and to seek ideas about how to help them in their role, and to discuss how we can attract new walk leaders.	
4.2.2	There was discussion about providing a 'goodie bag' to leaders for example; to include a whistle so that the leader can provide one for the back marker, if required, who could then attract the attention of the leader if there is an accident or unexpected event.	
4.2.3	Leaders are to be reminded of the importance of putting walk details on the web site in plenty of time for them to be added to the programme. It is recommended that walks are added NO LATER than three days prior to the walk. If walks are added early, it is easy to edit the information closer to the walk date. The timing would also allow the walk to be added to the national Ramblers site. Leaders are welcome to let walkers know that photos of walks can be added to ECR website and Facebook. They can be sent to photos@ramblerseastcheshire.org.uk. Walk Leaders and photographers should ensure that they let walkers know that they can opt out of having their photos taken if they wish to do so. If Walk Leaders wish to add a GPX of their route they can do so by emailing gp@ramblerseastcheshire.org.uk.	
4.2.4	MS, JM, AB and MD are to meet as a sub-group to consider the arrangements for the Social. Meeting arranged for 20 th March.	Action MS, JM, AB, MD
5	REPORTS FROM OFFICERS	
5.1	Chair – Refer report	
5.1.1	GT was asked to consider what events we might arrange to commemorate the Ramblers 90 th Birthday.	Action GT

5.1.2	JM is to publicise through Facebook that free membership of Ramblers is available to various categories as listed in the Chair's report.	Action JM
5.1.3	MS believes that the issue with the bogus email she received is now fixed.	
5.1.4	No action need be taken on third party offers such as the one for a hostel in Betws-y-Coed.	
5.1.5	Training sessions are to be organised on the following topics: First Aid; Map Reading; Walk Leading Taster; App Training. MS will discuss this with JG on her return. MD pointed out that these sessions are for any interested members, not just for new leaders.	Action MS, JG
5.2	TREASURER'S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.2.1	MK The Rudyard Lake Talk resulted in a surplus of £120 and as a result, with generous donations from attendees, we were able to donate £150 to the Rudyard Lake Trust.	
5.2.2	MK suggested that because of increased costs the ticket price for similar events in the future should be raised to £10 per person.	
5.2.3	MK said that 16 people had already paid for the Music Night.	
5.2.4	MK is to meet with the area treasurer and other group treasurers to sort out access to the area bank account.	Action MK
5.2.5	MK is meeting with Colin Finlayson to transfer admin functions on our bank account to her.	Action MK
5.3	FOOTPATH SECRETARY'S REPORT – Refer report	
5.3.1	ECR/FP Committee is to meet with the Cheshire East PROW officer on 4 th March.	Action LW
5.3.2	LW said there was an adverse trend in the condition of the footpath network which appears to be weather related. This has led to more Temporary Closure orders related to damaged bridges & river erosion.	
5.3.3	There is a need for 4 or 5 new footpath inspectors to replaces losses. LW is to draft an email asking for volunteers for SH to send out to members.	Action LW, SH

5.3.4	The Footpath Committee are looking at what we need to do to maintain our access to OS maps for footpath recording purposes.	
5.4	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.4.1	AB said there was still a problem with members not realising that by unsubscribing to Ramblers national emails they were also unsubscribing to ECR emails.	
5.5	SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT – Refer Report	
5.5.1	GT said that the Rudyard Lake talk had been so successful that we may invite the speaker back to give a further talk. GT is also investigating the possibility of a cruise on Rudyard Lake in the Summer.	Action GT
5.5.2	GT said the Bramall Hall tour had been successful.	
5.5.3	GT was concerned about access to the Tennis Club kitchen during events. She proposed that the kitchen door be kept closed and that people wanting tea or coffee should be able to purchase it at the bar for a small charge.	Action GT
5.5.4	GT is to draft an email 'Dates for Your Diary' listing forthcoming social events for email distribution by SH.	Action GT, SH
5.6	LOST WAYS	
5.6.1	We are still looking for someone to take on the lost ways coordinator role.	
5.7.	SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – Refer report	
5.7.1	JM reported that 1900 photographs were uploaded to our Facebook page in the 6 months to November 24, and that on average each photo got 400 views.	
6	Recce Expenses Working Group Report	
6.1	The report on Recce Expenses was approved – proposed MS, seconded AB.	
7	Long Service Gifts to Members	
7.1	MS said that we need to ensure we comply within the Ramblers Financial Regulations. National policy is that small gifts to members can be given when	

	someone resigns from a substantial role. More substantial gifts must be made through members' donation and not taken out of general funds. It was agreed that in general long service gifts should be for people leaving a role after at least 10 years' service. LW said that the Footpath Committee had given gifts to retiring members or inspectors by donations.	
7.2	MK will draft a policy on donations for consideration at the next meeting, but gifts are always at the discretion of the committee.	Action MK
8	IT Support	
8.1	ECRs' Webmaster is moving house and the committee unanimously acknowledged the huge amount of work Roger Fielding has put in to the successful development of our website. The day-to-day management of which takes a fair amount of time. MS has taken on several roles concerning updating the web site from Roger Fielding following his move away from the area. She feels that in order to support the work we need to involve more volunteers.	
8.2	A meeting has been arranged for 21 st February to consider what can be done to ease the burden on MS and discuss other issues raised by Roger's move.	Action MS, AB, SH, JM
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	AB referred to the section in her report about what details should be included in the quarterly walks programme. It was agreed that contact information for leaders would not be included in the future. If leaders wanted to give contact details, they should do so in the walk description on the web site.	
9.2	MS proposed that future meetings will start at 1.30pm. This was agreed.	
10	FUTURE PLANNED MEETING DATES	
10.1	The next meeting was set for Friday 2nd May at 1pm Reports should be with the secretary by 25th April at the latest.	Action MS, MK, AB, GT, LW, JM, SH

Meeting Ended: 3.40 pm