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Minutes SCR committee mtg 2nd Sept 2024

Attendees: Trevor Park, Phil Guest, Chris Ashton, Hazel Wallace, Jim Eckersley, Nigel Hallam
Apologies: Alan Edwards

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
All items arising from the January 2024 Committee meeting are covered below, with the following exception:
Following consultation with the members it was decided to keep the timing of the Annual Christmas Dinner to January, rather than move it forward to December.

Reports from Officers:

Walks Programme
The latest Walk Leaders meeting was held on the 7th August and resulted in an almost full programme until the end of the year. There are still however a few Thursdays to fill. It was agreed that Phil would ask for leaders to arrange relatively short walks including a pub lunch to fill some of these gaps. The next Walk Leaders meeting is planned for 6th November at the Swan in Wybunbury.

Phil presented data that showed the following average number of walkers by walk type this year to date: Sunday 15, Saturday 6, Thursday 9, Evening Pub walks 11.

The Evening Pub walks are down from an average of 15 in 2023, possibly affected by the poor weather throughout the spring and summer. The Sunday walks appear to be up on 2023, which averaged 11 across Saturday and Sunday.

Phil expressed disappointment at the lower uptake from members for the 2025 HF holiday at Church Stretton. It was agreed promote the walk once again on MailChimp, to see if the numbers can be increased.

Membership
Hazel reported that membership had increased from 208 in January to 225 currently. There were 32 new members since November 2023 and 17 members left.

There was a discussion about the number of new people walking and whether it was appropriate for walk leaders to register their names and RA membership status on each walk. It was felt that this was not necessary.

Footpaths
Nigel reported that he had attended a Cheshire East Rights of Way Consultative Group meeting on 13th March, where it was announced that Genni Butler was leaving her role as Public Rights of Way Manager during the year to be replaced by Nicola Lewis-Smith. Phil asked if was possible to invite Nicola to address SCR at our Annual General Meeting on the 28th October.

Nigel also attended a meeting of the East Cheshire Ramblers Area Footpath Co-ordination Group on 15th July. There was a request for each of East Cheshire, Congleton and South Cheshire to financially support a Pathwatch 2 project proposed by Charlie Bigley of Stoke and Newcastle Ramblers.

The purpose of the project was to develop an app which would allow individual members and the general public to report problems on the network directly to councils. After discussion it was agreed that SCR could not support the project, because it was not supported by the RA centrally.

Website
Jim asked whether we needed to change the advice to Walk Leaders on the website with regards to risk assessments. Trevor agreed that we would discuss this later in the meeting.
Jim asked for guidance on how long obituaries of members and past members should stay on the website. It was agreed that three months would be appropriate.

Treasurer
Chris provided her report, which is attached to the minutes.

The report showed that we currently have a self-funded surplus of £443.67. There was a discussion as to whether it would be possible to use this surplus to partially fund the annual dinner in order to reduce the cost per head.
This could encourage more members to attend. It was agreed that this should be possible.

Chair
Trevor presented new proposals from the RA on guidelines for Walk Leaders (attached), which Jim pointed out were in contradiction to what it says on our website.

The guidelines state that new walk leaders

Must Complete all three elements of the Walk Leaders Handbook	Must
Complete the eLearning Walk Leader Foundations Module	Must
Complete the eLearning Preventing and Managing Incidents Module.	

None of these are requirements for current walk leaders.

The guidelines also state that walk leaders should carry out a risk assessment before leading a walk.

Trevor will contact Walk Leaders in conjunction with Phil to explain the new requirements listed above and make sure they are aware of the training modules available on the RA website.

Trevor will also contact East Cheshire to investigate a joint First Aid training courses.

Trevor asked the Committee if they were happy to pass on information about Ozlem Hammond's proposed 2025 trip to the Lycian Way in Turkey to SCR members. It was agreed that Trevor should circulate this to all members by MailChimp.
Trevor raised the subject of Succession Planning for Committee members. The following action was agreed: Each Committee member should compile a list of their duties and external contacts etc. to aid in the recruitment and training of potential cover and longer term replacements.
Trevor to ask for volunteers to replace Nigel in his role as Footpath Officer.

Trevor has taken over responsibility for MailChimp. Chris and Nigel both offered to be trained as cover for Trevor in this role.

General
There was discussion about whether SCR should ask for a volunteer to act as Social Secretary. It was agreed that with 3 holidays, a Christmas Dinner and a Mid-summer walk arranged in 2024, creating a Social Secretary role was not necessary at this time.
Nantwich Societies Spectacular 17th August.
SCR were well supported by RA in terms literature etc. There were three walking groups represented, but SCR were the only one offering a complete programme of walks on the stand. The stand was particularly busy between 10.00 and 12.00. There was an encouraging amount of interest, but it remains to be seen if this translates into new walkers for the group.
AOB
Nigel raised a concern expressed by a member that using Nantwich Lake as a meeting point was a little anti-social, particularly on a Sunday, because it is heavily used and often full. He suggested using alternative Nantwich car parks which are free and generally lightly used on Sundays. Phil mentioned that he believed that Cheshire East had announced that they were about to start charging for their Nantwich car parks on Sundays. It was agreed to leave Nantwich Lake as a meeting point until the issue of Sunday charging at other Nantwich car parks could be confirmed.
Date of next meeting

AGM on Tuesday the 5th or 12th November with a pre-meeting the week before

Area AGM is on Monday the 25th November

INTERNAL

South Cheshire Ramblers Accounts 1.10.2023 - 30.09.24

Annual Income

Central Office	£1,100.00 (main income)
Ramblers Holidays	£10.00 (self-funded income)
Total	**£1,110.00**

Main Expenditure 1.10.23 - 6.07.24

Walk Leaders'	£562.49
Meetings related (general incl. AGM)	£110.75
Walks programme meeting	
Newsletter	
Total	**£673.13**

Rec'd

Self-funded expenditure

	Annual Dinner	Alrewatch	Church Stretton	The Gower	Total
Income	£638.00	£10,790.00	£1,123.00	£6,594.00	**£18,337.00**
Expenditure	-£650.25	-£10,700.00	-£1,125.00	-£5,946.24	**-£18,421.49**
Bank charges for cheque payments		-£0.50	-£0.30	-£0.41	
Balance	**-£12.25**	**£89.70**	**-£0.30**	**£647.35**	**£915.51**

Initial Balance

	Main	Self-funded	Total
Central office income	£1,100.00	£658.76	£1758.23
Ramblers Holidays		£10.00	
Expenditure	-£673.13	£174.91	
Final balances	**£906.34**	**£843.67**	**£1,510.01**

Assets

	Current balance	Pending payments	Actual Balance
Bank	£1,207.07		£1,207.07
Cash	£40.64		£40.64
HF membership share holding	£102.30		£102.30
Total			**£1,350.01**

01/09/2024

NEW MAINLINE DOCUMENTS MAY 2024

Walk Leader Resources 2024

How to Access Training: https://youtu.be/QEFGUxbJ0c4 **Really useful YouTube Guide**

Go to www.ramblers.org.uk

1. Sign in using username and password
2. Click Support tab
3. Click Training tab
4. Click Training Overview as a Walk Leader to access information about Walk Leading
5. Click Resources for Walk Leadership for the Walk Leader Handbook
6. Click Online Training to access e-learning

Revision Leadership Requirements for Walk Leaders (Mandatory)	Initial Review Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Notes	Actions
Walk Leader Handbook		Also Leaders	Slide Show session (not complete) of Area Leaders. A Walk Leaders Lunch will not appear on Walk Manager unless completed.
e-Learning **Walk Leader Foundations**	Must	Also Leaders	
e-Learning **Preparing and Managing Incidents**	Must	Also Leaders	**Preparing and Managing Incidents** is a First Aid Training Requirement
Walk Leader Check List	Should	All Walk Leaders	
Risk Assessments	Should	Walk Leaders	Should be appropriate for a walkers experience and the nature of difficulty.
Maps	Must	Walk the route before the walk	Ordnance Survey OS1 provides one-inch-scale (1:25,000) maps, guidebooks, training manuals, and blogs. You can also search a postcode and enjoy the view and watch for New Knowledge in walks and Winter Walks. Ordnance Survey OS1 provides one-inch-scale (1:25,000) maps, guidebooks, training manuals, and blogs. You can also search a postcode and enjoy the view and watch for New Knowledge in walks and Winter Walks.
e-Learning Safeguarding	Could		
Walk Leader Training Manuals	Could		
Mentoring		Reference for use in Mentorship	
Age or Ideal	Up	Ordnance Survey OS1 Guide to use, Lidar	Google OS Maps Measurement or use Lidar and Lidarblue

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		OS Information: Walk Leader to	Attach to Walks Manager
		Ordnance Survey OS1 provides one-inch-scale (1:25,000) maps, guidebooks, training manuals, and blogs. You can also search a postcode and enjoy the view and watch for potential new walks.	
Skills Framework	Could	Approaching, recording walks and information	Membership Numbers will remain current. GDS welcoming team and GDS welcoming team to be monitored, managed & includes the information team GS
Information for New Walkers	Should	Welcome Pack	Welcome Pack Contents Checklist
Managing a Group Sun	Should	Areas vulnerable to have a functioning group of volunteers – Sunday Walks, Thursday Walks, Pub Walks	**Welcome Pack Contents Checklist**
		A a prefix to show photo numbers with mobile/laptop/camera	Number/Heading Notes 1-24 Social Media/Email 1-24 Lincoln pathfinders 1-24 Ramblers 1-24 Equipment 1-24 Equipment 1-24
Other Resources			
Walk Leader Training Manuals	Could		
Walk Leader Training Guide	Could		
Mentoring Guidance	Could		
Navigation – Map Reading	Could		
Guidance for making group walks	Could		

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