

SEDGEMOOR RAMBLERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Woolavington Village Hall on

Saturday, 27th October 2023 at 14.00

PRESENT: Mike Aldridge (Treasurer), Jean Fincken (Secretary), Sandra Mathews & Esmé Gilling (Programme Secretaries), Rhona Hall (Membership Secretary), Sharon Perry & Helen Young (Social Secretaries), John Perry, Pam Wills, Brian Gilling, Richard Barnes, Carole Baker, Steve Bryant, Tina Ross, Hazel Boxer, Linda Hay, Alan Chick, Sue Smith, Jacqui McGovern (19)

- 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Edward Levy (Chair), Tony Fawle (Working Party leader), Jenny Fawle, Peter Wallis, Dee Wallis, Chris Preston, Rose Callard, Sara Chick.

Jean Fincken welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that, as many would know, Ed Levy our Chairman was currently in hospital and therefore not able to attend. Also, that Ed had already said that he would step down from the Chair at this meeting, so quite unusually, for the duration of the meeting John Perry would stand in for Ed (as he was willing to stand as Chair for the next year).

- 2 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22nd October 2022:**

These were agreed and accepted as a true record;

Proposer – Rhona Hall

Seconded – Sandra Mathews

- 3 **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

- 4 **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

Chairman – Edward Levy - John Perry read out a note from Ed

"Hi All, I am sorry that I cannot be there with you today. As most of you know my knee replacement operation went wrong and I gained an infection in my leg. I was admitted to Musgrove Hospital where they operated on my leg and tried to clear the infection. Unfortunately their efforts were not successful and I was transferred to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital to a special unit that deals with all difficult knee problems for the south west of England. At the time of writing I am awaiting a major operation scheduled for Friday 27th, if all goes well I will get home at the end of next week. It will be some time before I get out walking again but my main aim is to get back as soon as I can. Enjoy today's meeting especially the tea and cakes after. Best Wishes Ed"

John then asked Richard Barnes if he had any updates and Richard said that he and several members have visited Ed in hospital and that the operation is now scheduled for Wednesday 1st November.

Treasurer – Mike Aldridge

The accounts for 1st Oct 2022 to 30th September 2023 have been audited by Peter Levy as being accurate,

Some points from last year's account – we received £277.31 towards our running costs but last year I didn't ask for any funding because I thought our balance was rather high due to it building up during Covid.

From the income side we received £30 from the walking partnership; two lucky people had a break in the Malvern Hills area and one went to the four corners of Anglesey. The £14 was as it says sales of Sedgemoor Ramblers badges.

The summer lunch made a gross profit of £77.50 less the hall hire charge.

From the payments section; Unity Bank charged us 50p for paying a cheque. This won't happen again because bank transfer will be used.

The rest is as stated apart from the miscellaneous cost which is from a shortfall on the summer outing and a Xmas dinner prize.

The Accounts were agreed as correct.

Proposer – Jean Fincken

Seconded – John Perry

Membership - Rhona Hall

Our membership has reduced slightly over the past year from 136 to 130. Regrettably we have had no new members at all since July.

Over the year we have had 13 new members but have lost 19. The breakdown of leavers shows that one elderly member passed away, one moved to another group, eight resigned and nine allowed their membership to lapse. Overall, this does not provide for an encouraging picture.

As in previous years, I have set out below a comparison table for our neighbours as I believe people find it useful. Overall membership in the area is relatively stable with some groups reducing slightly and others growing. What is clear is that the age profile of all groups is increasing, and our membership overall is getting older. I do not have a national average but can see that the number of members below the age of 50 is minimal.

Group	Membership (start to end of year)	Gender profile M/F	Average age	Volunteer %
National	102,35-101,842	35/44	Not Known	16%
Sedgemoor	136- 130	33/50	71	26%
Mendip	348-365	38/43	70	22%
South Somerset	217-227	42/41	74	16%
West Somerset	168-154	32/53	72	27%
Taunton Deane	256-267	37/48	71	23%
Woodspring	214-230	36/46	71	15%

Secretary – Jean Fincken

This is my last report as Secretary and it has been a quiet year with little to report on, as I reported last year all the minutes of the committee meeting and AGM are available on the Sedgemoor Ramblers website if anyone wants to see what goes on at the quarterly meeting. Sadly I have not been out on many walks due to a persistent back problem but hopefully things will return to normal next year.

Working Party- Tony Fawle - Read out by John Perry

Since the last AGM year your Working Party have completed 10 tasks in the parishes of Enmore, Spaxton, Cannington, Durleigh, Stawell, Cossington, Bawdrip and Greinton.

The jobs completed varied from path clearance, repairing footplates on stiles. In addition, we placed 10 Finger posts and repairs to a number of bridges and placement of new metal single gates. All for the good cause of helping to keep our network of paths in good condition. Working closely with Rights of Way Team from SCC who provide the work this has worked well this year.

Many thanks to our team of volunteers that make this happen.

This Year Ian Morrison a non member has joined the team.

We now have Neil Anderson, Mike Aldridge, Richard Barnes, Stephen Fry, Ian Morrison, John Perry. All the work and tools are coordinated by yours truly!

Attached are a few photos.



Programme – Esme Gilling, Sandra Mathews

The winter programme is always the most difficult to fill but, with the exception of December, most dates have now been taken with a good mix of Saturday and Sunday walks. Thanks to all the walk leaders who take the time to recce and lead walks. It is good to know that we have some new leaders anxious to start contributing to the programme and hopefully that will help to fill some of the gaps in the future. Unfortunately we have lost some leader due to the low attendance on recent Sunday walks and to injury or other commitments.

Social - Sharon Perry and Helen Young

Summer Lunch – 30th July 2023

Our summer lunch was held once again at Spaxton Village Hall on 30th July 2023, attended by 20 Ramblers. Despite the poor weather, John led a very enjoyable walk around Spaxton, before returning to the village hall for a lovely summer lunch. The event was a great opportunity for us all to gather together socially and enjoy good company and good food. Many thanks to all those who attended and who contributed food to the event.

We will be holding another summer lunch next year on Sunday 28th July 2024, but we will be seeking another venue so that we can vary the walk that takes place before we eat.

New Year Lunch

This year, our festive event will be a New Year's (ish) Sunday Lunch on Saturday, 14th January 2024. This will be held at The Duck Inn, Burtle. We have reserved a table for 25 from 1pm, although this is flexible. Copies of the menu will be available at the AGM. A £10.00 deposit per person will be needed to reserve a place. Please contact either Sharon or Helen to reserve your place.

Sharon – smelsey64@gmail.com

Helen – helen.young@sky.com

We will also need to advise the restaurant a week before of our food orders.

Publicity

Post Vacant

5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

John Perry stated that some serving members of the committee were willing to stand again;

Mike Aldridge as **Treasurer**

Rhona Hall as **Membership Secretary**

Sandra Mathews & Esme Gilling as **Programme Secretary**

Sharon Perry and Helen Young as **Social Secretary**

and asked if it was acceptable to deal with these posts as a whole.

Proposer - Tina Ross

Seconded - Hazel Boxer

Chairman

Jean Fincken asked if anyone wished to take on the role of Chairman, other than John Perry, who had already declared on interest. There were no takers.

Proposer -Rhona Hall

Seconded - Mike Aldridge

Secretary

John Perry asked if anyone wished to take on the role of Secretary other than Linda Hay who had declared an interest.

Proposed - Sandra Mathews

Seconded - Tina Ross

Publicity Secretary

John Perry asked if anyone wished to take on the role of Publicity Secretary. There were no takers but Linda Hay asked what the role entailed. There was a discussion and Linda said that she would be happy to combine the role with that of Secretary.

Proposed by Sharon Perry

Seconded by Helen Young

Walking Member

John Perry asked if anyone present would like to join the committee as a “walking member” – there were no takers. So these roles remain vacant.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

Tina Ross gave a vote of thanks to Sharon and Helen for providing all the refreshments.

The Meeting was then closed.