

Crook & Weardale Ramblers
Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday 8 November 2021

Venue – Wetherspoons Crook 10:00

Attendees: Steve Musgrove (Chair), Mike Knipe (Secretary), David Balmer, Dennis Ebdon, Christine Ebdon

Apologies for absence: Kath Wright (Treasurer) Alison Musgrove,, Liz Walton

Previous Minutes Matters Arising – See Chairman's report below

Chairman's report

Footpaths Officer Role – Not yet resolved

Grahame Rose Memorial Seat – Dowfold Hill landowner has refused permission so an alternative site has been identified at the top of the Railway incline and we are waiting for a Ranger to visit the site and to get permission from Durham County Council. Funding is expected from DCC or a local councillor.

Christmas Dinner – Possibly at Toronto Lodge (Bishop's Lodge) [Note – following discussion later in the meeting it was agreed to approach the Foresters Arms at Stanley Crook].

Not much has changed since the last meeting

On the positive side we have secured £400 of councillor funding to print walks programs from Fraser Tinsley and Olwyn Gunn (£200 each) so we need to follow the DCC process to release the funding which can be time consuming.

The Autumn walks program has two walks remaining to be held and David is currently planning the winter program with currently 9 walks scheduled up to the end of February 2022 with the possibility of adding more mid-week walks.

There has been a steady attendance if members at the walks plus an increased level of guest walkers who have mentioned either Stanhope or Hunwick shows so that's a positive note which I'm hoping is reflected in the membership numbers,

We should start to think about bus trips in 2022 as both Durham ans Barnard Castle have reinstated theirs this year with restricted numbers. It will probably mean

subsidising them in some way but needs to be on the radar soon and mentioned at the AGM in February.

Treasurer's report.

Kath submitted the table belowC

Treasurer's Report as at 27th October 2021

1 BANK BALANCES

Unity Trust Bank Account for Yr 20/21

Date			Date	Cheque		£
1.10.20	Opening Balance					
20.10.20	1st Q Payment		28.11.20	13	D. J. Ebdon (Car Stickers promotion)	100.00
20.1.21	2nd Q Payment		1.6.21	14	Mrs D King Heart Internet - Web Hosting	57.46
20.4.21	3rd Q Payment		21.6.21	16	D Ebdon Bishop FM	60.00
			30.6.21	17	Stanhope Agriculture Society	70.00
		29.7.21	29.7.21	18	S Musgrove (Ink Cartridge and Paper)	17.60
			1.8.21	20	Linton Printers (Programmes)	190.00
20.7.21	4th Q Payment		30.9.21		Closing Balance	199.78

		£			£	694.84

**Unity Trust Bank for Yr 21/22 as
at 26.10.21**

Date		£	Date	Cheque		£
1.10.21	Opening Balance	199.78				
	1st Quarterly Payment	145.00				
	2nd Quarterly Payment					
	3rd Quarterly Payment					
	4th Quarterly Payment		26.10.21		C Losing Balance	344.78
		£ 344.78				£ 344.78

Barclays Bank for Yr 20/21

Date		£	Date		£
1.10.20	Opening Balance	644.74			
1.10.20	Interest Paid	0.01			
1.11.20	Interest Paid	0.01			
2.12.20	Interest Paid	0.01			
2.1.21	Interest Paid	0.01			
3.2.21	Interest Paid	0.00			
2.3.21	Interest Paid	0.00			
1.4.21	Interest Paid	0.01			
1.5.21	Interest Paid	0.01			
1.6.21	Interest Paid	0.00			
1.7.21	Interest Paid	0.01	27.7.21	Charity Boxes	21.77
1.8.21	Interest Paid	0.01			
1.9.21	Interest Paid	0.01	30.9.21	Closing Balance	623.06
		644.83			644.83

**Barclays
Bank for Yr
21/22**

Date		£	Date		£
1.10.21	Opening	623.06			

	Balance				
1.10.21	Interest Paid	0.01			
	Donation Box	40.68			
				Close Balance	663.75
		663.75			663.75

Budget for Yr 2021/22

Our 2021/22 budget request has been approved and we also carry over £199.78 from the previous financial year

Income (£) <i>excluding Ramblers funding</i>	Expenditure (£)		
Donations	Walk programmes	130.00	
Legacies	Walks related		
Grants	Walk leader training		
Fundraising	Publicity/new sletters	110.00	
Deposit interest	Publication/goods costs		
Dividends	Campaigns/casework	270.00	
Publication/goods sales	Practical work		
Advert sales	Fundraising costs		

Other		Meetings (inc. AGM)	50.00		
			Admin	20.00	
			Other		
			<i>Don't Lose Your Way</i>		
Total	[A]	-	Total	[B]	580.00

Breakdown for
'other'
expenditure and
for each
category
exceeding £50:

Expenditure category	Amount (£)	Details
Publicity/newsletters	110.00	Crook and Weardale website costs (Heart Internet) Annual Hosting Fee and 2yr registration
Campaigns/casework	270.00	Promotion on local radio station 3 x £60 = £180 Promotion at Local (Stanhope) Agriculture Show = £70 Promotion at Local Fete £20
Walk Programmes	130.00	For circulation at promotion events and new members

The winter walks programme is almost complete and ready for publication – just a couple of dates to be filled. (Note These were filled during the meeting)

Membership Secretary's report

Dennis reported that he attended Hunwick show and Stanhope show with Mike and that these seemed to fulfil their purpose of raising the profile of Crook and Weardale Ramblers, together with the radio adverts on Bishop FM.

As at the end of October we had 73 members, which is an increase of one from July

Secretary's report.

1) Ramblers have revised the risk assessment forms.

These have been distributed to current walk leaders and we should try to ensure that walks leaders complete these prior to walks. They're not particularly onerous to complete and are part of our compliance with insurance requirements.

2) Since lockdown was lifted, our group has an increased number of walks leaders and some walks leaders who's activities may be “paused”. My view is that we need to maintain the number of leaders and improve their experience of leading with the Group.

There has been a Special Interest Group organised by the Ramblers (including one member from Durham City) which has been discussing ideas for improving aspects of Group walks. A copy is here for Committee to consider. There seems to be some quite good suggestions and some which we may not think are relevant. Some of the suggestions include the use of e-learning for walks leaders including on-line events, sometimes to share experiences, and traditional methods of training delivery and things like buddying for new leaders and delegation of roles on walks – back-marking etc. Some suggestions appear to be aimed at improving or maintaining the morale of walk leaders (and encouraging recruitment), possibly through informal meetings (maybe for a meal/in a pub etc.)

I sent a copy of this to David B since some of it could be appropriate to his role as “walks co-ordinator”, especially those parts relevant to the description/titles of walks, where we currently tend to use the area where the walk is located as the walks title.

Does the Committee support some kind of local development programme for walks leaders including maintenance of first-aid skills, risk assessment, group management and so-on?

3) On the issue of raising the profile of the Group, Dennis will likely say more about our experiences at Hunwick and Stanhope and with the radio adverts. (I thought the shows were really useful by the way – and quite good fun at times) For my particular role, the taster-walks worked well on the first morning, but once the Stanhope show became busier, I was lost in the crowd and the announcer forgot to announce the afternoon walks. The lesson is to have the walks in the mornings and to have a sail-type flag as an identifiable meeting point

On the same subject, our Facebook group has 72 members who read the posts – anybody can post and I moderate the posts to watch out for spam/trolling etc. We have just one potential recruit from the facebook group.

The Twitter feed has 244 followers and has had approx 30,000 “impressions” I'm not entirely sure what an impression is, except to say that it seems to be a reasonable measure of how many people read the feed. The Twitter feed could probably do with a little more energy putting into it.

4) On the subject of publicity for walks, we currently have a printed walks programme, our own website and GWEM (which has recently had some improvement work done to it.) David co-ordinates and organises the walks leaders' contributions to the programme, Steve formats the walks programme and gets it printed, I format a newsletter and add pictures and send it to Debbie who adds more pictures, emails the newsletter to members, based on a database of members email addresses which I get from the Insight hub, she then distributes it and puts the walks on our website and I input the programme into GWEM. I also add links to our website programme on the facebook group and on twitter. I doubt if we could do any more than this, except to say that, we are very dependant on some single key individuals with no back-up.

5) 50th anniversary celebrations:

I believe that 2023 will be the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Group and, in my view this should be celebrated in some special way

Ideas so far:

A calendar

A (nother) ceilidh or similar

Planting trees – The Woodland Trust provide free trees and advise on species for specific areas. My idea is for a “Ramblers Wood” somewhere in Weardale with open access (Northumbria Water might well agree to this – North-West Water have “Memorial woodland “ by some of their reservoirs where people plant a tree in

memory of a deceased loved-one.)

Press/radio publicity (this means a press-release!)

Something in "Walk" magazine

A local walks leaflet/booklet.

At an appropriate time we will need to ask members for ideas and make a plan.

Any Other Business

The whatsapp group was proving impossible to manage without Grahame's participation and a replacement whatsapp group would need to be created.

Date of next meeting: Monday 17 January 2022 at 10:00 in Wetherspoons in Crook.