

# MINUTES OF THE CREWE AND NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING.

Date: Tuesday 14th Feb 2023

Location: The Brittles Wistaston

Apologies for absence: Kath Conroy, Marilyn Norbury, Peter Winby, Mike Martin.

## 1.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes were approved

## 2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST AGM

2.1 None

## 3.0 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

3.1 I would like to welcome you all to the 2023 AGM of the Crewe and Nantwich Rambling Club. Each year we like to remember any of our members who have passed away since our last AGM. So I would ask you to remember; David (Joe) Taylor who passed away in January. Joe was our Chairman between 2011 and 2013. Peter Thorpe who was a member for a number of years. Pam Coyle who was a former club Secretary.

On a happier note I would like to welcome all our new members who have joined us for our walks.

## 4.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4.2 This year after COVID we resumed our normal programme with low turnouts which resulted in some financial losses. However our attendances have now picked up and we are now running with a fair level of turnouts and holding our own financially.

A major disruption this year was the fact that Burland our regular coach supplier for many years stopped trading and we were left with no coaches available. Fortunately due to the efforts of John Moreton Ramble Organiser we managed to obtain the services of another company, Global Travel, and are successfully using them now for our coach walks. Our Thursday Walks are well attended with regular monthly walks at various local areas.

This year with the help of Club Member Bill Pearson we have launched a new website and we thank Bill and Bryan Roe for their excellent work in doing this. I would like to thank the committee for the work that they have done and the support they have given to me and to each other during over the year.

On behalf of the club I would like to thank: Judith Ruff for her work as Club Treasurer maintaining the Club Accounts and arranged the auditing of these. Lynn Richards for her work on publicity for the Club arranging the posting of regular adverts about the club in local magazines. Kath Conroy for her work as our Club Safety Representative. Marilyn Norbury for her organisation of our Social Meetings. Stuart Watkinson who has carried out the very difficult job of producing accurate minutes of our committee meetings. Stuart is now standing down after several years. John Moreton and Peter Johnson for organising a full program of Sunday Walks throughout the year. Peter has also taken on the responsibility of looking after the Club Safety Kits. Richard Farrall who, with the help of his wife Brenda, has acted as Membership Member and they have been excellent at introducing new members into the club. Richard has also taken on the organisation of the Thursday Walks. John Chambers who has taken over the responsibility of organising the 2023 Club Holiday. Peter Winby for organising our Skittles and Bowls Evenings. Bryan Roe for his work on the Club Newsletter, the Club Website and Facebook page. Bryan is also standing down this year after 16 years on the committee. I am please to announce two new members of the committee who are; Michael Taylor who is taking over as Newsletter Member. Esther Williams who is taking over as Club Secretary.

## **5.0 TREASURERS REPORT**

### **5.1 Financially in 2022 we have made a big loss on coach travel**

A number of factors have contributed to this:

1. Covid, getting members to return to coach travel
2. The weather, some cold wet Sundays and a heatwave
3. Burland coaches ceasing trading
4. Rising cost of fuel

We had 24 walks in this calendar yer with only 6 walks making a profit. One of these walks being a 'free' coach journey from Burland due to the coach breakdown.

Our coach loss was £1119.90

On the positive side we did foresee some of these problems. The committee took the decision to raise the membership fee for 2022 from £10.00 to £15.00. This generated extra revenue that nearly balanced the above loss. We however did lose members due to the increase in membership fees but during the last year and with a lot of advertising, our membership has risen again to 113.

The committee are very aware of the rising cost of living so are trying NOT to increase the coach fare. If the coach is full every walk, we would break even. The committee discuss the coach price at every committee meeting.

After the AGM in 2022 the question raised "why do we not pay expenses anymore?" The committee took this onboard and started to pay reccie expenses with immediate effect. We hoped that reimbursing petrol money would encourage more members to lead walks. The committee also took the decision to stop paying the coach driver a tip when we changed over coach companies. This was an opportunity to save some money.

We had a number of extra funds in 2022.

The very successful skittles social raffle raised £35. Thank you to Pete and June Winby for all of their hard work organising the annual event.

We had £40 from RWH Travel Ltd. This was due to members booking holidays with them.

The meal walk also made a small profit of £28. The pub very generously giving us a discount for a group booking along with 'free' desserts. Thanks you John Moreton who found us this great location and pub at very short notice.

The usual costs of running the club are recorded and attached.

The accounts have been audited. Thank you to David Cattell for undertaking this again for us this year.

## **6.0 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.**

6.1 The total membership for 2023 was 113 members including 12 Life Members. 9 new enquiries (hoping these will materialise into new members very soon) Enquiries from all sources coming in steadily. Thursday Walks have been well supported and several new members have joined the club through these walks.

## **7.0 RAMBLE ORGANISERS.**

7.1 All in all 2022 was a good year. We had some excellent walks in really good locations. We struggled for numbers on some walks and lost quite a bit of money. We had the idea of getting more walkers to make the numbers up on the coach so I tried to pick places with some attraction such as Chester, Shrewsbury and Oswestry but it didn't work so it seems we really only need to have parking and toilets at the start location. Hopefully the numbers will improve as new members join. The coach company Global are providing good service and are reasonably priced. I was lucky to find them when Burland ceased trading. We should stick with them for now.

The biggest trouble I have is finding leaders especially for the C group. We struggled last year and it isn't any better this year. If anyone can help please get in touch. It is vital to the club as without any leaders we will have no walks and no club. I try to vary the locations as much as possible. We are planning long distance locations in the Lakes which you should have details about we'll proceed if we see enough interest. Another event under discussion is the meal walk as it takes a lot of organising and needs support. We only got 29 attendees last year. The events continuation is under review.

## **8.0 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

The following members were elected:

Chair BRYAN CLYDESDALE

Vice Chair MARILYN NORBURY

Treasurer JUDITH RUFF

Secretary ESTHER WILLIAMS

Newsletter Editor MICHAEL TAYLOR

Membership RICHARD FARRALL

Ramble organiser 1 JOHN MORETON

Ramble organiser 2 PETER JOHNSON

Co-opted member Reminisce MARILYN NORBURY

Co-opted member Publicity LYNN RICHARDS

Co-opted member First aid PETER JOHNSON

Co-opted member Club Holidays 2023 JOHN CHAMBERS

Co-opted member Skittles and bowls PETER WINBY

Co-opted member Safety KATH CONROY

## **MOTIONS**

None received