

## Caerphilly Ramblers

### Cerddwyr Caerffili

## Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Minutes

**Note:** A new format was tried with a couple of walks preceding the meeting, followed by a buffet at 1 p.m. at Caerphilly Golf Club and the meeting commencing at 2 p.m.

**Apologies:** Kate and Gwyn Allardyce, Jean Chard, Geoff Harris, Colin Hicks, Glenys Hutchison, Val Jones, Carol Jorgenson, Jeff Kitch, Marie Macey, Pauline Maguire, David Moore, Tony Napier, Jayne Reardon, Mandy Smith, Wendy Winney.

Fifty-nine members attended the meeting - 30% of the membership (59/197).

**Minutes 2019 AGM:** It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

**Matters arising:** None.

#### **Officers' Reports:**

##### Chair - Bob Macey

Bob stated that it's 2 years since our last AGM (due to the Covid pandemic). However, we have continued to function when allowed, requiring agility from our volunteers. He thanked the committee members for all they do for the club and thanked all the members who lead walks for the group. Over the last 2 years, our activities have included a holiday to Cornwall organised by Pam, a (truncated) holiday this year to the Peak District organised by himself, a Christmas lunch in 2019 organised by Mo and a New Year's bash organised by Jan Robinson. Ron led our involvement and played a leading role in the 2021 Caerphilly Challenge. Thanks were extended to him and the volunteers who supported this event. The next Challenge Walk will be at Twmbarlwm on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022. With regard to training, Judith organised a First Aid course in 2019. Ron has subsequently taken over Judith's training role as he has good contacts due to his Caerphilly Challenge involvement. He recently organised a First Aid course attended by 3 of our members. Bob also extended his thanks to Wilf for his work on our website.

##### Treasurer - Judith Jones

Judith took on this role as of September 2020. Since July 2020, again due to the Covid pandemic, free membership was offered to existing members due to the lockdowns preventing our normal walks programme taking place, so this has made her workload initially easier.

At the start of the financial year (1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2020) we had a healthy balance of £1,714.13.

During this year we received income from Membership Fees of £360, due to a great expansion of 60 new members joining us during the year. We received £40 in cheques for donations to Children in Need and £720 for bookings for the recent Flat Holm trip, resulting in a total income of £1120.

Our expenditure comprised £54 for some new OS maps, an Insurance cost of £250.42 for the year, £65.50 was paid for our affiliation to The Ramblers Association, £40 and £720 were paid out respectively for the Children in Need donation and the Flat Holm bookings, gifts were made to Brenda, our retiring Treasurer (who served for 17 years!) and Clive, as Walks Secretary for a number of years, and some small amounts for stamps and envelopes. This equated to a total expenditure of £1230, resulting in a similarly healthy balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 of £1630.99.

We also have a £314.24 investment in HF Holidays which gave us £4.64 interest and some savings on Group Holidays.

Judith extended her thanks to John Newton for doing the books for our club this year.

The committee recommended that there is no change to the membership subscription of £6. This was agreed. Proposed: John Arblaster, Seconded: Wilf.

#### Walks Secretary - Val Steel

Firstly Val thanked Clive, the outgoing Walks Secretary. Since taking on the role in June this year, the club has offered 46 walks covering nearly 350 miles! Thanks were extended to all members who lead walks for the programme during the very unusual circumstances (Covid pandemic) of this past year. However, there is still a need for more walk leaders, especially for the shorter, easier walks and at weekends. Members were reminded that published walks can be borrowed from Val and that experienced leaders will support new leaders. Val also explained that due to the uncertainties of the Covid pandemic, there have been some changes in how we manage the Walks Programme, i.e. walks are still requested from members on a quarterly basis, but she has finalised them and sent them out on a monthly basis. For reasons of circumstantial changes that create more work and email overload, she plans to continue to send the programme out monthly. She was open to any feedback or improvement suggestions on this.

With regard to restarting our walks meeting point at ASDAs, Val proposed we recommence as of 1<sup>st</sup> November, taking appropriate Covid security measures (i.e., wearing masks). This was welcomed by one member, Elaine, who highlighted that this had affected her ability, and that of others, to attend walks over the last year. (Post AGM decision: this has been put on hold for further discussion at our next Committee Meeting).

Val asked for any other feedback:

- Lynda Newton stated that the Booking System being used for walks is good and offers many benefits, i.e., it helps leaders when there is a need to inform people of a cancellation, enables leaders to contact a participant to check their suitability for the level of the walk, etc. It was agreed that this process will be continued.
- Val asked whether it was appropriate for Peter Brice to still hold some of the clubs OS maps, shouldn't they be with the Walks Secretary? Bob stated that he too has some. It was proposed that we should do an Asset check/hold an Asset Register. (Similarly for Bothy bags).

#### Health & Safety - Olwen Ford

No accidents have been reported this year.

#### **Election of Officers**

Bob outlined the history of Committee changes since the last AGM. Brenda Brice, Lynda Newton and Clive Elsbury have all stepped down from their roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Walks Secretary, respectively. This has been a huge change and we extend warm thanks to them all for their work on the Committee. More recently, Olwen Ford (Health and Safety Officer) and Carol Elcock have asked to stand down. These are again two stalwarts over many years and thanks were extended to them. Since our 2019 AGM, Judith has taken on the Finance and Membership role, Carol Franks has joined the Committee and taken on the Club Secretary role and Val Steel has joined and taken on the Walks Secretary role. All of these were appointed by the Committee, not the AGM, and more recently Sian joined the Committee. Thanks again to all. With the exception of Olwen and Carol E, all members are prepared to stand again.

Bob also asked if there were any takers for the role of Health and Safety Officer, to which Margaret Wallis volunteered. This was accepted by the AGM.

Bob also highlighted that he had now been in the position of Chair for 4 years and might be seeking replacement in the near future if anyone might be interested in taking on this role.

All current officers and committee members who were willing to stand were re-elected en block. Proposed: Sandy, Seconded: John A.

The Committee is now as follows:

**Chair:** Bob Macey, **Treasurer:** Judith Jones, **Secretary:** Carol Franks, **Walks Sec:** Val Steel, **Health & Safety:** Margaret Wallis, **Safeguarding Officer:** Judith Jones  
**Ordinary Members:** Ron Freeman, Pam Lyons, Clive Elsbury, Sian Van Gemeren

#### **Proposed amendments to the Club Constitution:**

The Club Constitution was reviewed by the committee, two amendments were proposed:

1. The equality statement, where Judith has drawn on the 2010 Equalities Act is to read 'The Club is committed to treating everyone fairly and with respect. It opposes all forms of discrimination including those on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.'
2. A technical amendment to para 10.4 to reflect that we now require two signatories to read 'all cheques.... shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other designated signatory'.

These proposed revisions were approved by members and the revised constitution will be posted on the website. Proposed: Sandy, Seconded: John A.

#### **Walking Holidays & Coach Trips:**

Bob made a call for proposals from members for the 2021/22 programmes.

There have been no coach trips this year.

Our next holiday will be to the Isle of Wight in October 2022.

Members were reminded that they are invited to organise Club events and should contact the Chair to discuss their proposals.

#### **Social events:**

Olwen F is organising Christmas Lunch this year. It will be at The Village Hotel, Coryton on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1 p.m. Details will be sent to members.

With Jan R moving to West Wales, we are looking for a volunteer to organise a New Year event.

**AoB:**

Judith highlighted that the Membership Form has been updated with wording requesting people's consent to use their personal details to inform them of club activities. She stated that for existing members this consent has been assumed. The AGM was agreeable to this. Wilf stated that this consent was also assumed with regard to walks leaders' contact details being shown on the website/programme.

All of the following discussion points will be reviewed at our next Committee Meeting:

1. Sandy highlighted that we are posting people's photos on our Facebook page that we may not have asked their permission to do so, was this an issue?
2. A question was also asked about the completion of Risk Assessment forms by Walks Leaders.
3. Clive also proposed that it might be an idea for any excess club funds to be used for replacing stiles with kissing gates. It was suggested that any stile that is proposed should be one that a high number of people can benefit from and should also be in Caerphilly County Borough, ideally at the start of a walk. Sandy suggested that maybe the club membership fee should be increased to £10 with £4 being put towards the Stile fund. Bob highlighted that for the Warren Drive kissing gate, the club only paid for installation and not the gate itself. He noted that the plaque is still outstanding. Val suggested that we work with the Town Council or get the local community council involved with a view to improving any walking infrastructure. One member also highlighted that we need to involve the landowner too. Bob said if anyone knows of a stile needing replacement then please let him know.
4. Finally there was a discussion on the need for shorter walks, i.e. 5-6 miles, A/B grade, stroller walks and a suggestion that walks be offered on any day of the week. If you need help recycling a walk then speak to any of our current walk leaders who would be willing to help.

The meeting closed at 3 p.m. Thanks were expressed to Sian for organising a very successful buffet and venue.

C. Franks 07/10/2021