

Present were: Nigel Whitlam (Chair), Peter James (Secretary), Jonathan Wilby (Treasurer), Gerald Brooker (Walks Co-ordinator), Marita Bulto (Communications Officer), Mark Lankester

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Jane Edgar.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held 26th June 2024**

These had been distributed and were accepted.

3. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

The following would be covered during the meeting:

- Trips away
- Shortage of walk leaders and walks
- Newsletter
- AGM

4. **Chair's Report**

All trips away completed successfully. The number of walks being entered in the programme goes up and down, and tend to be entered late. Need to keep badgering people to come forward to lead and for current leaders to offer more walks. Social events are ticking over, with fireworks outing on Friday. Nigel had written to his MP regarding the Access to Nature Bill, as requested by the Ramblers, but has had no response as yet.

5. **Secretary's Report, including Membership**

Membership up from 521 to 539, with 32 new members in the last three months. Area membership also up. Broadland council making enquiries about putting visitor centre and parking at Horsford Woods. Not yet gone to planning.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report distributed (see below).

The main issue is still the net revenue from the trips away, and what to do with it. Marita has been working on a calculation using nights away during reccies, and has emailed leaders asking for them to submit details and state how they would like her to process any monies due to them (paid to them, given to Norwich Ramblers general funds, distributed amongst other qualifying leaders?). So far not many responses so will send another email. Next year there will be the same issue with other groups recceing on our behalf, but any claims will have to come out of the Walking Partnership funds (£570 this year) as it cannot come out of general funds. To do this the money will need to be transferred from the general fund to trips away to cover possible claims. Proposed to get an estimate of the possible sums involved for these reccies. The £5 deposits prepaid for next year's trips have been refunded.

Peter has got materials for work to be done, with the money coming out of last year's funds.

7. Walks Co-ordinator's Report

Still struggling to get leaders to enter walks in advance, which causes a problem as, once Gerald has uploaded the content of the leaders page on to the national site at the given deadline, any further additions have to be added individually. Marita has offered to help out with putting walks on national website, and Michael would also help. Peter can also publish the walks. Gerald to send another email to leaders outlining the problem. Some people will always see a gap and want to put a walk in at the last minute, which is becoming more normal, but need to stress the need to put them on in advance. Peter confirmed Marita would be given access to publish walks.

The list of walk leaders is longer than the number of active leaders. Should people be asked if they want to be removed?

AGM walk will probably be just over 8 rather than 9.

8. Communications Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

9. Newsletter

It was not sent out as there was no material. Also, it is impossible to send by email to 500 people. It could be possible to put something on the website. Kings Lynn seem to be successful so hope to get advice from them. So far they have not responded to Marita's query.

10. Social Events

Nothing to report other than fireworks. Have had a few pub nights.

11. Reports on Area

Area meeting next Saturday.

12. Work Party Activity

Work has been a bit slow as Peter has not been well. Plenty to do, but weather will make it more difficult now.

13. AGM November

Venue booked, walk in place. Starts at 2pm. Not a lot of parking space but places nearby to park on road.

Nigel will organise raffle prizes, but people can also bring some. Cake donation would be appreciated. Nigel will put something on Facebook to encourage attendance.

Everyone present happy to stand again for the committee. Nigel to send email to committee members formally asking if they're willing to stand again, and confirming there is a need for a couple of extras.

14. AOB

There was further discussion on claims for mileage from other groups. Should they be limited in the miles they can claim (no limit in the past)? Within Norwich people were only allowed to claim up to 20 miles for a return journey. Also need to confirm mileage rates. Decided it would be necessary to ask them for an estimate of the likely mileage/cost. Due to the scheduled trips away next year there will only be one which involves another group.

There was a query about another group coming to Norfolk and Norwich Ramblers putting on walks for them. It would only be approx 12 people. This may be a discussion for the future.

15. Dates for next meetings (2025)

Wednesday 26th February

Wednesday 25th June

Wednesday 29th October

Meeting closed at 20:20

Signed

Nigel Whitlam: Chair



Treasurer's Report - 6th November

Fund Balance

The bank balance at the end of the financial year was £1,623.82. Since then, the bank balance has fallen slightly to £1,576.12.

Based on Marita's recent e-mail there is also a small amount of cash still held i.e. £10.

Given the proximity of the AGM I will focus on the balance at the end of the financial year.

Trips

The table shows the revenues and expenditures associated with the trips. The net revenues from trips at the end of September 2024 was £932.48. Since then, I have paid one additional expense claim for just over £20. It is possible that there may be other expense claims to be paid.

Trips – Net Revenues 2022-3 and 2023-24 combined			
<u>Revenues</u>	2022-2023	2023-2024	Total
Last Year's Trips	890.00	0.00	890.00
Mendips	155.00	75.00	230.00
Lake District	160.00	60.00	220.00
Shropshire	0.00	165.00	165.00
Peak District	0.00	215.00	215.00
Lake District 2025	0.00	130.00	130.00
Donations and Other	0.00	45.00	45.00
Registration Refunds	-95.00	-215.00	-310.00
	1,110.00	475.00	1,585.00
<u>Reimbursements</u>			
Reimbursements for last year's trip	214.97	0.00	214.97
Mendips	25.20	107.40	132.60
Lake District	0.00	69.60	69.60
Shropshire	61.90	139.30	201.20
Peak District	0.00	34.15	34.15
	302.07	350.45	652.52
Net Revenues for Trips	807.93	124.55	932.48

The big issue of course is how to deal with the excess revenues from the trips given a certain level of disinterest from many of the walk leaders.



Other Revenues and Expenses

The table below shows the revenues and expenses during 2023-2024 other than for trips. On the revenues side the main sources of revenues were from group funding (10% less than in 2022-2023), and the walking partnership which was almost 3½ times higher than in 2022-2023.

AGM expenses amount to £281 but note that £100 is for the deposit. The largest item by far is for practical work, which I'll let Peter discuss.

Other Revenues and expenses from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024	
	Revenues
Group Funding	607.07
Walking Partnership	570.00
AGM Raffle	34.00
	1,211.07
AGM Expenses	281.17
Practical Work	1,017.40
Walks Programme and Newsletters	67.20
Fund Raising Costs	0.00
Postage, stationery etc	0.00
Meeting Room Hire	50.00
	1,415.77
Net Revenues for Other Activities/Costs	-204.70

Adding together the Net Revenues from trips and other sources there was a negative amount of just over £80.