# **St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers**

**Committee Meeting by Zoom on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7.00 pm**

**Members Present:** J Houston (Convenor & Press Correspondent, JH), W Aitken (Treasurer, WA), J Forret (Area Secretary, JF), M Hammond (Webmaster, MH), C Philip (CP), C Arnold (CA), Y Stephenson (YS), C Brown (Walks Coordinator & Temp Secretary, CB)

**Welcome:** The Convenor (JH) welcomed all to the meeting.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Mr R Stirrat

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**Convenor’s Report:** JH began by informing the group that due to illness, Mr Jim Coates is unable to continue as Group Secretary. These duties have now been taken up by CB until further notice, or until a willing volunteer steps up. Following our introductory walk last April, it is not envisaged that we would be asked to undertake another such walk at this time.

**Treasurer’s Report:** WA outlined the group accounts to date, our base payments (those received from the Ramblers) are due to rise. Recce expenses have risen as the rate per mile was increased at the last AGM. Overall, our bank balance is on a par with previous years.

**Acting Secretary’ Report:** CB stated that we currently have 119 fully paid up members, 3 people have joined since the turn of the year and have already attended a number of walks.

**Walks Coordinator’s Report:** CB outlined the numbers of people attending walks to date. Most walks have been hovering about an average number of 8-11, with the odd exception. CB indicated that there is a hardy core of regulars on the walks and we would welcome an increase in numbers on any walk.

**Press Correspondent’s Report**: JH stated that she would continue to pass on walk reports and photos as and when they are received after each walk. She also said that there would only be the one newsletter for the Area Joint Programme (AJP) booklet to prevent ‘duplication’ of information.

**Webmaster’s Report**: MH has received a request from Ramblers asking that information about our Group be updated between 10th April & 10th May. MH thinks that the present information held by the Ramblers is taken from our old website and was unsure as to what information should be updated eg Group history? Is this info to be UK wide? WA proposed that information such as our Group is located in a great area (not just Fife, but Tayside & Forth Valley) for walking, CP said that our Group is a very welcoming one, YS also mentioned the 2 long distance walks in our area.

MH also said that he may be offered training on the new Ramblers website, the same would be offered to the Walks Coordinator when the current GWEM (Group Walks & Events Manager) is replaced.

**Area Council Report:** JF said the Area and the Scottish Council meetings were both well attended. Most of the Area expenses have been used for training purposes eg First Aid, their next meeting is on Thursday 15th June via Zoom. Committee members are welcome to attend but please inform JF of your intention to do so. CB apologized for not forwarding the Area Committee minutes from the previous meeting. These will be sent out along with our Group Committee minutes.

**Any Other Business**: There was a discussion amongst those present re the lack of walk leaders and how do we increase their numbers. We seem to rely on the same people for both our summer and winter walk programmes. A ‘buddy-ing’ up system would seem to be a popular option for those less confident on leading a walk. An E-Learning package is available via the Ramblers, but any future walk leaders would need to inform JH so that access to such training can be arranged.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:15.

**Date of next Meeting**: The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd October 2023