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

**Committee Meeting by Zoom on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.00 pm**

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

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

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from R Stirrat, W Aitken (WA)& N Haxell

**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 Yvonne Stephenson has decided to step down from the Committee due to other commitments. Yvonne is currently walking the West Highland Way, so we wish her well. The Group is ticking along, although the age old problem of having too few walk leaders was raised, this may also be discussed at the upcoming AGM next month.

**Treasurer’s Report:** WA provided the Committee with an outline of the group accounts to date, we don’t yet know if our base payments (those received from the Ramblers) are due to rise. More worryingly, WA thinks that if such low funding continues, the Group may not be viable by 2024-25. Other groups in our area are thinking along the lines of fund-raising events eg cheese & wine, raffles etc. WA intimated that the group should consider a ‘deputy’ treasurer for access to the bank account ie have a user name and password. This should not be anyone already named as an authoriser for the account.

WA has so far had little response from sponsors regarding obtaining funds for a reprint of the St Andrews walks leaflet. £2500 is required for the quote from Westport Print for 20,000 leaflets. In the meantime, CA & CP have been reviewing the walks, photos and fonts of the leaflet, this work is now almost completed.

**Acting Secretary’ Report:** CB stated that we currently have 105 fully paid up members, (previously 119), some new members have joined since the turn of the year and have already attended a number of walks. Other former members have either resigned or moved to other groups.

**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, the lowest being 4 and the highest being 17. That said, the numbers have increased over the calendar year, especially the midweek walks where the numbers have almost doubled. CB indicated that there is still 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 due to other commitments and time, she was unable to produce a Newsletter for the Winter Area Joint Programme (AJP) booklet. She thought that there should be an annual newsletter to avoid duplication of information and will attempt to provide one for next summers AJP.

**Webmaster’s Report**: MH has been monitoring the number of visits to our own website, it currently sits at 2196 although this is not necessarily accurate. He is also looking into updating the photos on the home page. MH also wished to change some contact details from phone numbers to email as per the Ramblers website.

**Area Council Report:** JF said that the 3 Area meetings had been well attended. The Area AGM is on November 18th at Scone, the group is hoping to be represented. JF is standing down as Area Secretary after this AGM, the search for a new Area Secretary is ongoing. John Andrews (Area Access Officer) asked that any path access problems be forwarded to him, his details are in the AJP. JH spoke about an outline of the Ramblers strategy that was mentioned at the last area meeting – this was to consider including a broader range of people eg with special needs, on our walks. The Ramblers Brendan Paddy has been invited to the Area AGM to try and explain/expand on this strategy.

**Any Other Business**: JF informed the Committee of the death of long-standing member Sandy Marr who has recently passed away. His funeral in on Friday 13th October at Kirkcaldy Crematorium at 12:45pm.

JF stated that he has, so far, 19 members wishing to attend the Xmas lunch on 10th December.

JF also has provided the group with a list of hotels that cater for groups, (similar to ourselves), who wish to undertake walking holidays. This list has been compiled by Pat Fraser from the Blairgowrie Group.

JH concluded the meeting by expressing thanks for al the hard work that the Committee members have done, and continue to do. over the last period.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:02.

**Date of next Meeting**: The next meeting will be on Monday 8th April 2024 via Zoom.