

Hi IVW member,

Here is a summary of the minutes of the IVW Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023. If you have any questions, please contact me or any other Committee member.

Regards

Bob Wallace

Chair of Ivel Valley Walkers

Email robertwallace@ntlworld.com

PS Hope to see you at the IVW AGM on Sunday 5th November

Draft Minutes of the IVW Committee meeting - 3rd October 2023

Held at Goldington Reading & Recreation Rooms at 1, Barkers Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 9SH

Present: Bob Wallace (Chair), Roger McLeod (Vice Chair and Programme Secretary), Tom Collier (Publicity Officer), Jan Wolfarth (Walks Coordinator), Fran Stedman (General Secretary), Mandy Wisson (Walks Coordinator) and Brian Roe (Treasurer)

Apologies: Derek Turner (Footpath Officer) and Roy Carter (Membership Secretary)

Members in attendance: Carolyn Lightfoot and Mark Lightfoot

1. Chair's Report

As usual, a busy summer period for our Group. Apart from our walks on most days of the week, we had an excellent London Bridges walk (very well supported by over 50 members) led by Roy D in August and 40 members have just enjoyed an excellent long weekend away based in Matlock Bath led by Roy C and Tom. Thanks to our leaders for organising these trips.

The Autumn Programme was available from mid-August and can be accessed from the Ivel Valley website www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk. The printed programme is excellent and has been well received. Thanks to Mark, Michele and Roger for producing this document. Also, thanks to Mark for obtaining sponsorship to cover some of the costs of this issue. Money has been put in our 2023-24 budget to Ramblers HQ so that we can continue having these printed programmes in 2024. A pdf of the programme is now available and will be circulated to all members.

The Group has a busy time in the run up to Christmas as will be summarised later in the meeting.

2. Governance of IVW Group

Last November a commitment was made to a Governance review which would look at how the IVW committee works, a review of Treasury matters and an up-to-date Constitution. The Committee have agreed the first two items at earlier Committee meetings and a draft of a proposed revised Constitution had been circulated for this meeting. This final draft was agreed and will be circulated to IVW members with the Notice of the Ivel Valley Walkers Group AGM on Sunday 5th November. Approval of this revised Constitution would be sought from members at the AGM.

3. AGM -Sunday 5th November 2023 - Arrangements

- a) Wootton Village Hall has been booked from 12.00 to 3.30pm on Sunday 5th November. Access will be available at 9.30am. Bob and Celia will lead a 6.5mile walk starting at the Village Hall Car Park at 10.00am
- b) Refreshments will be available at the Village Hall from 1.00pm.
- c) The AGM will start at 2.00pm.
- d) All Members will be notified by email in the next few days.
- e) An Agenda and papers for the meeting will be sent out a few days before the meeting

4. Treasurer's Report

Brian circulated the state of the Admin and Social accounts as at the end of the financial year. Both accounts are in a healthy state with end of year balances within the range decreed by the IVW Group Reserves Policy. The end of year figures would shortly be reported to the Bedfordshire Area Treasurer who would in turn submit the figures to Ramblers HQ. The IVW 2022-23 Accounts will be put in a suitable form to submit to the Independent Auditor and the audited accounts should be available for the IVW AGM on November 5th.

5. Programme and Social Secretary's Report

a) Autumn Programme

As stated earlier, the Autumn Programme was available from mid-August and can be accessed from the Ivel Valley website www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk. The printed programme is also available. Since hard copies have almost run out, a pdf of the printed programme is now available for circulation digitally.

Now the work starts all over again for the Winter/Spring programme. Thank you to all involved in this process.

b) Upcoming Social Events and Trips

- i) **Coach trip (and walk);** Devil's Punch Bowl (near Haslemere); Sunday 22nd October.
leader Roy Carter
- ii) **Barn Dance** at Houghton Conquest Village Hall; Saturday 4th November; organiser Val Bailey
- iii) **IVW AGM** at Wootton Village Hall; Sunday 5th November; (preceded by morning walk)
- iv) **Annual London Christmas walk:** Saturday 2nd December; leader Marcus
- v) **IVW Christmas Lunch** at Stagsden Golf Club; Wednesday 13th December; (preceded by morning walk). Cost of lunch £25 including gratuity.
- vi) **Mulled Wine Ramble** at Old Warden; Sunday 17th December (preceded by morning walk)
- vii) **Sherry Amble** from Silsoe Church; Thursday 28th December; leader Roy Carter

c) 2024 Social Events

Social events in the pipeline for 2024 include:-

- i) A Brewery Tour – in January/February
- ii) A Gliding experience in early summer
- iii) A Kayak trip on the River Ouse in the summer
- iv) A possible Go-Kart evening.

d) 2024 Club Holidays

To allow members to plan for 2024, a schedule has been agreed for three Club holidays in 2024.

i) 6-day holiday based in Lymington, Hampshire; Sunday April 28th to Friday May 3rd 2024.

Leaders Bob and Celia

Limited to 30 people

£20 booking fee. Booking opens end of October.

ii) 5-day holiday based in Okehampton Thursday 6th June to Monday 10th June 2024.

Leaders Antony and Kevin

Limited to 30 people

£20 booking fee. Bookings open late 2023/early 2024

iii) A 6-day (Sunday to Friday) holiday based in Swanage at the end of September (or early October 2024) – Leaders Roy plus friend(s)

Holiday in the planning stage – more details later

£20 minimum booking fee

e) 2025 Possible Club Holiday

Roger, Mark and Carolyn have offered to investigate a holiday in Northern France in 2025 – probably in May. Feedback from members on this idea would be welcome. Would there be interest in this holiday?

The Committee agreed that where the holiday numbers are restricted, there will be a 2-week priority booking window for IVW members.

The Committee also agreed that the minimum Holiday Booking fee for 2024 onwards would be £20 – this figure to be reviewed annually. The fee charged would be agreed with the leader and be dependent on the length of holiday and location.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

a) Ivel Valley Walkers Group has 389 Active Members (actual and affiliated members). This represents 38.9% of the total Ramblers members in Bedfordshire.

b) This year we have attracted 25 New Members (actual and affiliated) - 9 of those members joining since the end of June.

c) This year 13 members have not renewed their membership

There has been a recent query concerning the maximum age of a Ramblers Walk Leader. The Ramblers insurance covers volunteers up to the age of 90.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to send an email of welcome to new members from the IVW Group. New members receive a 'Welcome Pack' from Rambler HQ but this does not include details of the Group to which they are allocated. This will be taken forward by Roy, Bob, and Roger.

Many comments continue to be received on how beneficial Roy's fortnightly bulletins are. Thanks Roy!!

8. Footpath Secretary's Report

Derek had submitted a report on Footpath matters.

- a) The new bridleway bridge over the railway north of Biggleswade was nearing completion
- b) Advanced notice about proposals to improve surrounding PRoW on and adjacent to Biggleswade Common had been received and circulated. Derek's comment was that these proposals seemed quite sensible to him.
- c) Otherwise, not a lot has happened regarding footpaths during the summer.

9. Communication to Members

a) Facebook.

The Facebook pages were being appreciated by members. Excellent coverage, particularly on the Matlock Trip. It was suggested that members should be encouraged to include descriptions of the walks when posting their pictures.

b) **SE Rambler.** Tom had submitted a 'IVW document' for the latest SE Rambler. He agreed to submit another article for the next issue.

c) **Website.** The Autumn Programme can be accessed from the temporary Ivel Valley website www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk. In addition, a summary of the Group's activities is available on the Home Screen of the website. The new website is under development by Ligia and Roger and will be available shortly.

10. Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks 9th to 17th September 2023

Ivel Valley Walkers contributed 9 walks to the Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks. In total 38 walks were provided by the four Bedfordshire Ramblers Groups and 525 plus walkers participated. Further feedback on the success of the BFAW will be available when analysis of the data is completed.

11. 40th Anniversary Projects

a) 40 Walks on the IVW Website

We had been unable to get an OS Public Sector Licence for the mapping part of this project from CBC. As we are rapidly approaching 2024 and, considering the length and complexity of such a project, it was agreed that this idea should be discarded

b) Badges for Rucksacks/ Fleece

Seven badge designs had been shown to companies that would produce the badges. The supplier chosen by the committee had recommended a 'woven badge' with possibly 6 to 8 different colours. The cost would be between £1.00 and £1.50 per badge based on an order of 150. It was agreed that the designs would be circulated to committee members who would vote for their preference. It is hoped that the final design would be available at the AGM.

c) Other Anniversary Projects.

It was agreed that at the January Committee meeting, an Agenda item would discuss other celebratory projects. One idea raised was to walk the 40-mile North Chiltern way (in stages!!)

12. Area Matters

The next meeting of the four group chairs with Vanessa (the Rambles regional liaison Officer) is on 2nd November 2023. The Area AGM will be held on Sunday 26th November at Husborne Crawley Village Hall, hosted by Leighton Buzzard Group, at 2.00pm, preceded by a morning walk starting at 10.00am. Kevin

Barrett, the Area Treasurer will be resigning his post as Treasurer as he is relocating to the Middlesborough area.

13. **Any Other Business**

A prospective member had asked if they could bring their dog on a IVW walk. The reply given was *'Dogs on a lead, are normally allowed on the Ivel Valley Walkers walks. However, it is at the discretion of the walk leader, and they should be contacted if you are considering going on a walk'*.

14. **Date of Next Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 16th January 2024 - 7.00pm to 9.00pm. at Goldington Reading & Recreation Rooms.
please note, IVW members are welcome to attend. Just let Fran (General Secretary know that you are coming and she will send you the Agenda and meeting notes.