

Hi IVW member,

Here is a summary of the minutes of the IVW Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 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

Summary of minutes of the IVW Committee meeting - 18th July 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), Roy Carter (Membership Secretary), Jan Wolfarth (Walks Coordinator), Fran Stedman (General Secretary) and Brian Roe (Treasurer)

Apologies: Derek Turner (Footpath Officer) and Mandy Wisson (Walks Coordinator)

1. Chair's Report

The Group has had a busy and successful Summer programme. There have been over 70 organised walks and several Social Activities over the past few weeks for our members. The Autumn Programme of Walks is almost ready to go to press and the Fortnightly Updates continue to be well received by members. Bob thanked members of the Committee for all the hard work they had done for IVW Group since the last Committee meeting. Bob also mentioned the contribution of the Walk Leaders and Event Organisers – without them we would not exist. He added that, in his opinion, the strength of IVW was due to this outstanding Member contribution.

2. Treasurer's Report

Brian had circulated the latest state of the Admin and Social accounts together with the proposed 2023-24 budget which needed to be submitted to Area.

Income and Expenditure of both IVW accounts were to budget.

The proposed budget for 2023-24 which covered costs for

- a) three editions of the IVW printed programme and distribution costs
- b) hire of rooms for Committee meetings
- c) AGM costs

was agreed and submitted to Bedfordshire Ramblers Area.

3. Programme and Social Secretary's Report

a) Autumn Programme

All walks on Sundays, alternate Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and alternate Thursdays had been filled. In addition, there would be 'interest walks' on some Fridays. In total, there will be over 70 walks on the Autumn four-month programme. Full details will be available from mid-August.

b) Social Events and Trips

The Club has had a busy summer. In addition to the 70 plus walks on the summer walks programme, members had enjoyed several Special Events and Trips. These included:-

- i) Go Ape Adventure at Woburn Safari Park. (12 members)
- ii) Melrose Walking Holiday (46 members)
- iii) Isabella Plantation (30 members)
- iv) Walk on Water (24 members)
- v) Train trip to walk in the Kent countryside and visit Chartwell House (10 members)
- vi) Yomp, Chomp and Roll-Up(bowls) including a hog spit roast (45members)

Looking forward to the Autumn Programme, planned Social Events and Trips include

- i) A walk across 12 London Bridges; Saturday 12th August; leader Roy Dunham
- ii) Matlock Bath long weekend holiday; Friday 29th September to Monday 2nd October; leader Roy Carter
- iii) Coach trip (and walk); Devil's Punch Bowl (near Haslemere); Sunday 22nd October leader Roy Carter
- iv) Barn Dance at Houghton Conquest Village Hall; Saturday 4th November; organiser Val Bailey
- v) IVW AGM at Wootton Village Hall; Sunday 5th November; (preceded by morning walk)
- vi) IVW Christmas Lunch at Stagsden Golf Club; Wednesday 13th December; (preceded by morning walk) – leader Colin Baker
- vii) Mulled Wine Ramble at Old Warden; Sunday 17th December (preceded by morning walk)

c) 2024 Club Holidays

To allow members to plan for 2024, the following provisional schedule was 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
- £15 booking fee
- subject to a final recce in October - bookings open late October.
- Walks to include -
 - Through Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes Nature Reserve
 - Day trip to the Isle of Wight including Tennyson Trail walk.
 - A New Forest walk from Lyndhurst
 - A New Forest walk from Brockenhurst
 - A walk along the coast to Hengistbury Head and Christchurch
 - A walk from Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard

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

Leaders Antony and Kevin

- Limited to 30 people
- £15 booking fee
- Holiday confirmed. Bookings open late October.
- Walks to include -
 - Thursday - Introductory afternoon circular walk around Okehampton
 - Lydford Gorge (NT) back to Okehampton along the 'Granite Way' (linear)

- Exmouth to Budleigh Salterton on the SW Coast Path (circular or linear)
- Dartmoor highest tors circular walk from Meldon Reservoir
- Hatherleigh to Okehampton on the Tarka Trail (a shorter linear walk)

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

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

4. Membership Secretary's Report

IVW currently had 344 members of which 31 were affiliated to the group. There had been 4 new members since the last meeting. It was commented that it may be a good idea to send an email of welcome to new members. This would be taken forward by Roy and Bob.

Roy had been looking at the list of Walk Leaders listed on the Ramblers Assemble Volunteer database. It appeared that if a walk leader was not listed, then their walk may not be listed on the Ramblers new Walk Manager. This would be investigated (in collaboration with Roger) when the Autumn Walks programme is loaded onto the Ramblers Walk Manager.

5. Footpath Secretary's Report

Derek had sent in the following report, most of it focussing on the Langford area and the IVW campaign to get the permissive path between Langford and Jordan's Mills registered as a public right of way. This campaign has garnered plenty of support. Some of our members have lobbied the three CBC councillors for this area and two of them have replied positively.

Cllr Drew Richardson said,

"I am aware of this (I love to walk my dog down there myself as I live in Langford 😊). I will email Chris about the support he has from me along with about half the village. Hopefully CBC can get this done asap."

Cllr David Shelvey stated,

"I am indeed aware of the situation on this path and walk it regularly. I have given support to making it a public right of way with officers and along with my fellow ward councillors will continue to ensure the route remains open. We are also pushing to ensure links to Langford and get a footbridge to make access to Broom from Langford. This remains one of our priorities over the coming year."

Also, in this area following clearance by the RIPPLE team, there is now a path on the western side of the Ivel Navigation south of Jordan's Mill which passes around the Broom South quarry and will be formally dedicated as a Public Right of Way in the autumn. To the east of Langford, the paths around the wind farm and the link past Topplers Hill water tower to Edworth should also be formally dedicated soon. These paths will then be added to future Ordnance Survey Maps.

I was unable to attend recent consultation events about the East-West rail-link but it appears that the route across our area is now certain to go north from Bedford station and pass north of Ravensden and Wilden. However, the new station where it crosses the East Coast main line is now likely to be at Tempsford (rather than St Neots South) beyond which the alignment would follow the new route of the A428 from the Black Cat roundabout into Cambridgeshire. This route will save Roxton being encircled by busy roads but make Tempsford airfield easier to develop. When more detailed maps become available, we shall have to scrutinise them to see how the public rights of way will be affected.

6. Communication to Members

a) **Facebook.** IVW's Facebook page was being well received by members.

Concerns had been raised about privacy. The Committee recommended that

i) leaders inform members at the beginning of walks that photographs may be taken. If anyone does not want to be photographed they should let the photographer know.

ii) all videos uploaded should be checked to ensure that none are audible

iii) emphasis should be to ensure quality rather than quantity.

b) **SE Rambler** Tom had submitted a 'IVW document' for SE Rambler's next issue.

c) **Website.** The Group still did not have a volunteer to look after the website. Bob said that IVW have a WIX website costing about £150 per year. Other groups (including Area) use web pages on the Ramblers website which Groups have free access to. This appears to be simpler to use and help can be sought from neighbouring groups on how to use it. The Committee agreed that this option should be investigated.

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

Ivel Valley Walkers are contributing 8 walks to the Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks. These will be listed in the Autumn printed programme together with the link to the full festival walks on the website www.lbramblers.org.uk/BFAW . Leighton Buzzard Group have produced an A5 Flyer to advertise the event. Jan agreed to distribute copies of this flyer when she distributes the IVW Autumn Printed Programme to the usual libraries/garden centres etc in mid-August.

8. 40th Anniversary Projects

a) 40 Walks on the IVW Website

Bob said that we are still awaiting an OS Public Sector Licence for the mapping part of this project from CBC. Bedford Borough have indicated that a licence from them (to be used in the Borough Area) will be forthcoming

b) Badges for Rucksacks/ Fleeces

Six 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 before the next committee meeting when a decision on the badge design would be made.

9. Governance

An updated Constitution is being worked on. This will be brought to the September Committee meeting for approval. It can then be sent out to membership before the November AGM where approval will be sought.

10. Date of Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday 3rd October - 7.00pm to 9.00pm. at Goldington Reading & Recreation Rooms.