

Committee Meeting minutes

Sheffield 40's Walking Group

17th March 2025 at 7.30pm

68 Nether Edge Road, Sheffield, S7 1RX

Attendees: Liz Sharp {Chair}, Lucia Contrino, Charlie Cooper, Helen Lewin, Mandy Kippax, Vicki Faith, Thea Anning, Richard Mills, Christine Smith {minute-taker}

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Approved. **Action: Christine to accept changes**

3. **Any Urgent Matters Arising**

4c ii. Charlie is now facebook editor.

4c iii. Liz can now put things on website.

4. **Chair's report**

Welcome to Richard who will be our SYNED representative alongside Liz. **Action: Christine to add Richard to group email Action: Thea to provide Richard with access to our google account - done post meeting.**

Charlie, Debby Clark and Kathryn Ellerby helped on the Ramblers stall at the Heritage Fair held in January giving information out about the benefits of walking, about how we protect the places with love and about becoming a member. This was a successful event.

Liz and Helen met with other Sheffield Ramblers groups in January who are keen to join S40wg for mutual events e.g. litter picking, walks, first aid course. **Action: Helen to invite people from other Ramblers group members to all courses.** 20s and 30s now have a WhatsApp group for organising coming on our walks.

Liz attended SYNED AGM held in Tickhill in January, and has subsequently been invited to the National Ramblers Council in Birmingham, which is a free event.

Liz announced that she will be stepping down from her role as Chair in Autumn this year and suggested talking to people on walks to seek a replacement.

5. **Walk's Report**

Mandy has successfully recruited more walk leaders and will continue to so we can access a greater variety of walks. One recently joined member has done the Walk Leader training already, which is great.

Some evening walks starting soon.

Non-members are not covered by Ramblers Insurance if they do more than 3 walks.

Incident on one walk recently where walker scratched their forehead on a branch and asked Keef if he was going to include this in his Walk Leaders report. It was agreed that a Ramblers Incident form should be completed if first aid was administered, but it wasn't in this case. **Action: Mandy to send link regarding insurance to Walk Leaders**

There was a discussion about one walk leader putting on walks for several weeks in a row which might discourage other walk leaders from leading walks. It was agreed that 2 walks could be offered on the same day, which would be good to have a choice.

Walk Leaders can claim expenses recceing a walk and for Maps APP and OS APP. Includes back markers as well. Mandy has emailed Ramblers.

Mandy highlighted that Walk Leaders list on Ramblers APP was not up-to-date. Christine contacted Membership Team. Walk Leaders whose membership has lapsed as opposed to resigned or left area need removing **manually** by Ramblers Tech Team. Mandy sent list to the Membership Team to ask them to check. This is now resolved.

6. **Social Report**

Vicki reported monthly Social meetings are going well. Lots of events organised e.g. Yellow Arch Comedy Club, Showroom screening and Day Time Disco.

Vicki and Mandy lead Volunteer night in February. Vicki is organising urban walk with barbecue at Riverside for June and will ask Mick Nott to be Walk Leader. Vicki will be posting details at end of March - £22 each to be paid in full up front.

Will also be organising evening get together for August.

Christmas party to be discussed at next social meeting on 14th April at Kelham Island Tavern.

Weekend Away at Hutton Le Hole, North Yorkshire, 16th May for 20 people. Most have booked own, camping or group accommodation. Evening meal booked at The Crown on Saturday. Allen Hudson agreed to lead 2 walks.

Planning another weekend away for early October 2025.

Lucia suggested organising a Theatre trip either matinee or evening.

7. **Footpath Report**

Lucia's report - see excel spreadsheet of SCC major works below. Group asked to prioritise their top 5.


On 10th December 2024 Lucia met with Sam Beaton, Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer, at Sheffield City Council along with Malcolm Dixon and Richard Mills of the Sheffield group and Peter Robinson who monitors Sheffield Country Walk. Sam said that we can all help with doing some small work ourselves, eg carrying secateurs and cutting back overgrowth, as well as putting up waymarkers.

As previously mentioned, Ramblers is a Statutory consultee for any changes to PROW. Communications are emailed / posted to Ramblers Head Office by Sheffield City Council (SCC) Legal department and also the Department for Transport (DfT). Ramblers sends these out to a group email address for Sheffield footpath officers so we can discuss any issues as necessary. There hasn't been anything major and a problem is that we sometimes receive the notifications after the deadline for responses. trying to change the communications so that SCC sends them to our footpath officer group email address. DfT notifications cannot be changed, apparently, as they cover the whole country.

Two main issues we've received from Sam Beaton:

1. In January, Sam sent a list of approx 60 major PROW issues for us to prioritise our top 5 by 28th March. Lucia emailed the list to Allen Hudson and Jim Conibear to respond. I attach the excel spreadsheet - does the committee have any views on what works should be prioritised?
2. In February, Sam emailed proposals to repair storm damage in the Rivelin Valley caused by Storm Babet in October 2023 - new stepping stones, ford and eroded riverbank sites. Jim Conibear, very helpfully, replied to Sam.

As you can see, all footpath issues relate to Sheffield City Council area. As Lucia doesn't live in Sheffield, and is not familiar with the locations she has asked if anyone more local would like to take on this role in the future.

 Copy of Outstanding maintenance issues Jan 2025.xlsx

Action: Liz to email SCC PROW with the committee's top 5 priorities

8. Training Report

Helen reported that Gavin has agreed funding for the first aid course which will run again this year. Other Ramblers members are invited as well. The committee agreed to request a £10 deposit from delegates to secure a place on the course in the hope of preventing non- attenders.

Allen Hudson is happy to provide Ordnance Survey training.

Mandy has been organising the Walk Leader training. Some people have yet to complete it, but Ramblers send a reminder out to those who have registered.

Helen has spoken to Linda Moran who is happy to provide Navigation training in Autumn for £50 per person with a maximum group size of 6. .

Action: Helen to ask Charlie if it is ok to ask Gavin to see if area is able to fund the navigation training as well as the first aid course.

Action: Helen to email members asking for interest on above training/course

Helen announced that she will be stepping down from her role as Training Co-ordinator in Autumn this year.

9. **Web Report**

Thea reported she has received handover training from Keef.

Keef upgraded software to latest version and sorted hosting with another company.

Thea, Liz and Mandy met, as Subgroup, to discuss website.

Thea has changed the banner on website. All agreed it looks really good.

Thea looked at Walk Leaders list on website. Not on Ramblers main list and not on separate list. Searched on date and limit. Agreed to leave as is.

Thea looked at Walk Calendar where clicking on one walk brought up another. Unsure what is causing this.

Chris, an ex-work colleague, has put together new website - S40wg.weebly.com Costings for setting up including hosting and updates £17.83 per month. Would be linked to Facebook group and driven by Facebook but don't have to be a member. Could update dynamically ourselves. Could link to old walk calendar.

Action: Thea/Liz/Mandy, Subgroup, to try setting up a walk on google event or Liz suggested trialing a mock walk on Facebook.

Action: Mandy to email Thea questions we have for Chris

10. **Treasurer's Report**

Charlie reported we are 6 months into financial year with a budget of £550. Spent £259 including £80 on admin for website. £275 in April 2025.

Committee members can claim travel expenses for attending meetings and AGM, and Walk Leaders can claim for reccyng walks too.

11. **Secretary's Report**

Christine reported we have 321 members, an increase on 315 in December. Since 17.12.24, 9 leavers {4 lapsed, 2 left area, 3 resigned}, 16 new {5 new to group, 8 new to Ramblers, 3 rejoining}.

Jez's laptop will no longer be supported by Microsoft later this year, as currently Windows 10. There maybe a possibility of installing Windows 11 free of charge before then. **Action: Christine to discuss with Jez.**

12. **Agreement of Matters for Group email/minutes**

See draft email [here](#).

13. **AOB**

Anju, New Welcome Officer, has had a good response with 5 people contacting her, so introducing this role has been successful. Thank you to Anju.

14. Next Committee Meeting

Monday, 16th June 2025 at 7pm at 68 Nether Edge Road, Sheffield, S7 1RX.