

Draft Committee Meeting minutes

Sheffield 40's Walking Group

23rd June 2025 at 7.30-9.30pm

68 Nether Edge Road, Sheffield, S7 1RX

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

1. **Apologies**

Charlie Cooper, Lucia Contrino

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

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

3. **Any Urgent Matters Arising**

None.

4. **Chair's report**

Liz attended the Ramblers General Council AGM representing area group SYNED in April at Birmingham NEC. Much debate about who is ultimately responsible for decisions made about The Ramblers, General Council or Trustees. Trustees have legal responsibility. Trustees are reviewing their governance structures, specifically exploring whether they still need Areas. Another meeting has been arranged to discuss the output of their work for November 2025.

At SYNED's May meeting, a new SYNED focus on securing funding for footpath improvement was agreed.

5. **Walk's Report**

Mandy attended Ramblers online meeting and stated that Walk Leaders will have to do

Online training modules unless they have led more than 12 walks in the last three years. Training involves 3, ½ hour sessions only. This has to be refreshed every 3 years and is a really useful reminder on what Walk Leaders need to be aware of when leading a walk. Ramblers will email Walk Leaders letting them know when they need to complete the training. Mandy will liaise with new Walk Leaders.

If individuals have led more than 12 walks in last three years, they do not need to do the training. Walk Leaders who haven't done the training by the end of the year will be removed from the Walk Leaders list.

Action: Mandy to email Walk Leaders about required training

Sheffield Walking Festival, running alongside Heritage Open Days, weekend between 12th and 21st September.

Action: Mandy to email walk leaders inviting them to submit walks by 27.6.2025

6. Social Report

Vicki informed the committee that she will be stepping down from her role as Socials and Weekends Co-ordinator, as she is planning to leave the country. All agreed Vicki has done a great job, especially as it is not an easy role. Vicki will let us know when she is due to leave, but currently planning to complete her year in role.

Group accommodation for the walking weekend in Shropshire in September is now full. Some members had booked their own accommodation before the group booking was secured. In future members are advised to wait until the group accommodation is booked in case we don't get the numbers and have to cancel.

Vicki highlighted an issue regarding deposits for events and weekends. If a deposit is needed, then during the time the deposit is raised from members, the event or accommodation can be lost. For example, Vicki paid the deposit for the recent BBQ and had to be reimbursed later once members had signed up and paid. Group discussed a way forward and agreed it is about the level of risk involved. If no risk can use social money. As long as deposit is refundable. Needs clarification.

Action: Vicki to suggest an amendment to the reserves policy.

24 people booked onto Summer BBQ Bash on 28th June at Riverside Kelham. Mick Nott is leading an urban walk beforehand. There will also be a Quiz and a Raffle.

2 Open Gardens arranged by Mandy. Tissington held on 14th June and Calver, Curbar, Froggatt to be on 2nd August.

Ibiza Classic at Chatsworth on 12th July.

Comedy Night, to be arranged, at Sheffield Plate..

Karaoke night, to be arranged.

Christmas meal at The George in Hathersage, 7th December, is now provisionally booked. Details later in year when Xmas menu available.

7. Footpath Report

Lucia continues to receive quarterly updates from Sheffield City Council Public Rights of Way team about their priorities and major schemes, which they are trying to achieve with limited resources. They've also sent details of their Summer vegetation clearance programme. Lucia sends these updates, as well as any consultations to Jim Conibear and Allen Hudson - S40s members who take a keen interest in footpath issues.

Action: Liz to invite members to let the committee know if they want to see the information.

Issues reported by Lucia:

1. Broken stile between Wardlow and Black Harry Gate reported to Derbyshire County Council in February 2025 - noticed on a walk in April that this has been repaired.

2. A wobbly stile on Access land near Redmires reported to Sheffield City Council in May 2025. They are probably going to replace it with a gate. This was emailed by a ramblers member called Myke - not sure if he's in our group.

3. Mohamad reported a missing ladder stile near Agden Side Road after his walk on 8th June. Lucia has reported it to Sheffield City Council, but also asked Jez if it's one of the Bradfield ladder stiles that's due to be replaced with a gate.

8. Training Report

Helen reported 6 booked onto Navigation course. and 9 onto the OS App training course both of which are now. The date for the OS App training 20th Sept and Navigation training 26th October. Gavin has agreed that both courses are to be funded by Area. 3 booked onto First Aid course so far.

Action: Helen to email for more interest on first aid course

9. Web Report

Thea, Mandy and Liz, as Subgroup, met to look at East Cheshire's website which uses Wordpress software. All agreed it looks good. Needs Google form ratified.

Action: Mandy to make a list of most popular walk starting points

Action: Thea to ask Chris to look at whether AI can read and understand the walk location list.

Action: Thea to discuss with Chris next actions going forward

Discuss piloting the new website at the next committee meeting, and then running it as a 'shadow' site for a few months while we work out what works and what does not.

Chris has said he doesn't want any money for his help but all agreed it would be nice to say thank you still in some way.

Costings for setting up including hosting and updates £17.83 per month.

Action: Charlie to add to budget for next year

Still a problem with the Walk Calendar where clicking on one walk brings up another. Thea is unsure why this is happening.

10. Treasurer's Report

Main funds

From October 2024 we have had £825 from the Ramblers, 1 x more instalment of £275 due in July. We also received £20 from RWH holiday. This has been spent on:

- £289.17 spent on walking expenses/maps
- £121.17 admin/website/practical work
- £50 in gifts
- £65.85 meetings/AGM

We have spent £526.19 of the £845 funds so far since October 2024 until May 2025.

Social funds

Everything that has been added to the social funds has been accounted for. 2 xweekends away so far this year, 1x meal and 1x summer BBQ.

We have been given a 10p donation (thanks Vicki and Tracey) when they overpaid Their weekend away meal by 5p each.

11. **Secretary's Report**

Christine reported 319 current members, an overall decrease of 2. Since 26.03.25, 20 leavers {9 lapsed, 2 left area, 9 resigned}, 18 new {1 new to group, 12 new to Ramblers, 4 rejoining}.

Christine contacted Jez whose laptop will no longer be supported by Microsoft later this year. Jez does not think this will be a problem as his laptop only uses the browser, which should still update. If the laptop stopped working, it was suggested that we could ask Ramblers to fund a replacement, or buy a laptop ourselves

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

See draft email [here](#)

13. **AOB**

Liz, Helen and Vicki are stepping down from their roles on the Committee. Looking for volunteers to replace these members to continue to function as we are.

AGM on Sunday, 19th October 2025 at 4pm. Venue TBC. Vicki volunteered to arrange.

14. **Next Committee Meeting**

Monday, 29th September 2025 at 7.30-9.30pm at Liz's house.