

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd February 2016

Time and Venue: 7.30pm in Fionnuala's apartment, 12 Cherrytree Walk, Belfast, BT5 6PG

Present: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Dora McCavara, Peter McGowan, Domnall McComish, Joe McKnight, Maggie Pridgen, Trevor Russell and Vincent Trainor.

1. **Apologies:** Robert Roulston and Cecilia Sochor

2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting:** agreed

3. **Matters arising:**

Harry referred to **leaders getting contact information from new walkers** (ACTION – George to check and liaise with Vincent – inform leaders)

Flier: Harry had produced a sample Flier which was circulated. Cost for 500 A5 copies is £70.00. All agreed this was excellent. (ACTION: some additions required ie Facebook Logo and MGR web site address; then purchase; then distribute selectively)

“Come walk with us activity”. Maggie has spoken with Claire Overend (WIYC) – perhaps linked in with our picnic (ACTION: Maggie to liaise further with Claire)

Emergency Information Tag: This has been produced and circulated to members.

First Aid/Mountain Rescue Cards: these were finalised (ACTION: Maggie to make a few amendments, then liaise with Robert to put cards on our website for leaders to download. Joe will print cards for leaders who do not have computer/printing facilities)

WIYC donation of £100.00. 7 Silva Compasses and 7 Mourne 1: 25000 maps purchased from Cotswolds

Tollymore NOC photo shoot: apparently over 200 excellent photos have been produced. A few have been put on MRG Facebook – the remainder will be sent to George.

4. **Correspondence:**

AIMSS – letter advising us of their mini bus shuttle service

MI – Rocks to Ridges pamphlets

Irish News “Guide Article” (ACTION: Vincent to put this on our next Newsletter notice board; Maggie to put it on MRG Facebook if possible)

5. **Finance matters:** Vincent circulated a revenue account (as at 2nd Feb 2016). The clubs funds are in a healthy state.

6. **Membership issues;**

Fionnuala and Ray reported that there has been 3 recent enquiries.

Recent walk numbers have been quite high. On 24th January 2016 numbers exceeded 30.

Joe referred to a walk starting at Binnian Crossroads when the number wishing to walk with the “B” group exceeded 15. At first 2 separate groups were formed – each with a leader – however, due to the misty conditions these 2 groups joined up again to form one group with the second leader acting as back marker. The committee agreed this was the most appropriate action in the circumstances.

Mention was made of a walk when the group returned after dark and when only one member of the party had a head torch. (ACTION: George to speak with the leader re length of walks. George to write an article for the next Newsletter reminding members to be fully equipped for walks as stated in our Programme)

7. Forthcoming events:

Slide Show – everything arranged as planned

Trips: (ACTION: Vincent to contact Andrew re Dingle Peninsula trip; Peter to give Vincent information re Commeraghs trip)

8. **Training:** all agreed that providing training re basic navigation and first aid was important. (ACTION: Joe to start planning a basic navigation course to be held later in the year; Joe to liaise with Maggie re First Aid Course; Joe to write an article for our next Newsletter; Vincent will be informed of ORNI/WIYC courses and forward this information to members)

Mentoring: this facility has proved successful in the past and is still available (ACTION: Joe to take a “look” at mentoring – perhaps making it more formal yet ensuring it remains user friendly)

9. **Facebook update:** Big steps forward – proving successful (ACTION: Maggie to continue promoting this)
10. **UFRC update:** details of Spring meeting to be announced soon; training now via WIYC; International Appalachian Train event later in the year
11. **MHT/MORF:** some restorative work in the Binnian/Lamagan col area
12. **Website matters:** working well (ACTION: Robert to update “Grades of Walks” in line with our current Programme). Taster Walks remain at present – reviewed as necessary.
13. **Newsletter:** items include Cotswolds/UFRC discount, AIMSS shuttle bus, Flier, Facebook, Membership tags, Equipment article, Courses, Trips and Link re Irish News article. (ACTION: info to Vincent by 19th February; Vincent to process in the usual way)
14. **AOB:** ORNI/WIYC conference on 16th March. George will give a short presentation about the MRG
- Arrangements have been made with Tollymore NOC re AGM and Burrendale Hotel re Christmas Dinner
- Bison Tubes: an example of one was passed around with a view to a tube being eventually issued to each member for personal contact/medical information (ACTION: George to continue to liaise with Cotswold re price)

15. **Agree date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday, 5th July 2016 at 7.30pm in Harry's house.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm.

Fionnuala's hospitality was much appreciated.