

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th February 2017

Time and Venue: 7.30pm in Peter's house – 38 Clontara Park, Lisburn.

Present: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Bert Rima, Victor Knox, Peter McGowan, Joe McKnight, Maggie Pridgen and Vincent Trainor.

1. **Apologies:** Dora McCavera, Trevor Russell and Cecilia Sochor
2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting :** agreed
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Uploading Fliers (ACTION – George to contact Robert). There was discussion about the distribution of Fliers (ACTION: Harry will organise the production of 500 more A5 Fliers and some A4 Fliers)
 - Refreshing our Application Form (ACTION: Vincent will check)
 - Defibrillator – Joe followed this up – no further news at this point
4. **Correspondence:**
 - A further £100.00 voucher received from WIYC (ACTION: George to check this and then purchase more first aid kits from Cotswold Outdoors)
 - Various enquiries re taster walks, general MRG walks
5. **Finance matters:** Vincent, having circulated a revenue account outlined recent spending. The closing balance is £5673.08.(ACTION: Harry will organise the production of another 100 emergency tags)
6. **Membership issues:**
 - Subs for 2017 have been received from 113 members.
 - Over recent weeks there has been a steady trickle of new walkers attending our walks. This is very encouraging and reflects the importance/effectiveness of our website, Facebook and general contact with those interested in walking.
 - Fionnuala and Ray continue to get enquiries and to direct new walkers to the most suitable group to join when first walking with the MRG. Maggie mentioned the success of the “Beginner’s Walk” last year. (ACTION: Fionnuala and Ray to consider the role of Taster Walks which may still be necessary on occasions)
 - There was a considerable amount of discussion re pace of walks, the relevance of having a backmarker and general good practice that should be embraced by all our walkers/leaders. (ACTION: Peter to write a piece on general good practice whilst walking as a group – this will be circulated to committee members – when agreed this will be included with our next Newsletter)
7. **Forthcoming events:**
 - Slide show – organisation going to plan (ACTION: Harry will continue to encourage members to show a selection of their walking photos)
 - May Trip – “B” group being organised at present by Andrew. Ray, having spoken with Andrew will organise a “C” group (ACTION: Ray will write a piece for our Newsletter; a reminder that the committee needs to “revisit” the organisation of trips when it is considering the programme for 2018)

8. **Training:** Joe informed the committee that navigation training (April) and first aid training (October) will take place in Meelmore Lodge along similar lines to 2016 (ACTION: Joe will write a piece for our next Newsletter to remind members of these courses which proved a great success in 2016)
9. **Facebook:** - Maggie advised the committee that we get 600/1000 “hits” following walk photos and 200 “hits” following weather forecasts for Sunday walks. Overall very successful.(ACTION: Maggie will write a piece for the Newsletter to encourage more of our walkers to take and post photos of MRG activities)
10. **UFRC update:** the next main event is the “Spring Gathering” which will take place on 4th March 2017 at Greenmount College, Antrim. Information has been circulated to members. The committee agreed that members who attended should be refunded £5.00 from club funds (ACTION: Vincent and George to prepare a reminder email which will be sent to members)
11. **MHT/MORF** update: no further information
12. **Website matters:** continues to work well. Any matters should be referred to Robert
13. **Newsletter:** Vincent is presently gathering items (ACTION: items to Vincent by Monday, 20th February; Newsletter distributed shortly afterwards)
14. **AOB:** the MRG’s 50th Anniversary will be coming up in 2019 (ACTION: include this item on our next agenda – possible ideas include another booklet and a calendar)
 - “D” group walks are becoming very popular – should there be a “D” walk each week? (ACTION: for future reflection)
15. **Agree date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday, 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm in Fionnuala’s apartment.
The meeting finished at 10.15pm.