

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th February 2018.

Time and Venue: 7.30pm in Fionnuala's apartment – 12 Cherry Tree Walk, Belfast

Present: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Ray Gray, Rennie Gribben, Peter McGowan, Joe McKnight, Bert Rima, Trevor Russell and Vincent Trainor

1. **Apologies:** Harry Goodman, Victor Knox and Del Stewart
2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting:** agreed
3. **Chairman's remarks:** general welcome
4. **Matters arising:**
 - tick removers bought - some have been given to members
 - other matters will be dealt with as they arise during the meeting
5. **Correspondence:**
 - UFRC Spring Gathering information
 - Mary Conlin (Irish Ramblers) re visit to the Wicklow area (August)
 - NWMRT – thanking MRG for donation
 - Vincent's attention has been drawn to fact that some MRG members have not received recent emails – the problem may lie with Yahoo (ACTION- Vincent to liaise with Robert Roulston to try to resolve this concern)
6. **Finance matters:** Vincent had circulated a revenue account. This was explained. Balance is £6,933.34 – all agreed this was good
7. **Membership matters:**
 - presently 115 paid up members (including 12 recently joined)
 - there has been a steady trickle of enquiries
 - numbers attending walks have been encouraging – though this can create parking difficulties
 - numbers of some groups have exceeded 15. At present when a group is greater than 15 a second leader must be appointed. This remains the case. The designated leader should seek a second leader for the group. The two leaders, together, should share information including the route to be followed, weather forecast and agree the best way to manage the group eg. the second leader may take on the position of back marker in circumstances of poor visibility or awkward terrain (ACTION: George to write a note to this effect which will be included in the next Newsletter)
8. **Forthcoming events:**
 - Slide Show – Harry is presently organising the show – all going well
 - Connemara Trip – Ray reported that arrangements are well underway
 - Wicklow Trip – Vincent reported that 19 people had expressed an interest
9. **50th Anniversary preparations:** Rennie has been added to the sub group. The sub group will meet after the walk on 25th March. Rennie had spoken with Richard Bryne – photos may be available

10. **Training** – the recent navigation training day based around Meelmore Lodge had proved successful. No further MRG training has been planned for this year – however, members have been informed of courses provided by UFRC
11. **Request for assistance from St. John’s Ambulance Brigade:** Maggie has asked to borrow MRG Silva compasses – this was agreed. Maggie’s group have planned a walk using the trails in Tollymore Forest Park on Sat. 14th April – involving about 35 young people in approximately 6/7 groups. She hopes some members of the MRG will volunteer to walk with the groups. (ACTION: George to write an article asking for volunteers which will be included in the next Newsletter)
12. **UFRC update:** the Federation continues to work on behalf of its affiliated groups. It has organised a Spring Gathering on Sat. 3rd March in Greenmount College, Antrim – cost £25.00. (ACTION: all committee members to actively promote this event)
13. **MHT/MORF update:** Fionnuala has no information to report (ACTION: at the next MHT meeting Fionnuala will draw attention to MRG’s offer to donate a sum to path repair)
14. **Website and Facebook matters:** all going well
15. **Newsletter:** items to be sent to Vincent by 26th February. (ACTION: items to Vincent asap – Newsletter emailed to members)
16. **AOB:** none
17. **Agree date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday, 3rd July 2018 at 7.30pm in Fionnuala’s apartment.

Fionnuala was thanked for her hospitality.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.