

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st July 2013

Time and Venue: 7.30pm at Harry's house, 40 Clontara Park, Lisburn, BT27 4LB

Present: George Acheson, Peter Allister, Fionnuala Carragher, Irene Cauley, Harry Goodman, Domnall Mc Comish and Cecilia Sochor

In the absence of Vincent it was agreed that Cecilia would chair the meeting

1. **Apologies:** Lynda Martin and Vincent Trainor
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** agreed
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Translink – communication had taken place with Translink though no PR photos had been taken to date.
 - Stile – George had been in communication with Matthew Bushby (MHT/ MORF) and had spoken with Mr. O'Hara (Clanawhillan Landowners' Association). No agreement to date. This matter will now be followed up by Heather Wilson (Down District Council)
 - MR minutes book. Harry has some archive material. It was agreed that archive material should be kept by the current MR secretary. (**ACTION-** Harry will scan relevant material; Irene will look into the possibility of having an electronic record of agendas/minutes that would be accessible only by committee members)
 - Updating MR documents – no further information
4. **Correspondence:**
 - Trocaire – George had been contacted by Trocaire about promoting a sponsored walk they were organising in the Mournes. He explained to them MR's concerns about the environmental impact of such walks.
 - MORF/MHT/UFRC: a letter encouraging volunteers to help with the reconstruction/building of new paths in the Mournes had been received. All agreed this was something worth supporting. (**ACTION-** Vincent to include a short article in the next Newsletter)
5. **Finance:** no report
6. **Newsletter:** Items to include
 - Blackstairs Report (Fionnuala)
 - Scottish Trip Report (Irene)
 - MHT volunteering (Vincent/George)
 - Possible Mourne Wall Walk update (George)
 - Matters related to the AGM (Vincent)
 - Taster Walk leaders (George)
 - UFRC courses (George)
 - UFRC AGM (Vincent)

7. **Forthcoming events** – Bring a Bag Day – 4th August
 - AGM 6th October. Cecilia had been in contact with Tollymore NOC . (**ACTION:** Cecilia to check with TNOOC closer to the event; Irene to explore possibility of putting information eg 2012 minutes on MR web site; Vincent to circulate information to members; George to contact Vincent about a possible committee meeting around the end of August to consider AGM matters)
8. **Membership issues:** -collection of subs – no report
 - new membership situation – a few enquiries
 - group matters – A/B walks average 4/6: C walks average 10. Harry raised the matter of providing tea/coffee/biscuits after some walks. All felt this was worthy of further consideration by next years committee members.
 - taster walk - one had taken place involving a new walker who had since joined the MRs. The committee thought it would be a good idea to ask more MR members to get involved with leading taster walks (**ACTION-** George to write an article for the next newsletter)
9. **UFRC update:** a range of courses will be provided in Tollymore NOC at a cost of £40.00 pp on Sat. 5th October). The courses are Basic and Advanced Navigation, First Aid and Walking safely on steep ground. The UFRC AGM will take place on Sat. 19th October 2013 – all our members are welcome to attend. (**ACTION** – Vincent to include this date in our newsletter)
10. **Mourne Heritage Trust** – Domnall reported that he and George had attended a MORF meeting. Matters discussed included overseeing sponsored walk activities, concerns over a possible Mourne Wall Walk, MR stile and access difficulties near the “Campbell College” cottage near Luke’s Mountain (**ACTION** – George to contact Matthew Bushby about the possible Mourne Wall Walk and access concern)
11. **Training** – refer to item 9. It was agreed that, providing funds allowed, MR members who attended should get £10.00 towards the costs of the course (**ACTION** – George to write a short article for the newsletter)
12. **Website matters** – Irene reported that a new weather site had been added to our web site and that “This Months Walks” continues to be updated. Also a video link has been added to Useful Links which provides details on a selection of videos.
13. **Face book matters** – Lynda had sent in an email report. The Face book page has been set up and is self managing.
14. **AOB** – Harry asked if there was a set route for the Clarence Cheney Walk – the route can be decided by the leader of the walk.

15. **Agree date and time of next meeting:** the next main committee meeting will probably be decided after the AGM. However, a shorter meeting may need to be held before then (ACTION – George to consult with Vincent)
Harry was thanked for his hospitality.