

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd June 2014

Time and venue : 7.30pm at Fionnuala's apartment – 12 Cherrytree Walk Belfast, BT5 6PG

Present : George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Irene Cauley, Alex Curry, Harry Goodman, Raymond Gray and Trevor Russell.

1. **Apologies** : Peter Allister, Gary Browne, Cecilia Sochor, Laura Fawcett, Maggie Pridgen and Vincent Trainor
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** : agreed
3. **Matters arising** : review various MR documents – see agenda item 6
 - “Less strenuous walks” (“D” walks) – Trevor reported that there was considerable interest. A walk is planned for Sunday 29th June 2014 – starting at Carrick Little
4. **Correspondence** : Meelmore Lodge – planning to expand and improve premises (ACTION – George to write to support planning application)
 - Email from Rodney Magowan - Ray to lead Rodney's walk in Dec.
 - Email from David Oldfield – see agenda item 10
5. **Finance** : no report (ACTION – George to contact Gary re. update; and forward a previous email from Gary to committee members)
6. **Review/update of documents** :
 - Member Application Form (ACTION – consider points made by Gary at next committee meeting)
 - Guidelines (Advice for Walkers) – Laura had consulted with committee members and updated the guidelines which were agreed (ACTION – Irene to update these on the MR web site)
 - Aspirant Member Form – Fionnuala had considered this and believed it was fine – agreed
 - Guidelines for Leaders – Trevor had consulted with committee members and updated the guidelines – a few further amendments/additions were made and agreed (ACTION – Irene to update these on the MR web site)
 - First Aid Forms – these would be considered at the next committee meeting
 - Risk Assessment Forms/ Route Cards – Fionnuala had considered these - add leaders mobile phone numbers – agreed (ACTION – Irene to update these on the MR web site)
 - UFRC cards – it is important that the cards should be given to members asap after receiving them from the UFRC (ACTION – George to get cards from UFRC and pass to Vincent for

appropriate distribution; there should be a small number of spare cards available)

7. **Membership matters** : everything seems to be going on well and as planned
8. Forthcoming events – AGM – Tollymore NOC has been booked (ACTION – considered at next committee meeting)
 - Christmas Dinner – all agreed that we should have one Christmas Dinner (ACTION – Harry to liaise with Cecilia and others as appropriate; committee members should encourage a good attendance)
9. **Training** – George reported that there were courses being organised by the UFRC at Tollymore NOC that would be of interest to the MRs. Firstly, a Group Management Course - £40.00. It was agreed that new leaders should be 100% subsidised and other leaders should be 50% subsidised (depending on MR finances). Secondly, Navigation Courses - £40.00. An “in house” navigation course may also be available late summer/autumn (ACTION : members should be encouraged to attend; George to write an article for the newsletter)
10. **UFRC** – George reported on the recent Spring Conference and Training Courses. At present the UFRC is putting in a bid in relation to a scheme administered by Sport NI. The UFRC and Outdoor Recreation NI will work closely together in this scheme which seeks to promote healthy, sustainable exercise throughout all sections of our community. David Oldfield had asked that the committee consider this – especially with regard to facilitating younger walkers. The committee could see much merit in the scheme and stressed the MRs was an all inclusive hill walking club. There could be the possibility of under 18s walking with the club – however, this would require much careful consideration. ACTION (David and George to feed back this information to the UFRC)
11. **Environment matters** : Ray outlined concerns re litter in parts of the Mournes, breaches in the Mourne Wall and the erosion of certain paths. These matters had been brought to the attention of the MHT/MORF. (ACTION – Ray to write an article for the newsletter mentioning the above and stressing the importance of “Leave no Trace”)
12. **Web Site matters** : Irene reported that the web site is continually kept up to date (ACTION – Irene to update Documents – see agenda item 6)
13. **Mourne Heritage Trust/MORF** : Maggie and George had attended its most recent Meeting. The main items of discussion included Strategic Path Review, Memorials and Mourne Outdoor Recreation Strategy (ACTION – our representatives to actively engage in these matters)

14. **Newsletter** – articles to include Training (George), “D” walk (Trevor), any relevant information re. AGM (Vincent) and “Leave no Trace” (Ray). (ACTION – Vincent to receive articles by 10th July 2014 – and prepare/distribute newsletter)
15. **AOB** : the committee felt it would be useful if the toilet facilities at the Community Centre, Atticall were available before/after walks. (ACTION : Vincent to speak with the manager to see if a toilet key could be made available for the MRs when its walk starts at Atticall)
16. **Agree date and time of next meeting** : 7.30pm, Tuesday, 16th September 2014 at Harry’s house.

Harry thanked Fionnuala for her hospitality and all the committee members for their work.