

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd Nov. 2015

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

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

Harry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He said David Oldfield had spoken with him to say, that due to health concerns, he would be unable to sit on the committee.

1. **Apologies:** Robert Roulston
2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting:** agreed
3. **Matters arising:**

Guide to grades of walks – David Oldfield had spoken with Vincent. The amended guidelines would be part of the 2016 programme and included in the next Newsletter

Guidelines for leaders: Trevor said these have been completed

Flier: a work in progress. Should be complete by February Committee Meeting

4. **Correspondence:**

A letter from Claire Overend (Walking In Your Community) had been received stating that the MRG had been given a £100 Cotswolds voucher to be spent on equipment for our Club. This was in recognition of the fact that the MRG had returned statistical information to WIYC/ORNI. The committee decided that Maggie, George and the person in charge of training (Joe) should decide how this money would be spent.

A Canadian walker called Hugh had contacted the MRG asking if he could walk with the group on 1st November. He walked with the "B" group and contacted Vincent afterwards to say he had enjoyed his day in the hills with us.

5. **Roles of Committee Members:**

Minutes Secretary: George

Email link person: Vincent

Newsletter: Vincent

Training: Joe

Membership Officers: Fionnuala and Ray

Environmental Issues Officer: Ray

AGM and Special Events Organiser: Cecilia

Mourne Heritage Trust/MORF link people: Dora and Domnall

UFRC representation: George, Joe, Jonathan Shields, Ray and Victor Knox

Facebook managers: Maggie and Domnall

6. **Draft report of AGM:** the committee felt this was a true and accurate record
(ACTION: Draft report to be part of next Newsletter)
7. **Business arising from AGM:**
 - The 50+ photo event at Tollymore NOC.** George had spoken with Helen Donnelly to ensure the MRG would not be portrayed as an ageing club with no younger members and to ask that no age group be neglected. This was accepted. The event has now taken place – it was very successful, enjoyable and informative
 - Development and use of MRG Facebook** (ACTION: Vincent to contact Linda Martin who had set up the MRG Facebook site; Maggie and Domnall to contact WIYC about attending a Facebook course)
 - Leaders getting emergency contact information from a new walker** (ACTION: George to write an Email note which Vincent would Email out to all leaders)
 - Members having Emergency Information Tag** (ACTION: Harry and Vincent to produce a suitable membership/emergency “tag” that all members should complete and carry in their rucksack)
 - Next membership fee** will be due on 1st January 2017 (now using calendar year)
8. **Newsletter:** items to include emergency contact information from new members; Christmas Dinner; Draft AGM, Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports; Grades of Walks; Roles of Committee members. (ACTION: items should be with Vincent by 14th November; Newsletter distributed shortly afterwards)
9. **Agree 2016 Programme of Sunday Walks and Special Events:** Vincent, having spoken with many members regarding leading walks had produced and distributed a draft programme. This was considered, appropriate adjustments made and agreed. (ACTION: Vincent to produce a final draft which will be sent to George and Harry for proof reading before being sent to the printers)
Maggie mentioned a **“Come walk with us” type activity.** (ACTION: Maggie to look into what this type of activity would entail and report back to the Committee at the next meeting)
10. **Training:** members needs/requests would be considered as the year progresses.
(ACTION: refer to agenda item 4)
11. **Membership matters:**
 - Collection of subscriptions/finance matters** – Vincent reported that 76 members had paid and that the MRG balance was presently £4949.67
 - Membership Officer matters** – 4 people had recently contacted regarding walking with the MRG
 - Current situation** – the main point mentioned was the large number of walkers attending some recent “B” walks (ACTION: leaders should be reminded that a second leader must be appointed at the beginning of a walk when numbers exceed 15; wording to this effect will be included on the Programme of Walks 2016)
12. **UFRC:** The recent AGM which focussed on The Cuilcagh Mountain Park had been successful. The MRG has now 5 members on the Executive Committee.

13. **MHT:** Maggie had no further information to report

14. **AOB:**

Christmas Dinner information to be sent out by mid November (ACTION: Cecilia to liaise with the Burrendale Hotel re menu, room/s)

Next AGM (ACTION: Cecilia to contact TNOC)

First Aid/Mountain Rescue Cards: All agreed that these need to be finalised (ACTION: Maggie to send out the draft revisions again for all committee members to consider – decision to be made at next committee meeting)

Harry referred to David Oldfield and Rodney Magowan who were experiencing difficulties at present and asked if the committee would agree to them being invited to our Christmas Dinner – unanimously agreed (ACTION: Harry to contact David and Rodney)

15. **Agree date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday, 2nd February 2016 at 7.30pm in Fionnuala's apartment.

Harry finished by thanking everyone for their hard work on behalf of the club.

Joan, Harry and Dora were thanked for their hospitality/buns.

The meeting finished at 10.10pm