

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th September 2014

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

Present : George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Laura Fawcett, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Maggie Pridgen, Cecilia Sochor, and Vincent Trainor.

Harry opened the meeting by referring to the recent deaths of "Square" McCartney, Roy Allen and Peter Allister – they will be sadly missed and remembered with much fondness. (ACTION – George to send sympathy cards)

1. **Apologies** : Gary Browne, Irene Cauley, Alex Curry and Trevor Russell.
2. **Previous minutes** : agreed
3. **Matters arising** :
 - Meelmore Lodge** – an email supporting their application for renovation/improvement had been sent.
 - Review/Update documents**
 - Member application form. Points received by email from Gary were considered. The Committee felt that, although changes may be needed in the future the present form would do next year.
 - **Guidelines for walkers** – updated
 - **Guidelines for leaders** . This is nearly completed. (ACTION – Trevor to pass on final version to Irene for inclusion on our website)
 - **First Aid Forms**. Maggie had been unable to access the SMC website to view its forms. (ACTION – George to speak with David Oldfield who hopefully will contact Maggie)
4. **Correspondence** : Nature Leaflet from MI – given to Ray for distribution
Vincent mentioned that he received quite an amount of email correspondence. This included requests for information by people wishing to walk with the MRG – this information was passed to Fionnuala. It was agreed that new members joining very late in our "year" should not be charged for the next year.
5. **Finance** : No report. Gary had sent an email explaining he would liaise with Committee members re. finance
6. **Forthcoming events** :
 - AGM** – preparations were discussed (ACTION – Cecilia to contact Tollymore NOC again to check arrangements are in order; Gary, George and Harry to prepare reports; George to prepare agenda; Vincent to email members to remind them of the AGM/send out agenda. The Committee agreed that the following motion should be considered at the AGM (Sunday, 5th October) *"As a result of many requests from*

members the Committee proposes the introduction of a D group (involving less strenuous walks) that would take place once a month for a trial period of one year”.

The motion will be proposed by Ray Gray and seconded by Laura Fawcett.

Christmas Dinner – hopefully just one this year (ACTION – Harry to speak with Vincent McKenna and Cecilia to endeavour to find/book a suitable venue. This would be announced at the AGM)

7. Membership issues:

- **Collection of subs** – no report
- **New membership situation** – Fionnuala reported there had been 3 enquiries this month. At a recent walk a potential new member arrived without hillwalking boots and therefore, unfortunately could not walk with the MRG. Fionnuala always explains the need for proper clothing and equipment when speaking with prospective new members.
- **Group matters** – “A” group walks continue to be poorly attended; “B” and “C” group walks are generally well attended. Trevor had sent information about a recent “D” walk that was attended by 12 people (4 apologies). This walk, which took place in the Carrick Little/Binnian area was well received. Trevor felt the Committee should consider including such walks in next year’s programme – perhaps once a month, about 1,750 feet of ascent at a moderate pace (basically at the lower end of criteria for “C” walks) and that perhaps, it could replace one of the “C” walks each month. The Committee discussed this matter at some length and believed the best course of action was to leave the “C” walks as they are and consider a motion for “D” walks at the AGM (ACTION – motion to be considered at AGM).
- **Leader’s mobile phone numbers.** Vincent had contacted all current leaders re. making their phone number known to other leaders. Leaders who indicated they were happy with this now have a list of other leader’s mobile phone numbers – these numbers are to be kept confidential. The Committee believes it is good practice that leaders should have their mobile phone fully charged before each walk, to keep their phone switched on during a walk, to have the mobile number of other leaders in their mobile contact list and to speak with others leading walks on that day to outline their proposed route (ACTION – this information needs to be conveyed to leaders).
- **Tags containing important personal information which may be needed in the event of an accident on the hills.** The Committee would encourage all members to have such a tag firmly fastened inside the top pocket of their rucksack where it will be safe and confidential – yet easily accessible if required. (ACTION – bring to the attention of members)
- **ICE.** “In Case of Emergency” contact number which would be on the person’s mobile contact list. Again, like the tag, the Committee felt this was a good idea. (ACTION – bring to the attention of members)

- **Taster Walk** – Fionnuala reported that there been one taster walk which had taken place in the Tollymore area – one aspirant member attended.
 - 8. **Training** : George referred to the courses (navigation and group management in the hills) that have been organised by UFRC/Tollymore NOC on 4th October. To date about 8 MRG members have applied. (Action – Vincent to send out a reminder to encourage members to attend)
 - 9. **UFRC update** :George referred to the forthcoming AGM (18th October 2014) and hoped several MRG members would attend. Information has been circulated to members.
 - 10. **Website update** : Everything Irene has information about is up to date.
 - 11. **Mourne Heritage Trust/MORF** : Maggie reported that no meetings had taken place recently.
 - 12. **Newsletter** : the next one is due out in November (ACTION – Vincent to get items from members/organise and distribute)
 - 13. **AOB** : it was suggested that next year MRG membership tags should be a smaller and have the attachment hole punched in a different place (ACTION – Harry to endeavour to organise this)
- Joan and Harry were thanked for their hospitality.