

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8th September 2015

Time and Venue : 7.30pm in Fionnuala's apartment, 12 Cherry Tree Walk, Belfast, BT5 6PG

Present ; George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Laura Fawcett, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Domnall McComish, David Oldfield, Cecilia Sochor, Trevor Russell and Vincent Trainor

1. **Apologies** : Alex Curry, Maggie Pridgen and Robert Rolston
2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting** : agreed
3. **Matters arising**
 - **Accident/Casualty/Mountain Rescue Card**. Maggie had spoken with David who had downloaded SMC information (ACTION - Maggie to "put together" a card based on this. Cards to be laminated by MRG and given to leaders – receipt to be noted)
 - **Gathering information for WIYC**. This had been started and was up to date based on the information that had been returned. However, not all forms have been completed and returned (ACTION – Maggie to contact Vincent to send out a reminder email and write a short article for the next Newsletter)
 - **Guide to grades of walks**. The sub group had met and prepared a draft which had been circulated to committee members. All were agreed that this was excellent and that it should be included in the next Programme of Walks (ACTION – David to remove reference to 10.30am starts and send amended draft to Vincent)
 - **Encouraging walkers**. Information had been given to Harry (ACTION – Harry to complete a flier). Harry mentioned that Peter McGowan had expressed an interest in leading a trip – great news.
4. **Correspondence** : Sarah Newell – Thank you card; Vincent had processed various enquiries; Helen Donnolly (TNOC) had contacted George to ask if some of our 50+ aged members would help promote some of their activities (ACTION – George to contact Helen to say the MRG would be pleased to help if it could and to ask for a date; George to write a short piece which Vincent would email out to members)
5. **Finance** : Vincent handed out an Income and Expenditure Account and went through the figures. This will be updated and form the basis of the Treasurer's Report at the AGM
6. **Forthcoming events:**
 - **AGM**. Cecilia had checked with TNOC re preparations/requirements for Sunday, 4th October 2015; Fee for 2015/16 – to remain the same (however, there was some discussion about changing the financial year so that it is brought into line with the Programme Year ie January to December – this would be flagged at the AGM); no motions had been put forward to date; the "D" walks have become well established and appreciated this year – should now become embedded in

our programme. (ACTION – Vincent to prepare an AGM agenda and circulate it to members)

- **Christmas Dinner.** Cecilia has contacted the Burrendale Hotel – will be organised similar to 2014
- 7. **Membership issues :** Vincent keeps up to date with subscriptions; Fionnuala and Ray have had over 30 enquiries in total – recent walks have seen a number of possible new members walking with the club
- 8. **Changes in Guidelines for Leaders :** Possible changes/additions had arisen during discussions of “Grades”. Trevor referred to the Guidelines – possible additions 1. Before each walk the leader should, when outlining the route, include reference to “pace”; 2. On steep ascents the most efficient strategy was to slow the pace down rather than have over frequent rests; 3. The leader’s position did not necessarily need to be at the front – much depended on conditions – the key factor was that the leader must be in contact with the whole group at all times; 4. The word “appoint” a back marker was perhaps not the most appropriate – a back marker’s role could, at times, be critical and necessary – a suitable person in the group should agree to undertake this role.
All agreed that it was down to the judgement of the leader and his/her decisions would reflect the conditions at the time – walkers should follow the leader’s instructions. A walker who wandered off when told not to by the leader must understand they had left the group and were no longer the leader’s responsibility. (ACTION – Trevor to amend the Guidelines for Leaders and write a related article for the next Newsletter)
- 9. **Training :** GPS training would be offered through the UFRC course. Leaders who attended this course would have the total cost (£35.00) paid out of MRG funds. (ACTION : George to write a short article which Vincent would email to members)
- 10. **UFRC update :** work included Ulster Way, Appalachian Trail and GPS course. AGM will be held on Saturday, 17th October 2015
- 11. **Website :** Robert is monitoring by email
- 12. **MHT/MORF :** some meetings had taken place – no MR members were able to attend
- 13. **Newsletter :** Next one due in November
- 14. **AOB :** Harry referred to difference in dates of the financial year/programme. All agreed that it would be useful to synchronize these if possible (see agenda item 6)

The meeting finished at 9.55pm. Fionnuala was thanked for her hospitality: thanks too, to all committee members for the committed work they do on behalf of the MRG.