



**Oxon
Weekend
Walkers**

Oxon Weekend Walkers

Committee meeting 22 October 2024

Via Zoom

Minutes

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received Treasurer and Webmaster. Social Secretary joined late.

2. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes from the meeting of 5 August 2024 were agreed as accurate.

3. Matters arising - to be discussed at relevant agenda item

4. Chair

- Chair still to purchase tick removers but no rush now that tick season has finished. Chair will purchase a variety of options as committee had different views on which work best.
- Chair still to write and add disclaimer to our generic walks brief about wearing suitable clothing and footwear.
- Another navigation course took place on 21 September (rescheduled from July) with [Angelina Mountain Leader](#). 8 people took the course and found it very useful. It could be offered again next Spring and Autumn if there is demand.
- Chair noted that most members of the group now have keyrings for providing ICE information. Visitors should be given one of the pre-printed short forms to gather this information, but this sometimes gets overlooked. Chair to distribute forms to all walk leaders so the responsibility is shared.

5. Walks

- There have been 10 walks since the last meeting. The shortest was 9 miles and the longest 12 miles. The average was 10.8 miles. The least number of walkers was 9, the most 35. The average has been 18. There have been two very rainy walks.
- The call divert/forwarding system used by the group for some years has now expired. The group could use an old mobile with a pay as you go account as a replacement, but the call divert has not been noticeably missed and it is still possible for someone with a question to contact the walk leader by email via the Ramblers website (without the walk leader having to share their personal email). It was therefore agreed to leave things as they are for now.

6. Weekends away

- 23 members of the group went to the Elan Valley in August 2024. The trip was very successful, the food was much improved from last time and our guide from the lodge made a special effort to take the group on different walks as this was our third visit. This will be the last Elan Valley trip for now. Thanks to the Publicity Secretary for organising.

- Chair has organised a weekend away to the [Yarn Market Hotel in Dunster](#) in May 2025 and this is now fully booked. Chair has received deposits from 28 people with two on waiting list. Priority is given to members of OWW. Payment of the remaining balance will be due in January, directly to the hotel.
- Another member of the OWW group, Carolyn B, is organising a trip to the Gower in July 2025 and has offered places to the group verbally before walks.

7. Socials

- Social Secretary reported two socials since the last meeting – one to the Mikron Theatre, who did a play about The Ramblers, and another to a beer and cider festival. Thanks to those who organised.
- Social Secretary plans to step down at upcoming AGM, but another member of the group has expressed an interest in taking on the role.

8. Membership

- Dave W has taken over the role of Membership Secretary after Petra moved overseas. Thanks to both Petra and Dave.
- There are currently 149 members of the group. There were 5 joiners and 9 leavers since the last meeting but some of the leavers are where membership has simply lapsed.

9. Committee

- In preparation for AGM, Chair asked which committee members are happy to continue in their roles and which intend to step down. Social Secretary will step down, but another OWW member is interested in taking over the role. All other members confirmed they are happy to continue unless there are others keen to get involved. Committee will need to be officially re-elected at the AGM.
- Our usual venue for the AGM, the Plough at Wolvercote, can only accommodate us from 4pm which is too late. Chair contacted the Red Lion in Eynsham who have a private room for 30-40 people for which there is no charge if drinks are purchased at the bar. Chair has recced a walk in the area and there is good parking in the village. Committee agreed this sounded ideal. Chair to book.

10. Finance

Treasurer unable to attend meeting but provided following information:

- The bank balance remains at £557.37 (no change from last meeting) with £17 still to pay to Chair for purchasing keyrings.
- The income this year is £304 which is made up of £234 from Ramblers and £70 from Ramblers Worldwide holidays (£50 in November, £20 in May).
- The outgoings are £146.89, made up of £122.95 for last year's AGM and £23.94 for hoof picks to get mud off people's boots at the end of a walk.
- Group Funding Budgetary Analysis document showed numbers of members in the local Oxfordshire groups. OWW's membership remains somewhere in the middle.
- Chair and Secretary now have access to the Unity bank account.

11. Web

- It was noted that Assemble is no longer being used and it is not clear if Ramblers intend to provide a replacement.

12. Publicity

- Publicity Manager had nothing to report but it was noted that most walks are still proving very popular despite no social media posts to promote them in advance.

13. Ramblers guidance/policies

- No items discussed here.

14. Area

- OWW will host the Area AGM on Saturday 25 January 2025. OWW need to provide refreshments and walks. It was decided to buy rather than make cakes as this will make it easier to provide ingredient/allergy information. Chair to find out quantities needed from last AGM. A trustee from Ramblers has been asked to speak at the Area AGM and OWW may need to provide technical support if they have a presentation. There will be another OWW committee meeting before the Area AGM where finer details can be discussed. There will also be another Area committee meeting on 13 January.
- Richard Birch, the Area Chair, is stepping down in January 2025.
- Ramblers continue to work on a safeguarding policy but there was no further discussion about this at the Area meeting.
- Area discussed putting on a first aid course. No date has been decided but it is likely to be a Saturday morning.
- Area was interested in the navigation courses that OWW have offered.
- Ramblers records appear to show that no OWW members have completed online walk leader training, but maybe that is because those people are already set up as walk leaders. One OWW member has signed up for the training with the intention of becoming a walk leader.
- It is taking 4-5 weeks to get registered as a volunteer.
- Discussions about the new reservoir continue.
- Re solar farm, Central Ramblers were asked if funds could be used for a campaign group. The answer was no.

15. AOB

- Most OWW walk leaders welcome well-behaved dogs on leads. However, concerns were raised about dogs on long leads, and a dog being completely off the lead on one recent walk. It would be up to a walk leader to enforce this on a walk, but to avoid confrontation and misunderstanding, it was decided to add a note about dogs to the generic walks brief so everyone should be aware in advance of attending a walk that only dogs on short leads are permitted.
- As bank account is healthy, Chair asked for any ideas for group purchases. She referred to the list of expenses classifications provided by Treasurer at last meeting which could be useful when deciding how to spend funds. Suggestions included secateurs, sit mats, tick tweezers, hand sanitizer, sachets of sun cream for summer, parking costs, AGM drinks, raffle prize of OS membership to leader of the most walks.
- AGM is on Sunday 24 November.
- Next committee meeting will be in January.