

OWW Committee Meeting Minutes
22nd January 2026

1. **Apologies received from** Millie, Ian, Pam, Richard, Laura
2. **Minutes from last meeting** were accepted as accurate
- 3.
4. **Matters arising** were covered in each report.
5. **Reports from committee**
 - a) **Chair**

Welcome to everyone, especially the new members to the committee, Callie and Phil.

OWW AGM Nov 2025

This seemed to work well again. Thanks to Sara B for leading a great walk before the meeting. We met at The Red Lion, Eynsham. The room was set up for a meeting and attendees enjoyed five portions of skinny fries, five portions of chunky chips and a drink each. The cost to the club was £115.

Approx 22 attended.

It was decided to repeat this venue and format again for next year unless any other suggestions arose.

Walk Leader Training

We now have 24 trained walk leaders. A Whatsapp group has been set up to help these walk leaders support and communicate with each other. Most are on this Whatsapp group, but waiting to hear from Andrew W.

The "thank you" gifts to walk leaders has been topped up by Chair with foil lined bivvi bags and water bottles, (cost of £15 approx) The gifts seem to have been well received. Is everyone happy for this to continue?

From Feb only trained walk leaders are insured to lead OWW walks.

A social for walk leaders was suggested. Chair to plan.

Trips away

Holme Lacy House, Dec 2025

The pre Christmas weekend at Holme Lacy House was very successful. Four walks led by Bob, great accommodation, food, swimming and sauna, games, mulled wine, secret Santa etc. Chair happy to revisit Holme Lacy House for pre Christmas this year. Advantages of this location being lots of rooms available without single supplement, very reasonable cost in 2025 and hopefully 2026 too, great walking area, close location for winter travel. Other Warners hotels have fewer rooms for single occupancy.

Dunster May 2026

We currently have 25 on this trip. Everyone has now paid half of their bill. The second half will be collected in April. The OWW UNITY bank account has been useful in collecting and sending the money. This has saved everyone £15 on their bills so a total of £375 for the group. Bob and I are working on the walks and will probably do a recce in March. Some new and some repeat walks.

Summer 2027

I'm aware that we need to plan this and book it early to get something arranged. Warner Hotels are one possibility . Suffolk ? Suggestion are welcome from the committee.

AREA AGM Sat 24th Jan 2026

Details have been broadcast before walks and posted on Facebook.
Chair plans to attend in the afternoon for the meeting.

Rosemary has offered some high-vis jackets. Chair will collect a couple for distribution to walk leaders.

b) Walks Programme Manager

Since the AGM we have had

7 Sunday walks

1 Xmas Day walk

1 New Year Day walk

For our Sunday walks...

Average no of walkers = 17

Average distance = 10m

5=dry days

2= wet days

One Sunday 28/12/25 had no walk.

c) Membership

Our membership remains healthy at around 158

d) Group Rep to the AREA

Area AGM

24th January Longford Community Centre, Bodicote. Details are on the Events page of our website. The meeting starts at 1.30pm with a presentation by Ross Maloney, the CEO of Ramblers. The good news is that only the footpaths secretary is standing down. The meeting will include a vote on a motion to be taken to General Council on 25th April, which the chair and membership secretary will attend. The motion requests a review of the ratios of walk leaders to walkers stated in the Handbook as they are not seen as being practical. There is also concern as to whether the insurance requires them. As an aside, Area will

remove reference to distance in their grades to make them consistent with Ramblers grades.

Governance

Any decision on the future of Areas and Groups has been deferred and wasn't discussed at the meeting in December. The term gathering has been replaced by forum and it was suggested each region should hold one annual in-person forum. GB-wide forums, open to all members, might be held every 2 years.

Area Picnic

The 2026 picnic will be hosted by West Oxfordshire on Sunday June 7th and will centre on the Coombe Reading Room. The Vale group has offered to help with walk leaders.

Walks and membership

Membership stays healthy at around 2340. Registration of volunteers has improved and now happens within 24 hours of submission. At the end of 2025 there were 178 certified leaders and 166 were active. It looks like 240 had been registered as leaders.

The issue of insurance of trips away has been clarified and we have been acting properly, publicising them on the website and for trips organised by a company, checking that we are covered on their insurance. It was noted that if an event such as a training course is advertised, then there is also a need for insurance. Recces are covered but leaders over 90 are not although they can be certified.

Note: Chair has emailed out the insurance documents which show the details of insurance cover

Finances

Funds were approved for a kissing gate and steps, both of which H&G want to install.

Major developments

- * Botley West Solar Farm - Goes to Secretary of State mid-February and he will be a decision within 3 months.

- * Reservoir - Proposal expected to be submitted this year. The area of land required has increased. Paths should be reinstated on completion in 2040. There might be some mixed use and include sections along the replacement road.

- * West Oxfordshire is expecting a proposal for a railway line between Long Hanborough and Carterton. It was agreed that this should be beneficial.

Misc

Oxford Preservation Trust should be making the opening of Love Lane an annual event.

e) Social Secretary

I have this week posted a new social – the promised tour of the Bodleian Library, taking place on Saturday 21 February at 10.30am.

10 places for 10 well behaved Ramblers!

I will also offer a meal at the Shaan Restaurant in Witney – probably in March. This is Bangladeshi / Indian food. Last year the two meals offered were popular and I am trying to ring the changes with different types of cuisine and different locations.

Ideas for any other socials gratefully received. When I am next on a walk – likely to be the week after next – I will encourage people to offer events.

f) Webmaster

Some updates have been made to our website to keep it accurate. Committee roles have been updated with their respective email addresses.

g) Treasurer

We currently have an amazing balance of £4,936.52!

However £4495 is for the Dunster trip which leaves us with a still healthy balance of £441.52

There is a further £14.55 for walk-leader thank-yous to be paid from this.

h) Publicity

Our Facebook page is very informative and well received. We still get an enthusiastic interest with approx 565 members of our Facebook site.

8. AOB

We decided to hold the next OWW Committee meeting by ZOOM on Monday 20/4/26 at 7:30pm , a week after the AREA meeting.