

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd June 2015.

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

Present: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Laura Fawcett, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Domnall McComish, David, Oldfield, Maggie Pridgen, Cecilia Sochor and Trevor Russell.

Harry started the meeting by welcoming everyone and commenting, with sadness, on the recent deaths of Mary Magowan and David Coates.

1. **Apologies:** Alex Curry, Robert Rolston and Vincent Trainor
2. **Agree minutes of previous meeting** – agreed
3. **Matters arising** – First Aid Forms (agenda item 6);
 - NWMRT meeting on 12th April – a practical and successful event (ACTION - George to speak with Vincent re. further donation)
 - Membership spreadsheet – forwarded to committee members
 - Financial details – Vincent has spoken with Gary
 - Slide Show, trips to Westport and Dingle, Club Picnic – all went well
 - Leaders mobile numbers/email addresses – sent to leaders
 - U tube/MRG material – still to be completed
4. **Correspondence :**
 - NWMRT – letter to thank MRG for £108.00 donation
 - Information about Castlerock Walking Festival
5. **Finance:** Vincent sent in a Revenue Account (up to 22nd June) – copies distributed and emailed to committee members. Present surplus of £4074.46 indicating a healthy financial situation.
6. **Update of documents:** all updated except Accident in Emergency Card, Casualty Check Card and Mountain Rescue Card (ACTION: work is ongoing - Maggie to update the cards)
7. **Membership issues:** Vincent sent in a current list of paid up members – 110 @ June 2015. New members this year – 9.

Fionnuala reported she had received some enquiries; Ray reported he had 22 enquiries (10 of whom had come on a walk – of these, 4 had become members). It was suggested that the leader of a walk needs to get the name and contact details of a new walker and that afterwards it was important to speak with the new walker/get feedback.

Maggie reported back on a meeting she had with Claire Overend (ORNI/Walking in the Community) – and outlined the main points of the Project. David and George added further information. The Committee agreed that the MRG would get involved

with the Project and that a form is sent out to all members requesting basic information. It was hoped for a good return of information – all data would be held securely by ORNI (ACTION : Maggie to work closely with Vincent to send out forms and receive returned forms. Maggie to collate information (including numbers on walks from leaders) and send it to Claire Overend/ Walking in the Community).

Group matters – Domnall mentioned an aggressive Buzzard in the Donard Wood area – should be a safer place after the breeding season.

A few “C” walkers had mentioned that the pace and duration of some “C” walks was too much. Ray suggested we look at the “Approximate guide to grades of walks” – could they be clearer and more precise? All felt that good communication was important between walkers and leaders – that it was a two way thing. (ACTION: sub group comprising Ray, David and Trevor to look at this matter and report back at the next meeting).

Recent “D” walks had proved popular and were appreciated.

Ray mentioned that attendances at some recent walks were lowish and that we should be thinking of ways of encouraging more walkers eg. “fliers”, posters, better publicity (ACTION: a sub group comprising Ray and Domnall to consider the layout/contents of a poster/logo – pass idea/s to Harry)

8. **Forthcoming events:** AGM, 4th October in TNOG (ACTION – details discussed at next meeting; item for next newsletter)
Christmas dinner – Burrendale Hotel, 6th December; separate room requested (ACTION: Cecilia will organise)
9. **Training.** Opportunities will be created through Walking in the Community.
10. **UFRC .** George reported that the Spring Meeting which focussed on the Ulster Way had been successful – now the challenge was how to inject new life into the UW and deal with some of its shortfalls eg linking quality sections; the UFRC was working closely with ORNI/Walking in the Community; a GPS course has been organised in September at Tollymore NOG; an objection has been sent in re. a proposed wind farm development in the western Mourne.
11. **Environment Matters:** Ray commented on the amount of litter left (not by MRG members) in some areas and the growing gaps in the Mourne Wall.
12. **Web Site Matters:** Irene and Robert have met – web site continues to run well.
13. **Mourne Heritage Trust/MORF:** no recent meetings attended
14. **Newsletter:** to include –
 - Tribute to Mary Magowan – Trevor to ask Sandra
 - Tribute to David Coates – George to ask Wilf
 - Westport trip – Joe McKnight
 - Dingle Trip – Irene with an input from Harry
 - MWMRT “talk” – Domnall
 - AGM reminder – basic details as in past years – Vincent/George
 - List of new members – Vincent

Planning “away” trips – Irene and David

Sub group’s work on “guidelines” – David

Items should be sent to Vincent no later than 20th July.

GPS course – George.

15. **AOB:** Harry mentioned he had gone on-line to look at the MRG constitution but was unable to print off a copy.

16. **Date and time of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday, 8th September 2015 in Fionnuala’s apartment.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm. Joan and Harry were thanked for their hospitality.

Thanks also to everyone on the committee for their thoughtful and hard work.