



Worcester Ramblers' Group

37th Annual General Meeting



Saturday 18th October 2025

Held at Wildgoose rural Training Education Centre, Hallow, Worcestershire

Minutes of the Meeting

Chair - Anne Holmes

Present: Anne Holmes, Pauline Mason, Stephen Williams, Fil Williams, John Powell, Renu Arrowsmith, Ian Arrowsmith, Anne Hill, Tim Mason, Kate MacDonald, Lyndon Bracewell, Carys Bracewell, Melanie Arthur, Samuel Arthur, Grace Ann Plumb, Carl Joseph, Andy and Jayne Gwillam, Jenefer Thomasen, Sally Mills, Jane Vickers, Anne Tourle, Amanda and Mike Eley, Kathryn Palfrey, Anne Cowley, Cliff Dimond, Jane Verduyn, Sandie Eckersalls, Jason Hollaway, Mark Strain.

1. Welcome

Anne Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Reference was made to the Walk Leaders' list circulating to assist communication via a WhatsApp group.

2. Apologies for absence

Alan Terry, Sue and Richard Rose, Lynne and Derek Chapman, Edna Braithwaite, Jane Griffin-Ash, Edward Shirley, Anne Caesar

3. Minutes of AGM 2024

The minutes of last year's AGM have been available on the group website and copies circulated at the meeting and they were approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Summary Reports.

Reports were available to the membership on the website and circulated at the meeting.

Anne Holmes added some additional points to the Chair's Report:

- Christmas lunch will be at The Bell Inn on Saturday 13th December following a walk. Details are on the website.
- A group from London are staying in Worcester City to celebrate New Year's Eve and are looking for a day walk on Thursday 1st January. Anyone interested in leading a

walk on that day should contact Anne H. Given that they are dependent on public transport, the walk would need to be local.

5. Election of Officers

All are offering re-election, although Lyndon is happy to stand down. Derek Chapman has volunteered to assist him. **The Independent Accounts Examiner:** Cynthia Hammond is willing to offer this service again, subject to the reorganisation of Area. Anne H read through the list of officers and Tim Mason proposed that the officers be voted for on block. Seconded by Sandie Eckersalls and carried unanimously

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Chairman	Anne Holmes
Treasurer	Ian Arrowsmith
Secretary	Pauline Mason
Membership Secretary	Renu Arrowsmith
Webmaster	Carl Joseph
Webmaster's Assistant	John Powell
Footpath Officer	Lyndon Bracewell
Working Party Coordinator	Stephen Williams
Walks Coordinator	Stephen Williams
3 Roles	John Powell Alan Terry
Events Coordinator	Ann Tourle

Derek and Lynne Chapman have volunteered to join the committee without a specific role. Proposed by Jane Gwillam and seconded by Carl Joseph. All voted in favour.

6. AOB

- It was noted that there are 364 members of which 50-60 are regular walkers and 25 different walk leaders.
- Thanks were expressed to Doug Flannagan for encouraging leaders to offer the summer Saturday programme.
- A question was asked about the Ramblers Association requirements for walk leader training. The committee have discussed this and several leaders are already trained, including in preparation for the Exmoor holiday. One member commented that the safeguarding unit was useful. 7 people participated in a training session before the AGM. Experienced leaders can self certify if they have led 12 walks over the past 3 years. Although becoming an affiliated group has been considered, there are issues of insurance and there are no plans to discuss this further in the immediate future. There are few problems within our group and nationally regarding safety on walks.
- Because the training is not skills based, it is proposed that support with map reading will be offered.
- Trevor Davies passed away recently and has donated books, maps and routes to the group.
- The committee were thanked for their work on behalf on the attendees.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 2.25pm. There was a presentation to walk leaders present in appreciation of their contribution to the club.