

Minutes of South Birmingham Ramblers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2026 at Oddingley Hall

Present: Ted Alcock, Liz Bakalou, Tony Denman, Brian Godkin, Trish Henley, Jayne Hill, Astrid Laich, John McGeough, Hazel Smith

1. Apologies: Marje Davis, Lynn Macdonald
2. Minutes of meeting held on 12 March and Matters Arising
There were no comments and no matters arising.
3. Communications Secretary's report – John McGeough
There are 334 people on the e-mail list and the Facebook page has 958 following, with several hundred, often over 1000 people reading our posts. Four or five people a month ask for more information about the group.
4. Treasurer's Report – Brian Goodkin
The Treasurer's report is attached to the end of these minutes. Everyone had seen it before the meeting and there were no questions or comments.
5. Walks Co-ordinators reports:
Weekend walks – Astrid Laich
Since the last committee meeting, we've had 11 Sunday walks (one had to be abandoned due to John Dillon's heart attack).
The walks ranged from 9 to 12 miles; the most strenuous walk was Mary James' 'Clifton-upon-Teme' walk. I'm also pleased to report that Steve Cooper was able to lead his 'Mamble' walk.
We had between 7 and 16 walkers, average 12.
In the next programme we only have one gap. We'll have a Saturday challenge walk led by new walk leader Karen Simpson, from Ledbury to Great Malvern. New walk leader Adrian Phillips is down to lead a walk, as is Gillian Tipton.
On the 21st of June we'll have a long and a short Wyre Forest walk in memory of Jimmy Rogers.
After the incident with John Dillon needing resuscitation, we have looked into our first aid kits, our first aid training, emergency contact details, lists of medication and what to do in an emergency.

Wednesday walks – Liz Bakalou
Between the last committee meeting on 12th March and Wednesday 10th June, 13 Wednesday walks have taken place with between 11 and 32 people attending - an average of 21 people per walk. No walks have had to be cancelled. The Shrawley Bluebell Walk, which Paul Shakespeare led in memory of Jimmy, was particularly well attended with 32 walkers taking part.

Walks have been mostly rural with only one being urban, taking in the Dudley tunnel. As always, we are extremely grateful to walk leaders for being willing to put on walks for us. We have managed to fill all the slots for the next quarter, although this task wasn't as easy as last time. There are definitely fewer walk leaders now and some people - perhaps understandably - do not wish to lead walks for two consecutive quarters. Thankfully, though, we do have a walk for every Wednesday!

Liz Bakalou, Amanda Hahn, Mandy Mason

Since writing this report, Liz stated that one new person had done the walk-leader training and is intending to lead walks when dates become available, as is another person.

Short walks – Jayne Hill

There have been 13 short walks since the last committee meeting with the number of walkers averaging at 16 and attendances ranging from 8 to 24. One walk had to be cancelled at short notice due to unavoidable circumstances. Four walks had public transport options.

In the current programme we are looking forward to a Saturday walk in Stratford and a Sunday short walk in the Wyre Forest where we will join the Sunday walkers to commemorate Jimmy. Thanks to Astrid for her help in organising both.

We have 3 dates to fill in the next programme in September and 2 walk leaders available for these. Dates have not allocated as yet so there is one spot to fill in September and a choice of 3 dates at the moment.

We are very grateful to the short walk leaders for their interesting and varied contributions to the short walk programmes.

There had been concerns that the emergency involving John Dillon may put people off leading walks, but this did not seem to have been the case. What to do in an emergency is covered in the walk-leader training. Also, most walks have several walk-leaders on them and people with a variety of skills who naturally step in when an incident arises.

Website – Ted Alcock

The website continues to attract a good number of visits and during the last three months there has been a marked increase: during this period the typical visit rate was just under 2000 per month, whereas it was 2500 for the whole of the previous three months.

The preliminary July – September walks programme is available to members.

6. Membership Report – Marje Davis

Membership stands at 331 up 5 on March 2026.

New members since last meeting 15

Members Leaving since last meeting 9

Currently no "Payment Pending"

Walks Manager

I have added the Wednesday and Sunday walks that are available for the July to September programme.

Offer a Lift

The "Offer a Lift service" is still available for South Birmingham members. I had a message from a guy called Umar requesting a lift to a recent walk, I explained about it being only

available to SBR members, I think this is probably about the 3rd time I have told him. I haven't had any requests from our members recently.

7. Social activities report (provided by Jenny Corless, who is not on the committee)
Since the last meeting we have had a weekend in Malham in March, a quiz in April and the Bakewell coach trip in May. All of these were well supported.
On 21 June there will be a Memory walk in the Wyre Forest in honour of Jimmy Rogers.

Suggestions are welcome for possible events for July/August- possibly a Garden Meet-Up(?) if someone is willing to have this.

For the rest of 2026 there will be:

September: Coach trip tba – possibly to Bath or Castleton.

5-9 October: Coniston four-night trip: fully subscribed.

6 November: Curry Evening in Kings Heath organised by Gillian.

December 9: Mince pie walk.

Coming up in 2027:

19-22 March 2027 - a weekend break at Selworthy, Somerset (46 people)

3-8 October 2027 - a four-night break at Derwentbank near Keswick (54 people)

I am happy to organise these two breaks with the support of John, Sandra and Brian.

Thanks to all who have been involved in enabling these events to happen.

Ted pointed out that a sizeable profit had been made on the quiz, largely thanks to the fact that Frank and Sandra Sharpe had got the room for free. If that had not been the case, it would have made a loss and it was unlikely to be possible in future. Tony said that he could always get a free room at his golf club if needed.

8. Area Report – Tony Denman
Tony had been unable to attend the area meetings in March or June. The minutes from June's meeting have not yet been received and would be circulated as appropriate.
9. Footpath Secretary Role
Tony had discussed this role with Rob and the area Footpath Secretary. Both felt the role was no longer necessary as no funding is available for footpath repairs. Local authorities do not appear to be taking action on any reports made. There is information on SBR's website about how to report problems and if any further advice is needed, members can ask any committee member. Ted will check what the website says and update it if necessary.
10. First Aid Training
Jayne had sent a quote to Brian to ask for funding for two courses, each for twelve people. They cannot be booked until the funding is known, so probably won't be taking place until the end of the year. It was agreed that training places would be offered to walk-leaders in the first instance.
It was also hoped that new first aid kits and replacement items would be available at the AGM. Jayne was hoping to be able to get three full kits, to be held by a walk co-ordinator for the

short, Wednesday and Sunday walks. This would mean that any walk-leader without one can borrow one. Ideally, anyone leading a walk should carry a first aid kit.

11. Walk incident report

Tony and Hazel are still in the process of producing an e-mail to circulate to everyone regarding walk etiquette.

12. Any other business

Trish said that John Dillon often offered to be backmarker because he considered himself to be a slow walker. She questioned whether it was a good idea to have a slow walker at the back: if an emergency happened to them and they were lagging behind, would anyone be aware of it? John said this possible scenario emphasised the importance of everyone regularly checking the person behind them on a walk. However, it was felt that for most of the time, backmarkers are chatting with other walkers anyway, so people would be aware if anything happened.

13. Meeting dates arranged:

September 7 (Monday) at 2pm. (Area meeting 5 September)

December 9 (Wednesday) at 2pm: after the mince pie walk. (Area meeting 5 December)

AGM November 14 (Saturday) 10am at Cofton Village Hall

The following pages contain the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report

1. This report covers the period from 1 October 2025 to 28 February 2026. I attach a summary of receipts and payments and a reconciliation of the bank balances. I have omitted supporting lists of transactions, as these are lengthy and dominated by social event bookings.

2. Transactions since 1 October 2025

2.1. Receipts

2.1.1. Funding £380

- 2.1.1.1. The first half year's funding was received as applied for on the budget submitted, in quarterly payments.

2.1.2. Day walks £540

- 2.1.2.1. 30 bookings have been made for the coach to Bakewell on 16 May 2026 as at 28 February 2026. There were 40 bookings as at 4 March, so that the cost of the coach is covered, and the event can proceed.

2.1.3. Holidays £14,969.00

- 2.1.3.1. £552 received from replacement members booking for Whitby 2025

- 2.1.3.2. £14,417 received from members booking a place on the weekend in Malham commencing 20 March 2026. Group membership of HF Holidays was obtained, giving a discount on this booking.

2.1.4. Socials £546.20

- 2.1.4.1. This relates to the orders taken in advance of the Fish and Chip Sipper on 24 February 2026.

2.1.5. Other 173.90

- 2.1.5.1. Donations £80. When Group members take a holiday with Ramblers Worldwide Travel, the company makes a donation to the Group. This has formerly been paid into the Charity Account, but this item has been paid directly into the Social Account as requested.

- 2.1.5.2. £93.40 was the proceeds from the raffle and the swap table at the mince pie walk.

- 2.1.5.3. 50p was added to a cheque from a member to cover the related bank charge.

2.2. Payments

2.2.1. Walks related £59.74

- 2.2.1.1. Printing and postage costs mainly for walk leader packs.
- 2.2.2. Walk leader training £62
 - 2.2.2.1. These were costs for the session at Fulford Heath Golf Club.
- 2.2.3. Meetings £227
 - 2.2.3.1. The balance for the hire of Cofton Village Hall for the AGM was £190. The total cost was £230.
 - 2.2.3.2. £36 was the cost of room hire for the committee meeting at Oddingley Hall on 11 December 2025. It is proposed to meet in person in future but this was not in the budget submitted for funding.
- 2.2.4. Day Walks £270
 - 2.2.4.1. There were 24 cancellations, where there was no replacement, following the postponement of the coach trip to Abergavenny at £15. 5 refunds have been set against payments for Malham 2025.
- 2.2.5. Holidays £18,550
 - 2.2.5.1. The deposits for Malham, collected before 30 September 2025 were paid over £4,055. The balance was subsequently paid of £13,743, making a total cost of £17,798. £100 was refunded to members overpaying, or cancelling where a replacement has been found.
 - 2.2.5.2. £552 was refunded to 2 members cancelling for Whitby 2025 as there were replacements. See 2.1.2 above.
- 2.2.6. Socials £590.90
 - 2.2.6.1. £71.25 for the hire of Oddingley Hall for the Mince Pie walk.
 - 2.2.6.2. £519.65 was the cost of the Fish and Chip Supper for 35. I paid £511.70 to Dads Lane Fish Bar and Restaurant, and bought quiz prizes for £7.95. £31 was refunded to cancellers notifying me in time, and one member has overpaid by £3.50.
- 2.2.7. Bank charges 80p
 - 2.2.7.1. Charge for clearing cheques.
- 2.3. Bank Balances
 - 2.3.1. The charity balance is £173.95. As we are likely to have three more committee meetings, including this one, I do not believe that we have enough. I will have to apply to the Area Treasurer for additional funding.
 - 2.3.2. The Social Account balance is £1,411.51.

3. Outstanding matters

- 3.1.1. Bakewell
 - 3.1.1.1. The cost of the coach is £720. There has been a query from a walk leader about reimbursement of recce-ing expenses, which can be paid from Charity funds.

Brian Goodkin, Treasurer 6 March 2026

Name: South Birmingham Ramblers
Code: WK10

Year ended: 30/09/26

Main					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
From CO (funding)	-	-	To CO	-	-
From CO (other)	-	-	To Area	-	-
From Area (funding)	380.00	-	To Group (funding)	-	-
From Area (other)	-	-	To Group (other)	-	-
From Group	-	-	To S/W Council	-	-
From S/W Council	-	-	Walks programmes	-	-
T/fer from 'Self-funded'	-	-	Walks related	59.74	567.31
Donations	-	80.00	Walks leader training	62.00	-
Legacies	-	-	Newsletters/publicity	-	-
Grants	-	-	Publication/goods costs	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	Campaigns/casework	-	-
Deposit interest	-	-	Practical work	-	-
Investment income	-	-	Fundraising costs	-	-
Publication/goods sales	-	-	Meetings (inc. AGM)	227.00	75.00
Advert sales	-	-	Admin	-	-
Other	-	-	Other	-	200.00
Total receipts	380.00	80.00	Total payments	348.74	842.31
Surplus/(deficit)	31.26	- 762.31			

Self-funded					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Day walks	540.00	1,815.00	Day walks	270.00	1,712.00
Holidays	14,969.00	15,485.00	Holidays	18,550.00	11,540.00
Socials	546.20	1,166.30	Socials	590.90	1,116.45
Deposit interest	-	-	T/fer to 'Main'	-	-
Other	173.90	203.90	Other	0.80	54.40
Total receipts	16,229.10	18,670.20	Total payments	19,411.70	14,422.85
Surplus/(deficit)	-3,182.60	4,247.35			

Summary	Main	Self-funded	Total	Prior yr
Total receipts	380.00	16,229.10	16,609.10	18,750.20
Total payments	348.74	19,411.70	19,760.44	15,265.16
Surplus/(deficit)	31.26	-3,182.60	-3,151.34	3,485.04

Name: South Birmingham Ramblers
Code: WK10

Year ended: 30/09/26

Cashbook reconciliation				
		Main	Self-funded	Total
Opening balance		142.69	4,594.11	4,736.80
Surplus/(deficit) on R&P		31.26	-3,182.60	-3,151.34
Closing balance (rows A + B + C)		173.95	1,411.51	1,585.46

[A]

[B]

[C]

Closing balances (please give breakdowns below)	Cash	Bank	Total
	-	1,585.46	1,585.46

[D]

Variance
-

[C] - [D]

Cash		
	Held by	Amount
1		
2		
3		
4		

Bank account 1				
A/c no:	20128742	Institution:	Unity Trust Bank	
A/c name:	South Birmingham Ramblers Charity			Balance per statement 173.95
	Date	To/from	Ref no.	Amount
Reconciling items:				
Add: receipts not yet on statement				
Subtract: payments not yet on statement				
Balance per cashbook				173.95

Bank account 2				
A/c no:	81222759	Institution:	HSBC	
A/c name:	South Birmingham Ramblers Group			Balance per statement 1,411.51
	Date	To/from	Ref no.	Amount
Reconciling items:				
Add: receipts not yet on statement				
Subtract: payments not yet on statement				
Balance per cashbook				1,411.51