

Minutes of South Birmingham Ramblers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2026 at Oddingley Hall

Present: Ted Alcock, Marje Davis, Tony Denman, Brian Godkin (2nd half of meeting), Amanda Hahn, Trish Henley, Jayne Hill, Astrid Laich, John McGeough, Hazel Smith

1. Apologies: Lynn Macdonald, Rob Swainston (resigned from committee)
2. Minutes of meeting held on 11 December and Matters Arising
There were no comments and no matters arising.
3. Communications Secretary's report – John McGeough
There are 331 people on the email list. The Facebook site has gone through the roof: as a result of sharing posts with local community groups, we now have several thousand views per post as opposed to several hundred last year.

It was noted that the huge success of John's Facebook posts was mentioned at the Area AGM.

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.
Tony congratulated Brian on the success of the Fish and Chip Supper.

5. Walks Co-ordinators reports:

Weekend walks – Astrid Laich

Since the last committee meeting on the 8th of December 2025, 9 Sunday walks took place, with between 5 and 16 walkers, average 13. Several walks had to be cancelled, either due to walk leaders' health problems, or icy driving and walking conditions. Several walk leaders were flexible and either adjusted or changed their planned walks, or swapped dates. I would like to thank Rob Swainston for leading a walk despite pain from an aggravated foot condition. Also, the late and sadly missed Jimmy Rogers led his last ever walk on the 15th of February, in his beloved Wyre Forest.

Amanda Hahn expertly led her first Sunday walk (Kingsbury Water Park).

All dates for the next quarter are covered, except for the 21st of June, the date on which Jimmy had chosen to lead his next walk. We are working on organising a special walk in his memory that day.

We'll have several exciting new walks in the next programme, and there are also new walk leaders in the pipeline.

A brief discussion took place about possible walks in memory of Jimmy.

Wednesday walks – Amanda Hahn

Despite the very muddy conditions we've been encountering during this quarter, the Wednesday walks have generally been well attended with numbers ranging from 10 to 36 - an average of 22 people per walk up until 4th March. Only one walk had to be cancelled because of icy conditions. In total 8 walks have taken place since the beginning of the year and these have been both urban and more rural.

Many thanks to the walks leaders who have often had to adapt or even completely change their walks because their recces showed that their planned routes were impassable.

All the walks for the new quarter have been filled and we are grateful that people have been happy to agree to lead the walks.

We also have 3 new people who are about to carry out the walk leader training. Thank you to Ted who has helped us get started and has answered our many questions. Also thanks to Lyn who has provided us with lots of useful information.

Liz Bakalou, Amanda Hahn, Mandy Mason

Short walks – Jayne Hill

There have been 11 short walks since the last committee meeting with the number of walkers averaging 16 and attendances ranging from 4 to 26. One walk was cancelled due to icy footpaths.

Most walks were urban, a few further afield in the north of the city, and eight had public transport options.

At the moment we have 3 dates not taken on the next programme. One more has now been filled and 2 more will be: we have requested 'offers please' on the programme to hopefully get the one remaining walk.

We continue to encourage new walk leaders and the training requirement has not proved a barrier. Those who don't lead support in other ways and will frequently be back marker.

Website – Ted Alcock

The website continues to attract a good number of visits, and to date this year we have had over 2500 visits, which is similar to previous quarters.

The preliminary April programme is available to members.

6. Membership Report – Marje Davis

Membership stands at 326, down 13 on December

New members since last meeting 12

Members Leaving since last meeting 16

Walks Manager

I am continuing to add the Wednesday & Sunday walks to Walks Manager with the standard message. I have added all confirmed April to June walks. Lynn inputs the short walks.

Offer a Lift

The "Offer a Lift service" is still available for South Birmingham members, I haven't had any requests recently.

Data Protection

Following my request at the December meeting I have not received any responses to my request for an update. It might be a good time for committee members to review any data they hold. All I need is a list of information held, e.g. names and addresses, phone numbers etc. How the information is held - on a computer or paper file, how it is kept secure - password protected, in a locked drawer, why is it needed, how long you expect to keep it for. If you are holding data that is no longer required, please destroy it.

7. Area Report – Tony Denman

Tony reported on November's area meeting at the last SBR committee meeting. The next area meeting is on 21 March.

Hazel had asked Janet Lockett when it would be SBR's turn to host the Area AGM. It's in 2028, assuming Area is still in existence at that time.

8. Walk leader Training

Jayne reported that there are 78 registered walk-leaders in SBR, although not all of them are still living locally or leading SBR walks. It was thought this was a healthy number. Although the ratio of walkers to walk-leader usually exceeds the Ramblers recommendation, it was thought that there are always a few walk-leaders on every walk, even if not actually leading that walk. Every walk-leader now showing in Walks Manager is trained/ approved by Ramblers.

Jayne and Lynn had participated in a Ramblers on-line session about recruiting new walk-leaders, which had been helpful. One thing that was pointed out was that walk-leaders don't actually have to be Ramblers members: just being registered as a volunteer would ensure they were covered by Ramblers' insurance. However, it was considered important that the co-ordinators are happy with anyone new being added to the list of SBR walk-leaders.

9. Footpath Secretary Role (vacancy)

There had been no reports of footpath problems since the last meeting. Rob had informed the Committee that he had decided to stand down from his position as Footpath Secretary, and from the committee, with immediate effect.

A discussion took place about the role and whether or not a replacement for Rob should be sought. Although footpath issues can be reported on line, via a link on the SBR website, it was felt that some members would rather talk to someone in person. It would not necessarily have to be a committee role.

It was agreed that Tony and Hazel would draft an e-mail to send to members, asking for a volunteer and explaining the process for reporting issues via the website.

10. First Aid

Jayne had participated in a Ramblers Zoom session about First Aid. They are going to run more courses and provide extra funding to update first aid kits and provide training at group level, predominantly aimed at walk-leaders. Applications for funding need to be made by June and would be confirmed (or not) by September.

Jayne had looked at a couple of training providers, one of which runs half-day sessions for twelve people. It was agreed that SBR should apply for two sessions for twelve people each. Jayne will liaise with Brian about the funding application.

The Zoom session did not mention anything about first aid training becoming compulsory, it's just 'recommended'. There are on-line training and information available on the Ramblers website/ app.

11. Walk incident report

The committee had received a complaint from a walk-leader about a walk where people had not followed their instructions, which had led to a concerning incident. The walk-leader co-ordinator had dealt with this informally by speaking with the relevant people, but it was felt that a further response was necessary now a formal complaint had been made. Tony will e-mail the walk-leader and thought that a general e-mail should be sent to everyone, reminding them that a walk-leader's instructions should always be followed, and also that any incidents should be reported straightaway.

12. Any other business

John asked if the Malham walks need to go on the website. Jayne said not, as long as the actual trip is advertised on there (available to all members). One of the walks has been described as 'challenging'. This needs to be looked at in terms of the risk assessment: either the risk assessment or description needs to be amended, in line with Ramblers' descriptors. John also suggested that Oddingley Hall should be booked as soon as possible for the mince pie walk, as last year the Wednesday was unavailable.

13. Meeting dates arranged:

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold the next few meetings in person, during the day, at Oddingley Hall: extra funding would be available. Tony dealt with all the following bookings after the meeting:

June 11 (Thursday) at 2pm. (Area meeting 6 June)

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

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

AGM: Hazel suggested that this should be held during the second half of October or early November. Tony will find out when Cofton Hall is available.

The following pages contain the 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
Reconciling items:	Date	To/from	Ref no.	Amount
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
Reconciling items:	Date	To/from	Ref no.	Amount
Add: receipts not yet on statement				
Subtract: payments not yet on statement				
Balance per cashbook				1,411.51