

SWANSEA RAMBLERS GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21 JANUARY 2026 HELD AT THE
ENVIRONMENT CENTRE AT 6.30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Morgan (AM) (Chairman)	Dave Stephen (DS) (Committee Member)
Catryn Edwards (CE) (Secretary)	Clive Scott (CS) (Committee Member) by Zoom
Mike Clinch (MC) (Treasurer)	Rob Johnston (RJ) (Committee Member) by Zoom
Morag Eddyshaw (ME) (Vice Chairman)	Christine Rees (CR) (Committee Member)
Richard Beale (RXB) (Committee Member)	

Clive Rees (CXR) attended Local Area Forum as representative of Swansea Ramblers

1. WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman opened the meeting with a greeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Myra Lewis, Roger Brown, Peter Jones and Karen Gibbs

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2025

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's two reports were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. The first report noted that 17 people had booked to attend the leader training session on Saturday 24th January. 13 current leaders need to undertake the training most of whom will attend the session on Saturday. 46 people have done the training or self-certified. Some people who had never led will attend the training session. The Committee agreed it was worth running the training session. The second report on funds was circulated to members late in the day following the late delivery of a report from a member on ideas for funds reduction.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report was circulated prior to the meeting which included recent membership figures which stand at 379 at the end of November and online courses.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Activity since last meeting

	Credits	Debits		Balance
30 th November 25				£2327.02
12 th January 26		Environment Centre	£-72.00	£2255.02
15 th January 26		Dunvant RFC (AGM hire)	£-36.00	£2219.02
15 th January 26		Postage/Stationery	£-13.84	£2205.18
Current				£2205.18

The Treasurer now had access to the Swansea Ramblers bank account and had read the treasurer's guide on the website (55 pages).

It was noted that the reserves on the account are high – much higher than recommended in the Ramblers policy at 40-100% of expenditure. Last year the Group's expenditure was £662 with reserves standing at 360% of expenditure and not 100% as recommended in the policy. The Treasurer recommended spending some of the money but this needed to be done through a planned programme. The Committee members were requested by the Treasurer to give some thought to this and to bring forward ideas at the next meeting. The Maintenance Path Team Officer provided some ideas of what the team required this year - safety glasses, bramble proof gardening gloves, personal protection equipment – next year's expenditure will increase as the Group's safety helmets will be out of date, and need to be replaced at a cost of about £150 each. It was to be noted that all expenditure must be incurred in pursuit of the Ramblers' objectives focusing on the delivery and the necessary support functions to enable these, including administration and governance. **ACTION ALL**

8. PUBLICITY REPORT

The Publicity Officer's report was circulated to the Committee before the meeting. It was noted that a walk booking system was still used by another local group. One member of that group had transferred to Swansea as the member wished to decide on the day whether to attend a walk. Swansea dispensed with a booking system after covid as it discouraged people from deciding on the day whether to join a walk. Providing detailed walk descriptions and facilities available on a walk allows walkers to accurately assess the terrain, difficulty and their expectations e.g. stiles, availability of toilets. **ACTION ALL**

9. FOOTPATH OFFICER'S REPORT

No report.

10. SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Social Secretary had nothing to report.

11. SOCIAL FUND ACCOUNT

The account balances were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

12. PATH MAINTENANCE TEAM OFFICER'S REPORT

The Path Maintenance Team Officer's report was circulated prior to the meeting and he had nothing to add.

13. WEEKENDS AWAY

KG produced an updated report on the trip to Dolgellau in April. 31 members had book to attend.

14. PRESENTS, GIFTS, EXGRATIA PAYMENTS

It was to be noted by Committee that under the Charities Act and its rules it is generally prohibited for charities to use funds to benefit members, simply for being members, trustees or volunteers. Charitable funds are to be spent on projects and items to fulfil the charity's

objectives – e.g. tools and accessories for clearing and maintaining paths; and for expenses of running the charity.

15. MINUTES

The Publicity Officer submitted a request that the minutes of committee meetings are produced and circulated earlier than currently. It was AGREED that the minutes would be circulated earlier.

ACTION CE

16. AOB

The Path Maintenance Team Officer requested the meeting to note a Community Fayre is to take place at the Brangwyn Hall on Thursday 26 February 2026 9am – 1 pm for residents of Independent Living complexes run by the County and City of Swansea. The Path Maintenance Team Officer requested a table for Swansea Ramblers at the Fayre. The idea is to speak to the residents of the health benefits of walking and walking in a group, with volunteers of the invited organisations relating their personal stories to the residents of the benefits to them of walking. The City and County of Swansea run about 32 independent living complexes and there could be 200+ attendees. The Path Maintenance Team Officer also requested approval of a second table for the Path Maintenance Team. It was AGREED to the tables requested provided that the two tables for Ramblers are placed next to each other. The Publicity Officer confirmed that he would attend the Fayre on behalf of Ramblers.

ACTION ALL

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held on 18 March 2026 at Environment Centre at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Approved by committee 18.3.26