

DRAFT Minutes of the Ramblers Wellbeing Walks / Walk for Health – Telford and Wrekin
11th Annual General Meeting, held on at 2.30pm on Thursday, 28th November 2024 at
Wellington Methodist Church.

	Title	Minutes
1	Persons present	Dave Wright, chair, welcomed everyone. 21 people attended: Geoff Baxter, Sue Bogue, Dave Cooke, Sandra Cooke, Mary Donaldson, Jean Escott, Alexis Falconer, Jackie Fowler, Caroline Freeman, Sid Harris, Paul Kemlo, Ken Mayor, Veronica Minchin, Tim Riggott, Nicky Rothwell, Carol Round, Annette Sandel, Steve Shaw, Malcolm Skelton, Dave Wright and Naomi Wrighton.
2	Apologies received	Apologies were received from: Yvonne Chetwood, Tracy Chiang, Eve Clevenger, Sheila Davies, Pamela Harris, Chas Kay, Angela Leary and Reg Price.
3	Minutes of 2023 AGM, held on 23rd November	The 2023 AGM minutes had been circulated with the agenda in advance. They were accepted as a true record.
4	Matters Arising	Matters Arising from Item 3 above and not covered by today's agenda: none.
5	Annual Reports	1.Chairperson's Report: Dave Wright gave his report, which is attached as Appendix 1. There were no questions or matters arising. 2.Treasurer's Report: Mary Donaldson gave her report, which is attached as Appendix 2. There were no questions or matters arising. 3.Co-ordinator's Report: Carol Round gave her report, which is attached as Appendix 3.
6	Ramblers UK	As per the request at the 2023 AGM, the meeting was asked to confirm that we remain a member of Ramblers UK. A vote was taken: 19 for, 2 against. It was noted that the majority of local schemes are council-run. The committee agreed to approach T&W in 2025 about the possibility of a grant towards the annual Ramblers fee and practical assistance, e.g. for administration, training and/or a coordinator.
7	Election of the Committee	Up to 10 committee members may be appointed. 1.Nominations of volunteers received in advance who are willing to stand for re-election: (a) Dave Wright, Chairperson (b) Jackie Fowler, Secretary (c) Mary Donaldson, Treasurer (d) Carol Round, Coordinator (till March 2025) (e) Sid Harris, T & W (f) Alexis Falconer, Member 2.Members standing down at this AGM: (a) Naomi Wrighton, Deputy Chairperson (b) Jean Escott, Publicity Member

		(c) Tim Riggott, Trainer (d) Jim McGinn, Member 3.Members wishing to volunteer for the committee to fill the following positions: (i) Deputy Chairperson (ii) Coordinator (Handover by March 2025) (iii) Trainer (iv) Member No volunteers. 4.Election of committee members: Taken in bulk those at 6.1: Proposer: Naomi Wrighton; Seconder: Steve Shaw. All elected after a show of hands.
8	Vote of thanks	Dave Wright gave a vote of thanks to members of the committee who are stepping down at this AGM. His words are at Appendix 4, attached to these minutes.
9	Congratulations	Congratulations were given to new walk leaders: Dilys Fullerton, Caroline Freeman, Nicky Rothwell, Lorna Troon and Jade Meredith.
10	Alf Clews Shield presentation	Dave announced that the shield would be awarded to Carol Round. He said that Carol has made an outstanding contribution and is willing to step up to the mark when asked to. She started out as a walker but quickly progressed to a walk leader and then with a willingness not often seen, joined the committee. When our previous coordinator left without notice, she volunteered to be coordinator, well at least in the short term. She has very ably filled this role over the last 2 years, even managing to get a good grip on the Ramblers UK system. An inspiration to us all.
11	Date of 2025 AGM	Thursday, 13 th November 2025

The meeting closed at 15.32.

Signed:

Dave Wright
Chair

Jackie Fowler
Secretary

Appendices overleaf

Appendix 1: Chairperson's Annual Report for the 2024 AGM

It is with honour that I present this my first annual report for the Ramblers Wellbeing Walks T & W. I was formally appointed Chairman at the Committee meeting on 30 November 2023 after being selected at the last AGM. My first year has been good and not so good in some ways.

Recruitment: Let's deal with the nots so good first. Recruitment for a coordinator has been a comedy of errors and a real challenge where we have not managed to meet our aim of recruiting someone. We had meetings with the council to advertise the post (which are still ongoing) and we have had two candidates who accepted the position and then backed off. I am sure Carol will mention this in her report so I will say no more at this stage. We have also been looking for a new trainer with Tim standing down at this AGM. So, my question to the meeting today is do we know anyone who would be willing and able to fill either one of these posts?

Committee: Your committee who are all volunteers have represented you at 6 meetings and many events during the year. I have chaired 5 of the meetings whilst Naomi, Deputy Chairperson, chaired 1. Thanks to Tim we have had a free venue for all these meetings which is good when you are a small charity.

During the year the committee have bid for and have been awarded 2 grants which will be shown in the treasurer's report. These small amounts of money are important to the charity because it allows us to book training rooms, the room for today's AGM meeting and leaflets so we can advertise our walks to a wider audience.

Letting T & W Know We are Here: We do this with a few volunteers turning up at events around the town and telling the citizens of Telford and The Wrekin what we are all about. I thank those personnel especially Malcom and Naomi for organising our involvement and for the many volunteers representing us at these events.

Membership: Volunteer committee members, walk leaders and walkers make up the membership of this charity. With the majority of our walks being weekday, daytime, it stands to reason that most of our walkers are retired. This is good in that it is getting them out in the fresh air, meeting new people and hopefully having some fun along the way. I thank all the volunteers who give up their time encouraging these free walks.

Finally: We are a small charity with a big heart and good walking boots so on behalf of the committee and myself I would like to thank those members who give up their precious time to help people of T & W get out in the fresh air and stretch their legs helping them to improve their health and wellbeing. Thank you.

Dave Wright, Chairperson

Appendix 2: Treasurer's report

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Mary Donaldson, Treasurer		
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Mary Donaldson, Treasurer

Appendix 3: Co-ordinator's Annual Report for the 2024 AGM

Walk Programme: We revived the Stirchley walk but attendance was very poor with no walkers at all on a number of occasions. Stirchley has now been removed from the programme.

In conjunction with Madeley Town Council and Telford CVS we now have a weekly walk on Thursdays in Madeley. The 'bribe' of a free breakfast bap and hot drink for September meant the first walk attracted 24 walkers! Numbers have since dropped a bit but are still healthy.

A new walk at Admaston starts at the beginning of January 2025.

Walk Leaders: We currently have 37 active leaders or backmarkers registered with Ramblers and have welcomed a few new leaders this year; Dily's Fullerton, Caroline Freeman, Nicky Rothwell, Lorna Troon and Jade Meredith.

We still need more leaders. We need more committee members. We need a Coordinator and a Trainer. Without more volunteers it is difficult to see how we can extend the scheme, or in some cases maintain it.

If you are able to join the rota in St Georges or Coalbrookdale please let us know.

It is a shame that we cannot encourage more walkers to lead, as quite often there are walkers that would be very good leaders, know their area well and turn up every week. Thank you to all the walk leaders who have answered the requests for help. If any walk leaders would like to be added to the WhatsApp group please let me know.

Events:

We had joint stalls with Wellington Walkers at Spring into St Georges, Wellington Midsummer Fayre, Wellington Green Day, Ironbridge Coracle Regatta plus more local ones in Leegomery, Admaston, St Georges and Donnington.

Please keep an eye open for any opportunities local to you that we can support with material and bodies.

Statistics: Numbers are continuing to grow steadily on our walks, and we currently have 450 walkers registered on the Ramblers website, though they don't all still come on our walks.

Carol Round, Coordinator

Appendix 4 – Vote of thanks

Today it is with some sadness that I have to give a vote of thanks to members of the team who have helped me so much in my short time as chairperson.

Firstly, to Jim (McGinn): I have known Jim over a number of years from one of my other charities and can appreciate that now very busy with his council work he wants to stand down from our committee. Thank you, Jim.

Next Jean (Escott) our publicity member: On one of the committee meetings we should have been presented with a cheque by the Wynn Foundation unfortunately the member of the family couldn't turn up – he was struck in Birmingham. So we attended the committee meeting and when I start on the agenda it is obvious that I am working on V1 and the Committee are all on V2 Jean came to my rescue and kindly gave me her copy of the agenda. Thank you, Jean, for all your work keeping us in the eyes of T & W.

Tim (Riggott) our trainer: Thanks must go to Tim for all the training he has given over the year but also for organising our free rooms for our committee meetings. We have a free room plus free parking and because we are at ASDA Donnington Sid can go shopping after the meeting. Thank you, Tim.

Lastly, Naomi (Wrighton): I cannot give enough praise to Naomi, she has been a mentor for me. Since 2013 Naomi has served on the committee, initially as our Treasurer, followed very shortly after this as a Trainer. Then in 2020 she took on the role as Chairperson. In her 11 years on the committee, she has given unstintingly of her time and energy. She volunteers to take on extra jobs, such as overseeing the website, regular updates and then the printing of our leaflets and programme of walks. Naomi takes on the role of coordinator of volunteers at publicity stalls. With all this Naomi regularly leads Wellington walks and standing in for other walk leaders when needed. I can honestly say from my own point of view and from the committees we will really miss you, Naomi. Thank you.

I would like to thank all those committee members standing down.

Dave Wright, Chairperson