Minutes of the Ramblers Wellbeing Walks / Walk for Health – Telford and Wrekin 12th Annual General Meeting, held on at 3.00pm on Thursday, 13th November 2025 at Wellington Methodist Church.

	Title	Minutes
1	Persons present	Dave Wright, chair, welcomed everyone. 20 people attended: Keith Aldridge, Sue Bogue, Eve Clevenger, Dave Cooke, Sandra Cooke, Mary Donaldson, Jean Escott, Jackie Fowler, Caroline Freeman, Dilys Fullerton, Tony Griffiths, Mark Hanley, Vicki Lowndes, June Mellish, Carol Round, Diane Skelton, Malcolm Skelton, Chris Whittall, Dave Wright and Naomi Wrighton.
2	Apologies received	Apologies were received from: Geoff Baxter, John Carter, Kerry Croxton, Sheila Davies, Alexis Falconer, Marie Francis, Sid Harris, Kim Hughes, Vanessa Le Bretton, Ken Mayor, Veronica Minchin, Ewa Perry, Reg Price, Tim Riggott, Nikki Rothwell, Peter Seaward and Jane Warman.
3	Minutes of 2024 AGM, held on 28th November	The 2024 AGM minutes had been made available in advance by email, on Facebook and through WhatsApp groups. They could also be viewed on our website. 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. He encouraged everyone to make good use of any connections they have with local councillors to help enlist support with grants and publicity. Discussion ensued about a possible social event for walk leaders. A walk up to the Halfway House was favoured. 2.Treasurer's Report: Mary Donaldson gave her report, which is attached as Appendix 2. Naomi Wrighton suggested that we might open an open access savings account. Mary agreed to look into it. 3.Co-ordinator's Report: Dilys Fullerton gave her report, which is attached as Appendix 3. Discussion indicated that it would be preferable to increase our monthly walks to weekly ones if enough walk leaders were available. Dilys invited comments on the type of walks we offer. None were forthcoming. Dilys spoke about the new campaign 'This Girl Can' and the possibility of trialling a one-off walk. She also raised the possibility of a peer-support walking group for those affected by cancer, with the aid of a Lingen Davies grant. Record cards are still valid for Telford and Wrekin facilities, even though the Trespass offer has ended.
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. Dave Wright gave a presentation of the pros and cons involved. Discussion ensued and points raised included:

		• The committee was asked to submit our report to T&W council, highlighting how we help them to meet their community health responsibilities. It was noted that Councillor's Pride in the Community grants do not require us to be a charity. • It was noted that our training must meet the needs of our insurers. • Being part of Ramblers brings kudos but the word ramblers could be a con if it gives the impression of strong boots, rugged paths and hills etc. • Trained Ramblers walk leaders must also read the RWW walks handbook. • The committee was asked to raise with Ramblers the fact that we are a voluntary group with no statutory funding or admin assistance. • Back markers who are not trained are not covered by the Ramblers' insurance i.e. any claim would be about the walk leader's liability/negligence. • Ramblers' insurance also covers trained walk leaders for accidental injury. A vote was taken: 12 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions N.B. The committee was asked to call an EGM if the Ramblers charge rises above 5%. (Not including any VAT rise).
7	Election of the Committee	Up to 10 committee members may be appointed. 1.<u>Nominations</u> 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) Dilys Fullerton, Coordinator (e) Sid Harris, T & W (f) Alexis Falconer, Member (g) Carol Round, Member 2.<u>Members standing down</u> at this AGM: None 3.<u>Members wishing to volunteer</u> for the committee to fill the following positions: (a) Vice Chairperson (b) Assistant Coordinator (c) Trainer (d) Communications and publicity (e) Safeguarding lead No volunteers came forward but Caroline Freeman and Chris Whittall said they would consider it. <u>4.Election of committee members:</u> Taken in bulk those at 6.1: Proposer: Jean Escott; Seconder: Chris Whittall. All elected after a show of hands.
8	Vote of thanks	Dave Wright gave a vote of thanks to all the committee members.
9	Congratulations	Congratulations were given to new walk leaders: Kim Hughes and Peter Seaward.

10	Alf Clews Shield presentation	Dave announced that the shield would be awarded to Jean Escott. Before presenting the shield, he said, "Now for one of the good items on the Agenda the Alf Clews Trophy. This year we are presenting the Alf Crews trophy to someone has been involved for many years with both Walking for Health and Ramblers Wellbeing Walks T & W. She has spent many years on the committee, was in this position as chairperson for a while, has been our voice on radio plus a trainer helping our new walk leaders. She is a born walker, she walks alone, with family, with friends, with our walkers both over dale and up hills. She believes in walking to keep healthy; she is a champion for a section of the T50 route and likes walking the T50 sometimes in its entirely. She is well respected by all of us and is our main leader on our Leegomery walks, she is on the rota for Horsehay and Wellington, but she is such a person that she will step in more or less anywhere to lead a walk as necessary. A very popular person who shares her knowledge and experience freely. I guess by now you have guessed that this year the Alf Clews trophy goes to a very much appreciated and respected --- Jean."
11	Date of (13th) 2026 AGM	Thursday, 19th November 2026

The meeting closed at 16.50.

Signed:

Dave Wright
Chair

Jackie Fowler
Secretary

<u>Appendices below</u>

Appendix 1: Chairperson's Annual Report for the 2025 AGM

Good afternoon, everyone I am Dave Wright, and I have been the Chairperson for the last couple of years, and it is a honour and privilege to present this short report today. So, I will try and cover the period Nov 24 to Oct 25. During the year we have hold five committee meetings either face to face or via Zoom plus one meeting which we had to cancel due to either committee members being on holidays but mainly we cancelled due to illness of a couple of the members.

My focus over the year has been looking at grants to support us. One of the grants was from the Commonwealth Games committee which I think, I mentioned last year. The story starts in the new year when the ICC asked for a progress report on where we had spent the money – the report was 19 pages long and when submitted they came back and wanted some of the money back because we hadn't, at that time, spent it all – to be fair they wanted most of the money back. You can imagine emails went back and forth and in the end they apologised because they had been working on the wrong figures so it came down that we owed back

from the Grant £400+ however because of all the hassle they confirmed that this had been written off and we owed them nothing. Which was a relief because they had started by saying that we owed them £1800.

We also had grants from 3 councillors from the Councillors Pride Fund. On this one we received £1010 however again because it was public money, we had to do complete their monitoring report – the link they sent us won't work so in the end we wrote our reply in a letter. We are still waiting the feedback from that one.

The year wasn't all looking for grants, we had the very enjoyable Thank you/Briefing event to you our members and I was pleased that Councillor Paul Davies could make it on the day. We have also attended some of the council events and other agencies events around T & W with lots of support from Naomi and Malcolm and our team.

I think that is enough from me because I know you are all waiting for Dilys report and other important agenda items. Once again, I can only say thank you for your time in volunteering to lead our walks or if you are a walker just for taking part. Thank You

Dave Wright, Chairperson

Appendix 2: Treasurer's report for the 2025 AGM

Walking for Health Telford and Wrekin			**Annual General Meeting**	**13 November 2025**		
Receipts				**Payments**		
Easy Fundraising	12-Nov-24	40.52		N W Print - 2000 leaflets	13-Nov-24	170.00
Telford & Wrekin - Grant	25-Feb-25	1010.00		Engraving of Shield	02-Dec-24	8.50
Forum 50 - Donation	05-Sep-25	157.90		AGM Exps - Mince Pies	22-Dec-24	17.00
				Wellington Meth Church - AGM	22-Dec-24	39.00
				Ramblers Association	03-Mar-25	1200.00
				Bank Service Charge	18-Mar-25	4.25
				Co-ordinator Expenses	05-Apr-25	8.59
				Bank Service Charge	22-Apr-25	4.25
				N W Print - Leaflets & cards	07-May-25	278.00
				Bank Service Charge	19-May-25	4.25
				Thank You event - Food, etc	22-May-25	145.45
				Medals	02-Jun-25	84.00
				W M Church - Thank You event	06-Jun-25	26.00
				Bank Service Charge	17-Jun-25	4.25
				Projector	12-Jul-25	39.99
				Bank Service Charge	21-Jul-25	4.25
				Bank Service Charge	19-Aug-25	4.25
				Bank Service Charge	19-Sep-25	4.25
				Bank Service Charge	20-Oct-25	4.25
		£1,208.42				**£2,050.53**
Balance b/fwd 1 Nov 2024		3584.50				
Net payments		842.11				
Balance as at 31 Oct 2025		**£2,742.39**				
Lloyds Treasurer's Account		**£2,742.39**				

Mary Donaldson, Treasurer

Appendix 3: Co-ordinator's Annual Report for the 2025 AGM

Ramblers UK Matters - Thanks to everyone who has updated their training, we hope this has been a useful exercise as we realise that your time is very precious. The training will need to be updated every 3 years but this will hopefully become a refresher of sorts and not the full training required for 2025. Those who have not undertaken the training by 31st December will unfortunately be unable to lead walks with RWW T&W and we thank them for all the walks that they have lead. Should any wish to return as walk leaders, they can undertake the training at any time. The training is an essential part of meeting duty of care to our volunteers and walkers as well as improving retention.
Please see Dilys after the meeting if you have not completed the training and need support.

Data Collection - Thankyou to all walk leaders who are reporting their walk numbers back each week. The numbers are collected and the data is uploaded to a Quarterly Data Form with The Ramblers. It is easier to collect the data if it is stored in one place which is predominately the Walk Leader What's App group. It is with interest I note that only about half of all RWW groups are submitting their data. It is time consuming but is interesting and does show us how valuable our walks are to our local communities. The second quarter of reporting has brought our average number of attendees to 12 from 13. This equates to 4,147 attendees across 350 walks. In the last 6 months we have acquired 76 new walkers.
Dilys presently collects data from at least 7 sources at varying times. Weekly reporting in the Walk Leader Chat would really help.

Events - Special thanks to those who have supported our events, helping to promote our walks and reach out to the wider community. Some events have been more productive than others and it would be good to know which we think we should attend in 2026. Since April we have attended:-
- **Spring into St George's** - April 2025 where we shared a table with WWAW, T50, Coronation Walks and Telford Walk Week.
-Wellington Midsummer Fayre - June 2025 - Started off quietly but Malcolm felt got busier in the afternoon.
-**Ironbridge and Coracle** Regatta - September 2025 - was cancelled due to the weather.
-Telford Walk Week - May 2025 Thanks to all those who helped facilitate the walks
-Shropshire Way Festival -September 2025 Some of our weekly walks were included in the programme**.**
-Ironbridge Walking Festival - May 2025
-**Wellington Walking Festival** - September 2025
- VE Day Celebration Meal, The Anstice - May 2025 unfortunately nobody was available to attend
-**CVS AGM** - September 2025 -Dilys attended to speak about the collaboration with Madeley Community Café
- SASA Wellbeing Event - March 2025 – Very well attended.
- Donnington Community Event - April 2025 – One walker turned up for trial walks. Poorly attended.
- Volunteer Thankyou - May 2025 A great afternoon was had by all and Cllr Paul Watling showed his appreciation.
- Community Award Madeley - May 2025 Dilys was given a certificate by the Deputy High Sheriff.
- Children In Need - week commencing 10th November. We are offering a 5km walk per day to enable walkers to achieve 25km in a week. All local councils and councillors have been invited to join us.

- SASA International Men's Day – I am unable to attend, Malcolm will be attending to discuss our walks and volunteering.
Big Thank you to those who have volunteered on these events

2025 Walk Programme - Sutton Hill, having recruited two new Walk Leaders only Kim completed her training and then found employment as did our other hopeful, Mark. For now, the Sutton Hill walk is on the back burner. The Hub on The Hill café has offered us a good deal for after our walk and the council are very supportive. Sutton Hill has just been awarded a part in a 30 million pound investment from Regional and National Government.
Routes to Renewal Walk - Sheila Davies has agreed to step in so that the walk can continue, Sheila could do with some support to cover for leave etc.
St George's & Priorslee and **Coalbrookdale** - We are still looking for more Walk Leaders.
Dawley has now changed to the 2nd Thursday of the month and starts at 2:00 pm.
Coalbrookdale - We need another Walk Leader to support Ewa.
Madeley - Madeley is at a point where we may need to offer a Grade 1 and a Grade 2/3. Dilys is the Walk Leader with Jade and Lorna doing one Thursday a month between them. Dilys could do with some support.
Would Dawley, Coalbrookdale & Hollinswood benefit from being made weekly?

A recent study from This Girl Can has identified that women walk less in Winter because they feel unsafe. Is there an opportunity for a Women's only evening walk? Women during Menopause feel the benefits but tend to exercise less, is there an opportunity here? Women from culturally diverse backgrounds face greater barriers to outdoor exercise, is there an opportunity here? The groups who face the greatest barriers to exercise are; from South Asian Muslim communities, from black communities. Are 55 or over and those who are pregnant and/or have a child under one. I feel there would be funding opportunities here.

Training – Since April we have had 9 enquiries about becoming Walk Leaders. Congratulations to Peter Seaward who has completed his training and now leads at Admaston. Out of the 8 only one other actually went ahead and completed all of the training and that is Kim Hughes who is still hoping to lead in Sutton Hill if we can find at least one more leader to lead with her.
Restart a Heart in Wellington 16/10/2025. Thanks to Malcolm for sharing and attending. We can get similar training , two hours, free of charge if there is enough interest.
Cancer Champion Training was cancelled but I believe everyone has been sent alternative dates. Congratulations to Peter Seaward, Nikki Rothwell and Caroline Freeman who are now Cancer Champions.

Recruitment – We are looking to recruit new volunteers as Walk Leaders. If you feel that there are any regular walkers who would make good leaders, please ask them to get in contact. We are looking to create some leaflets/posters to help promote recruitment, if you know of someone who can help with their design, again, please ask them to get in contact.
Do we think it may be helpful to advertise for assistant Walk Leaders and hope they may progress to Walk Leaders?

Ice Cards, Walk Record Cards and Walk programmes –Trespass will not honour the discount offered on the walk record cards. For our larger attended walks, Walk Leaders can ask walkers to prepopulate their cards and then just initial
New Members – We are looking to recruit; Assistant Coordinator, Trainer, Communications Person, Walk Leaders. Assistant Walk Leaders? Committee members. Safeguarding Lead.

Do we have any volunteers?

Connections - I attended a 'Green' networking event at Attingham Park, Attingham are about to start a regular free walk but I had to refer them to Shropshire RWW.
Social Media/Instagram - We have 1.3K followers on FB. In the last 28 days to October 22nd we had 8.8k views. We had 100 content interactions. We had 5 line clicks and we had 11 follows.
Incidents - Fortunately we have only received one incident report this year with a positive outcome. Please remember to submit any incident reports to the Coordinator within 10 days.
Safeguarding - No issues have been brought to my attention. All leaders cover Safeguarding in their training. Report directly to Ramblers.
Comms - We are looking for someone to manage our website. If you think you have the skills or know someone who does, please get in touch. We would ideally like to find someone who can take over our promotions and publicizing, including Social Media posts etc. If not would we consider letting the website go, what information would we need to supply elsewhere?

Special thanks -

- To those leaving
- Those who volunteered at events
- Those who jump in to support other leaders
- Carol
- Naomi and Malcolm for still helping with the website and programme development and everything else that they do

Dilys Fullerton, Coordinator