

Ross and District Walking Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026

Present	Kath Baldwin (chair), Gail Spolton, Bob Carter, Carol Endersby, Phil Lear and Cindy Smith. Harry Britten Austin was also present as a guest.	Action
Apologies	Apologies were received from Mike Adye and Gill James.	
Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 17 th November 2025 were agreed and signed by Kath as a true record of the meeting.	
Matters arising	The date of the Walk Leaders training has been changed to Wednesday 1 st April. Mike, Bob and Kath are organizing this.	MA BC KB
Membership and Treasurer's report	Cindy has had 4 new members join giving a total of 106 members. Cindy and Harry have agreed to revert to a previous system for receiving new members, where an application to join will receive a thank you message and instructions to pay the membership fee. When this is done a membership card will be issued and Cindy will receive their details. Balance as at 9 th February 2026 is £12,285.95 but this includes £9,483.20 which will be required for the holiday in Sidmouth. It was agreed that the membership fee stays at £5 and members who join after 31 st December will not be asked to renew in March.	CS CS HBA
Walk co-ordinator's Report	Bob produced graphs showing walk status, walk grades, distance from Ross and miles walked covering the 5 months from October to February. He reported that 1 walk had been lost to a wet day in January and so far 1 walk had been lost to a wet day in February. There was a lack of walks planned for February and March. The most popular are still Grade 3 walks with some at Grade 4. Most of our walks are between 5 and 7 miles with the distance from Ross being mainly 0 to 5 miles and 5 to 10 miles. The password for OS maps will be changed at the AGM. Walk Leaders Training. This will include a look at the walk leader's guidance on our website and also consider where maps can be accessed. No incident forms had been received.	BC BC MA KB
Social Events	Round the Houses. It had been difficult to find members who were able and willing to open their houses for this event. Kath will add to Chairman's Chat and it will be discussed at AGM. Christmas Meal at Axe & Cleaver. This was very well supported. New Year's Meal at Old Court. This was not so well supported and the Committee wonder if we need two similar events so close together. 1 st Aid Training. This will be held at Yew Tree, Peterstow on Monday 18 th May 2026 from 10am to 12 noon. It is being led by Herefordshire Heartstart who will not make a charge for this. The Committee agreed to send a donation of £25. There will be a maximum of 10 places. Kath will add to Chairman's Chat. Summer Social. This will take place on Tuesday 14 th July at the Yew Tree. A walk will be needed for this. Cindy is arranging the catering and will let Harry know a price for website and booking form. Round the Gardens. A date of Tuesday 4 th August 2026 has been proposed. Kath will organize this and will need offers of host gardens.	KB KB CS HBA KB

	Bob suggested that we might have a Day out at Brockhampton Court (NT) near Bromyard as the day out at Croft Castle had been so successful. He will organize this.	BC
AGM	This is on Thursday 15 th April 2026 at Conservative Club, Ross. A short walk before the meeting will be led by Mary Sears and Chris Sutton. Coffee will be available on arrival at a cost of £1.50 in cash. A buffet lunch after our meeting will need to be booked in the week before at a cost of £8.50 Harry will produce a slide presentation of photos from our walks.	HBA
Walking holiday 2026	There are 36 members booked into the hotel for our walking holiday with 6 members staying nearby, making a total of 42. There are 17 cars going and the hotel has arranged for space for all cars. The hotel will be allocating rooms. Harry has created a Whatsapp group to be used for important communications. He will use it to message details of the next day's walks each evening. Most walks are well attended with 23 people wanting to go to the Observatory. Kath has organized entertainment for the evenings with quizzes, a beetle drive and other games. On Saturday evening there will be Entertainment provided by ourselves.	HBA KB
AOB	Group Facebook Page. It was suggested that Ross Walking Group could have a Facebook page linked to Ross on Wye noticeboard. Kath will mention this in Chairman's Chat to see if there is a member who might assist with this. Harry will produce an up to date walk leaders list.	KB HBA
Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting will be decided after the AGM.	
	Signed..... Date.....	