

Ross and District Walking Group Committee 2026

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 leaders 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. 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.	KB KB CS HBA KB 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 days 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.	

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 29th April 2026

Present	Mike Adye (chair), Gail Spolton, Bob Carter, Cindy Smith, Phil Lear, Sue Edney, Dave MacIntosh and Gill Moxham (President)	Action
Apologies	There were no apologies for absence.	
Minutes of the last meeting	Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 9 th February 2026 were agreed and signed by Mike as a true record of the meeting.	
Matters arising	There were no matters arising which would not be covered in the agenda.	
Membership and Treasurer's report	Cindy reported that 25 members had not renewed their membership to date. She will ask Harry to remind those members again via e-mail. We currently have 4 life members. Treasurer's Report. The bank account currently stands at £3,168.81 Cindy reported that the bank mandate for signatories to the bank account needed updating and had a form to do this. It was agreed that it should be 2 signatures out of a possible 3, being the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, who were all happy to sign the form. It was agreed that a donation of £100 be made to the Wilton Sports club for allowing us the use of their car park.	CS HBA CS CS MA GS CS
Walk co-ordinator's Report	Bob produced graphs showing walk status, walk grades, distance from Ross and the number of walks for each grade for the period March to May. These showed that there are 21 walks planned with 5 gaps, the majority being between 5 and 7 miles in length, whilst there are also 8 in the 0 to 3 miles group. Grade 3 walks are still the most popular. The graphs also showed a lot of walks as being 0 miles from Ross. These are the walks when we have taken the bus to the start. Walk Leaders Training. This has been suspended for the time being. There is lots of information on the website about putting a walk on the	BC

	programme and leading a walk. Factors that might be putting members off of leading a walk were discussed. Bob and Mike will discuss further and try to encourage potential new walk leaders by offering assistance from the more experienced amongst the group. The password for OS maps has been changed. No incident forms had been received.	BC MA
Social Events	It was suggested that we need a member of the Committee to act as an Events Co-ordinator to check that events go onto the website, liaise with organizers. Phil agreed to take on this role. This does not mean that he will be responsible for organizing all our social activities but will be seeking and supporting members to do so. Summer Social. This will take place on Tuesday 14th July at the Yew Tree. Bob will lead a short walk before lunch. Cindy is arranging the catering and Harry will set up a link on the website and a booking form. Round the Gardens. A date of Tuesday 4th August 2026 has been proposed. Kath will organize this and will need offers of host gardens. Christmas and New Years Meals. It was felt that having 2 similar social events so close together at a busy time of year was perhaps not a good idea. As the New Years meal has been the less popular over the last few years, it was agreed that we still have our Christmas meal and social but not the New Years meal. Round the Houses. This has also been less popular recently and has proved difficult to arrange. It was therefore decided that this event will not take place this year. Skittles Evening. This has proved successful previously and Phil will try to find a member who would be prepared to organize this. It was felt that we could try some new social events and a possible quiz evening was suggested.	PL BC CS HBA KB PL
AGM	As we have met for the AGM at Ross Conservative Club for the last few years it was discussed whether we should consider an alternative venue. The Bowling club at Ross and the Larrerputz have been considered previously and been unsuitable. Mike agreed to enquire about meeting at the Corn Exchange in Ross on a Thursday in April 2027.	MA
Walking Holiday 2027	There are no plans for a walking holiday in 2027 at the moment.	
AOB	Survey of Membership. Mike would like to produce a simple questionnaire of the membership to find out what members enjoy about the group, whether they lead walks, would like more social activities and if so, what, etc. Mike will speak to Harry about this. RTVD. Mike had been asked if it was intended to raise the RTVD in light of the increasing cost of fuel. Mike has looked into this and it was agreed to keep the RTVD as it is at present. Most walks led. It had been suggested that the award for most walks led should go to the member who is actually leading the walk and back	MA MA BC

	marking should not be included in this calculation. Bob will speak to Rosemary about how this can be achieved in her statistics calculations. Facebook page. It was agreed that we will not have a Facebook page at the moment. First Aid Course. The first aid course for Monday 18th May is fully booked. Mike will enquire if we can offer this again next year. Emergency Procedure. In the event of a walker requiring urgent medical attention, 2 members should go to seek a phone signal to alert emergency services who will be able to pinpoint your mobile phone signal. It may not be possible or sensible to move the patient. Holme Lacy House Hotel. Kath had forwarded an e-mail from Holme Lacy House Hotel to Mike. This is an offer of a walk around their grounds with lunch which could be offered to the group. Mike agreed to go along to find out more and if suitable put it on our walks list. Website. This needs updating with new Committee details. Mike will contact Harry to get this done. Walks being added to website. It was noted that there has been a problem with walks being submitted for inclusion on the programme but then not appearing on the list. Mike will mention this in Chairman's Chat and Bob will speak to Harry. MacMillan Walk. Thursday 24th September 2026. Dave will lead a walk in support of MacMillan Cancer Trust.	MA MA MA MA BC DM
Date of next meeting	Friday 17 th July 2026 at 10am at 8 St Bridgets Close, Bridstow, HR9 6PX	

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday 17th July 2026

Present	Mike Adye (chair), Gail Spolton, Bob Carter, Cindy Smith, Phil Lear, Dave MacIntosh and Gill Moxham (President)	Action
Apologies	Apologies were received from Sue Edney.	
Minutes of the last meeting	Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 29 th April 2026 were agreed and signed by Mike as a true record of the meeting.	
Matters arising	Cindy reported that the £100 donation to the Wilton Sports Club had not been done as she needed to confirm where it should be sent. Phil offered to speak to Martin Hudson. Cindy also informed the meeting that the changes to the bank signatories had not been done as she was having difficulty in contacting Don Wood as our previous Treasurer.	
Membership and Treasurer's report	Cindy reported that the membership stands at 88 members which includes 4 life members. There were 20 members who have not renewed and these have now been removed from the members list. Treasurer's Report. The bank account currently stands at £3,137.81 after payments for the Summer Social, Holiday deposits, parking donations and a donation to Herefordshire Heartstart.	CS CS

Walk co-ordinator's Report	Bob produced graphs showing walk status, walk grades, distance from Ross and the number of walks for each grade for the period June to August. These showed that the favoured length for a walk is in the 5 – 7 miles range with a distance from Ross of 5 – 10 miles away as the favourite. There have been more grade 4 walks in this period and it is felt that we need more grades 2 and 3. It was suggested that due to the extreme hot weather we are experiencing at the moment, meaning that many of our planned walks are needing to be cancelled at short notice, we consider an earlier start time of 9 am and possibly stick to more morning only walks, even with the opportunity of a pub or café at the end for a drink. Bob has put an evening walk onto the programme to give the chance of a walk when the temperatures are cooling down and Mike offered to consider putting on a Saturday or Sunday walk for a change. Gill has paper copies of many walks and suggested that the archives are a good place to look for a walk to lead. Walk Leaders Training. There are no plans to offer this at the moment. No incident forms had been received.	BC BC MA
Social Events	Summer Social. This took place on Tuesday 14th July at the Yew Tree. 42 members attended with 29 doing the short walk which Bob led before the lunch. Cindy did a wonderful job with the catering ably assisted by Hilary. Round the Gardens. This event is to take place on Tuesday 4th August 2026 and the Committee understand that Kath has everything in hand for this. Christmas Walk and Meal. Bob has agreed to do this. Skittles Evening. Jenny Sinclair has agreed to sort a Skittles evening. It was agreed that we may need a new venue for this and Phil will look into the options of the Larrupertz and what food could be offered and to check what food the Conservative Club could offer. The Committee agreed to donate £50 towards the cost of room hire. Quiz Evening. It was proposed that we join in with a quiz evening being organized by the Petanque Club 16th October 2026. It is thought the cost will be £5 per person, teams of 4 – 6, at 7pm for a start at 7.30pm. Blossom Walk. These take place annually on 9th and 10th May. Cindy offered to arrange a walk and cream tea for the group on Thursday 8th May 2027. A booking form will be set up on the website nearer the time.	KB PL CS
AGM	It was felt that we need to make more enquiries regarding the venue and the food offered for the AGM. Phil will make more enquiries at the Conservative Club or there is the possibility that we could hold the AGM at the Larrupertz with food afterwards. Another possibility would be to have our after meeting food at the Kings Head at a cost of £15 per head. The Committee will fund the cost of hiring a venue for the meeting.	MA PL
Walking Holiday 2027	A walking holiday has been planned to Exmoor for 23 rd - 26 th April 2027. There are 18 members booked for this and deposits have been paid. The Lodge is now fully booked meaning that anyone else who wishes to join the holiday will need to source their own accommodation. The walks still need to be arranged.	

AOB	Survey of Membership. Mike would like to produce a simple questionnaire of no more than 6 questions of the membership to find out what members enjoy about the group, whether they lead walks, would like more social activities and if so, what, etc. Mike will speak to Harry about this.	MA
	Mike attended a meeting of the Walkers are Welcome Group. This group is organizing the Annual Walking Festival, working to improve the public rights of way, and promoting walking in the Ross area.	MA
	Walking Festival. This takes place on Friday 25 th – Sunday 27 th September 2026. Walk leaders are to be encouraged to carry Ross Walking Group business cards to hand out to people on their walks in the hope of encouraging new members. There are currently 285 people already booked for the walks.	
Date of next meeting	Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 2pm at Treonnen, Three Ashes, HR9 68LU	