

NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE RAMBLERS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 15th September 2026

MINUTES

In attendance: Jim (JH), Cowan (CH), Norman (NMCE), John (JH), Alison H(AH), Colin (CW), Sinead (SC)

1. Welcome & apologies:

The chairperson welcomed those attending and noted apologies from Denis , Mags , Michael C and Alison W. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without amendment.

2. Co-option of Sinead :

The Committee unanimously supported the co-option of Sinead and the Chairperson welcomed her back to the Committee.

3. Matters arising from last meeting:

3.1 Website:

AH and JH confirmed the Club website was running smoothly under a new provider and whilst there was no cost to hosting, there would be a host name fee to be paid every two years.

There was some discussion on the Club photo archive and whether there was a need to continue with the Flickr storage facility. It was agreed to review this in June, prior to the subscription renewal in July 2027.

ACTION: Committee to review subscription in June 2027

3.2 Walk Leadership Responsibilities:

There was further discussion on the roll of leaders and members, regarding safety and responsibilities on walks, CH agreed to review the disclaimer forms to check if sections of it could be included in Club flyers. He also agreed to check the U3A site to check the wording on their flyers.

ACTION: CH to check the Club disclaimer form, the current flyer and other club flyers to find a form of wording to cover leader and member responsibilities.

4. Finance

4.1 Club Finances:

The Treasurer delivered his report, indicating the starting balance and outlining the financial commitments that lay ahead in 2026. These included, Christmas dinner, AGM, planning meeting and parking at walks. He indicated that the anticipated grant funding would cover the Clubs commitments.

4.2 Club Bank Account:

The Treasurer indicated that Santander had introduced a monthly charge on our account and there followed a discussion on the way forward. It was agreed that an alternative banking supplier should be investigated but that all agreed a specific Club account was the preferred option. It was agreed that Helen's name would be removed when a new account was found.

ACTION: All to investigate the options available from other financial institutions.

5 Correspondence:

CH reported that flyers highlighting walking festivals and pathway closures, received from members had been circulated.

6. Walks

6.1 2026 programme:

There was a general discussion on the walks to date which had been well attended and some discussion on amendments to planned walks. Some of the walks had included recce's for future walks. It was noted that some high level walks had been cancelled due to adverse weather. The Summer programme was a success and the end of season evening was well attended.

6.2 Planning Meeting:

It was agreed that the plans for 2027 should include new walks, possible weekend trips and that additional leaders were needed to support those already providing their services. The Committee agreed that the planning meeting would seek to produce a draft 2027 programme. The meeting would be held immediately following the next committee meeting.

ACTION: CH to circulate members seeking walk suggestions and leaders. Members would be invited to attend the meeting which would follow on from the next meeting in October.

7. Club Holidays:

The final holiday of 2026 is currently taking place in Berlin and it was reported that all the 2026 holidays have been completed and were enjoyed by all who took part.

The 2027 holidays are currently at the planning stage. Anglesey 2027 is booked and Austria 2027 is still at the planning stage with the last week in August or first week in September the likely dates. It is hoped that the Isle of Man trip may be reorganised in 2027.

8. Christmas Dinner:

Following submissions from Committee members, **CH** had requested information from NICSSA on Christmas dinner at the Pavilion and indicated he would update the Committee when information was received.

ACTION: CH to update the Committee when he receives the information.

9. AGM and associated Issues:

It was agreed that the format of the AGM would remain the same and the proposed date was agreed as **Friday 29th January** at the Pavillion.

CH informed the Committee that he would be stepping down as Secretary but hoped to remain on the Committee. **SC** indicated her willingness to put her name forward to stand for Club Secretary. It was agreed that in calling for expressions of interest for Committee members we should highlight the specific roles which we hope some interested parties might take on – training coordination, new membership coordinator, publicity and promotion, walks coordination, in addition to general committee members.

ACTION: CH to draft an appropriate email for circulation to members, to be considered by the Committee.

10. Membership:

CH updated the Committee on new membership applications. One new member has joined and two further potential members are currently considering NICSSA membership, to allow them to join. It was agreed that the Committee should seek ways to increase membership through improved use of social media and opportunities that may be available through NICSSA.

11. Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the Chairperson closed the meeting.

12. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th October 18:45, to be followed by the 2027 Planning Meeting at 19:45.