

**MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING HELD AT GREASLEY PARISH HALL ON
SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2017 AT 2.00 PM**

The record of attendance showed that 49 members were present at the Annual General Meeting see Appendix I.

30 members took part in the long walk and 17 members took part in the short walk. The weather was dry but the footpaths were very muddy. Thanks were given to the leaders of the walks.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE AREA OFFICERS

Rod welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Broxtowe Group for hosting this year's AGM. Thanks were given to the ladies who had served the refreshments and especially to the members who had brought cakes in for us to enjoy.

The current Area Council Members were introduced to the meeting and also Paul Rhodes, Trustee.

2. PRESENTATION: Miner2Major

Rod introduced Beki Howey, Landscape Partnership Development Manager, to the meeting and explained that she would be giving us an update on the project 'From Miner2Major The Real Sherwood Forest'.

This project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding is in two stages: Stage 1 Development Stage (2015-2017). Stage 2 Delivery Stage (2017-2023)

Beki explained that Miner2Major is a partnership of local authorities, conservation groups and community organisations within the area of Sherwood Forest including Nottinghamshire County Council; Forestry Commission; Natural England; Newark & Sherwood District Council; Nottingham Trent University; Notts Wildlife Trust; RSPB. She wanted to involve as many groups (both large and small) in this project. She would like the Ramblers to become involved.

One of the aims of the Project is to help people find out more about the nature, building and history that makes Sherwood special; Celebrate what is important i.e. Mining/Archaeology; find out what the forest protects.

Further details can be found on the web: <http://www.miner2major.org.uk> and Beki can be contacted at beki.howey@nottsc.gov.uk

Beki left several business cards with her contact details printed on.

Rod thanked Beki for her presentation. Beki left the meeting.

3. OVERVIEW FROM THE AREA PRESIDENT

Paddy said he would like to bring members attention to challenges in the future:

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY – how would leaving the European Union affect our footpaths. At the moment farmers received a grant for looking after footpaths;

Energy – Fracking. We must all be vigilant.

County Council Elections in May – Ask your prospective candidates how they feel about footpaths/access. The Rights of Way Budget has been cut again.

Cut Off Date 2026 for claiming historic footpaths – He spoke about the work that Chris Thompson and Steve Parkhouse are doing to claim footpaths. These are not being dealt with quickly due to cuts to the Rights of Way Budget.

New Members – We must encourage both young and old members of the public to join us.

Jenny & Rod Fillingham – Paddy explained that Jenny and Rod were standing down at this AGM. They had worked on the Area Council for a long time. He presented them with a card and an envelope containing a gift voucher.

Rod thanked everyone and explained that after his heart attack they had decided that they needed to look at their lives and decide what they could carry on with and had decided that they would give up the Ramblers' Notts Area Council. They would still attend the local shows with the Ramblers stand, remain with the Robin Hood Way Association and Gedling Country Park. During their time with Notts Area Council they had enjoyed meeting and working with members. Rod thanked everyone for their help and assistance.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Sally Fraser, Chair, Retford Ramblers.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (7th February 2016)

The minutes of the previous AGM were passed as a true record.

Proposed: Allan Rogers

Seconded: Alex Staniforth

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

First Aid Certificate – Jenny had forwarded the certificate to Barbara Dobson.

7. REPORT ON MOTIONS PASSED AT THE PREVIOUS AGM (7th February 2016)

There had been no motions passed at the AGM on 7th February 2016.

8. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS (2015-2016)

The Area Officer's Annual Reports and Accounts covering the period 1st October 2015 – 31st September 2016 had been included in a special section of the Notts Area Website. There were some printed copies of the AGM papers available at the meeting today.

8.1 Area Treasurer

A copy of the Independent Examiners Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers' Association was available today.

Jack explained the Accounts to the members. If any group needed more money they should contact Jack. The second of four quarterly payments would be in the Group's Accounts on Tuesday.

The Report and Accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Chris Thompson

Seconded: David Hunt

8.2 Church Warsop (Former Rail Line)

Since the Annual Rights of Way Report Steve Parkhouse has some up to date information about this possible BW Creation.

Steve brought the members up to date with developments of this possible BW Creation. Steve has spoken to the landowner who is still willing to go ahead with dedicating this BW if he is paid £6,000.00 Chris and Steve walked the western part of the route with Neil Lewis at the start of December. If we can sort this out, then the diversion of Warsop Fp14 around the flooded woodland can be done on an even better line that avoids the deepest part of the cutting which is also often flooded. Steve asked if it would be possible for Notts Area Ramblers and the membership to contribute to this payment.

A discussion took place and the following points were made: Covered by the Ramblers' Charitable Aims as a new Right of Way would be created for walkers; Ask Central Office for a contribution; would this be setting a precedent; other users of this BW should be approached for a contribution.

The majority of the members were in agreement with making a contribution and it was agreed that this should be decided at the next Area Council Meeting.

Proposed: Allan Wilson

Seconded: David Dobson

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8 Officers and 2 Committee Members were elected. See Appendix II

Paddy Tipping had agreed to stay on as our President for another year.

No one came forward to fill the positions of: Area Secretary; Press & Publicity Officer; Minutes Secretary.

Rod explained that Jenny had booked all the rooms for meetings and we would make sure that everything was up to date ready to be passed on to whoever took on this responsibility. Jenny would complete the minutes for today's AGM.

10. RAMBLERS' GENERAL COUNCIL

This would be held at the University of Southampton from 3.00 pm Saturday 1st April 2017 to 3.00 pm Sunday 2nd April 2017.

Nottinghamshire Area send two Delegates (paid for by Ramblers' Central Office) and two visitors (paid for by Area).

One of the Delegates should be the Area Secretary but as we no longer have an Area Secretary it means that we are looking for four volunteers.

It was agreed that the following members should go to General Council: Chris Thompson (Delegate); David Hunt (Delegate); Martin Gawith (Visitor) and Sue Rick (Visitor).

Jenny would email them the information she had already received about General Council.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Motions relating to Nottinghamshire Area – None received.

11.2 Motions to go to General Council 2017 – None received.

12. SPEAKER: PAUL RHODES, TRUSTEE

Paul said he had enjoyed the walk this morning and had found the references to DH Lawrence very interesting.

He gave members details of how East Berks Ramblers had been successful in getting a tunnel under the A404. Mostly due to the work on one of its members.

He talked about: vision of opening up new paths; country designed for walking (stiles replaced by gates. Make it easier for everyone); lobbying London Mayoral candidates; Training – 'Don't Lose Your Way'; Big Path Watch; Path Watch 2017 focus on waymarking; Coastal Access; Walking for Health; Sport England – 'Toward an Active Nation' Ramblers helped to generate this new policy; Walk Magazine; Post Code Lottery – Walk About back for Festival of Winter Walks 2017; Ramblers Roadshow – Leeds and Buxton; 27,000 volunteers – need to find out who our volunteers are. Need to do more to acknowledge volunteers; Training for Area Chairs and Area Secretaries; New CEO – breath of fresh air.

Two more Trustees had resigned in the past week and there were now 7 Trustee vacancies (this included the 3 Trustees who stand down every year). Paul gave details of how to apply and he would be happy to talk to anyone about becoming a Trustee after the meeting. Details were also on the Ramblers' website.

A question was asked about the difficulty in getting Walking for Health Members to join a normal Ramblers' Group. Paul explained that there was a discounted membership available and Swindon Group had found that going along to the start of a Walking for Health Walk with a board which contained details of the short walks available with local Ramblers' Groups had worked well.

We in Nottinghamshire are not allowed to do maintenance on footpaths can Central Office help us to persuade the Notts Rights of Way Department to let us help? Paul said that parts of the country are appreciative of the help that Ramblers can give others are not. Give them examples of how other areas had successfully worked with their Rights of Way Department.

Chris asked about the Ramblers' Definitive Map Policy – Paul informed him that this was still one of the Ramblers Aims.

Rod asked if the Governance Issue had really been put to bed. Paul said that it is being looked at again but differently. A working group is being formed.

Paddy explained that we had recently lost our Area Chair due to friction between Central Office and us. Is this matter being dealt with? Paul explained that a report is being written at the moment and Trustees will be briefed on it in the next month. Looking at how it should be dealt with.

Rod thanked Paul for his presentation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Robin Hood Way

Jenny would like to thank Notts Area on behalf of the Robin Hood Way Association for funding the new supply of waymarks for the Robin Hood Way.

Jenny also informed everyone that the Revised January 2017 Robin Hood Way Book was now available. The book costs £10.95 and was available today.

13.2 Hosts for Notts Area AGM 2018

Jenny reported that Ravenshead and Hucknall Group had volunteered to host the AGM 2018. It would be held on Monday 4th February 2018. Venue to be arranged.

14. DATE OF NEXT AREA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Area Annual General Meeting would be held on Sunday 4th February 2018.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

APPENDIX I

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2017**

ATTENDANCE LIST

Judith Anson	Area
Martin Barker	Broxtowe Group
Tony Bowman	Broxtowe Group
Stephen Bramley	Mansfield & Sherwood Group
Michael Chamberlain	Broxtowe Group
Barbara Cordery	Broxtowe Group
Barry Cordery	Broxtowe Group
Keith Coxon	Rushcliffe Group
Elizabeth Dalton	Rushcliffe Group
Val Disney	Gedling & Dukeries Group
Angela Dobie	Rushcliffe Group
Barbara Dobson	Nottingham Group
David Dobson	Nottingham Group
Brenda Draper	Gedling & Dukeries Group
Rod Fillingham	Robin Hood Way FlexiGroup
Jenny Fillingham	Gedling & Dukeries Group
Heather Fortnum	Broxtowe Group
Aubrey Gamble	Gedling & Dukeries Group
Martin Gawith	Broxtowe Group
Frances Gilbert	Mansfield & Sherwood Group
Josie Gorman	Broxtowe Group
Ken Gorman	Broxtowe Group
Cath Green	Broxtowe Group
Paul Henegan	Broxtowe Group
Steve Holland	Area
David Hunt	Area
Dave Johnson	Southwell Group
Karon Lewis	Rushcliffe Group
Cynthia Marette	Rushcliffe Group
James McGill	Newark Group
Brenda Mitchell	Vale of Belvoir Group
Jim Norris	Gedling & Dukeries Group
John Page	Broxtowe Group
Susan Page	Broxtowe Group
Stephen Parkhouse	Area
Jack Prust	Area
Mick Rawdin	Gedling & Dukeries Group
Paul Rhodes	Ramblers' Trustee
Susan Rick	Mansfield & Sherwood Group
Allan Rogers	Robin Hood Way FlexiGroup
Kath Rogers	Ravenshead & Hucknall Group
Peter Somerville	Southwell Group
Alex Staniforth	Mansfield & Sherwood Group
Dennis Syson	Broxtowe Group
Chris Thompson	Nottingham Group
Paddy Tipping	Area
Anne Toombs	Rushcliffe Group
Kathy Whiting	Broxtowe Group
Allan Wilson	Rushcliffe Group

APPENDIX II

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following area officers were elected:

AREA PRESIDENT Nominator: Rod Fillingham	Paddy Tipping	Seconded: Jenny Fillingham
AREA CHAIR Nominator: David Hunt	Martin Gawith	Seconded: Rod Fillingham
AREA VICE CHAIR Nominator: David Hunt	Jim Norris	Seconded: Jenny Fillingham
AREA SECRETARY	Vacant	
AREA TREASURER Nominator: David Hunt	Jack Prust	Seconded: Alex Staniforth
AREA RIGHTS OF WAY SECRETARY Nominator: David Hunt	Chris Thompson	Seconded: Steve Parkhouse
AREA COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER Nominator: Rod Fillingham	Jim Norris	Seconded: Alex Staniforth
AREA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Nominator: Barbara Dobson	Judith Anson	Seconded: David Dobson
AREA PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER	VACANT	
AREA GROUPS OFFICER Nominator: Paddy Tipping	James McGill	Seconded: Chris Thompson
AREA NEWSLETTER EDITOR (WEB) Nominator: Rod Fillingham	Stephen Parkhouse	Seconded: Jack Prust
AREA MINUTES SECRETARY	VACANT	
AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER Nominator: Judith Anson	David Hunt	Seconded: Jack Prust
AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER Nominator: Kath Rogers	Allan Rogers	Seconded: Jenny Fillingham