

**MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT RAVENSHEAD VILLAGE HALL ON
SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 2.00 PM**

The record of attendance shows 43 members were present at the Annual General Meeting, see Appendix I.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE AREA OFFICERS

Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ravenshead & Hucknall for hosting the 2018 AGM. Thanks were given to the walks leaders, to the ladies who had served the refreshments and the cake bakers.

The current Area Council members were introduced to the meeting and Richard May, Ramblers Trustee. It was noted that David Hunt was unwell.

2. OVERVIEW FROM THE AREA PRESIDENT

Paddy Tipping, Area President thanked the Area Officers who had been in post for the last year and made special mention of Chris Thompson who had been Rights of Way Officer for over 20 years. Paddy then talked about an end to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that had dictated land management since Britain joined the European Union. He spoke of some land owners receiving more than £1 million a year from the CAP to do nothing with the land. Paddy then went on to talk about the opportunities provided by Brexit for the Ramblers to engage with land owners to explore new ways of looking after, maintaining and using arable and other land in the country. Finally, Paddy confirmed he was willing to stay on as President for another year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Keith Jacobs, Heather Fortnam, Richard Brader, Carol Bristow, Carol Wilkinson, Jeremy Pratt, Pam Dewsbury, Rod & Jenny Fillingham, David Hunt and Marion Staniforth.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

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

Proposed: Chris Thompson

Seconded Alex Staniforth

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

- 5.1 Bridleway - rail line at Warsop - Steve Parkhouse explained that the money was raised separately and the land had been purchased. It was not possible for Ramblers funds to be used to compensate landowners.

- 5.2 Area Officers – Judith Anson and Steve Parkhouse had been co-opted in year as Joint Area Secretaries. Steve Parkhouse had also been co-opted as Area Minute Secretary.

6. REPORT ON MOTIONS PASSED AT THE PREVIOUS AGM

There had been no motions passed last year.

7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS (2016 – 2017)

The Area Officers Annual Reports and Accounts covering the period 1st October 2016 – 31st September 2017 had been published on the Notts Area website.

- 7.1 Chair's Report – Martin Gawith commented that Ramblers need a structural reform if they are going to be able to effectively create and preserve the paths network across the nation. We need to make the Ramblers relevant to the present and the future by modernising the way we work both nationally and locally. Martin stated there was an urgent need to re-examine the relationships between Central Office, Areas and Groups.
- 7.2 Area Treasurer - Jack Prust had been ill and the accounts produced for the October Area Council were presented. The Independent Examiners Report would be added to the website shortly. Jack added that Area had built a large surplus of funds and for 2017/18 had submitted a zero budget. The only funds received would be the Group allocations.
- 7.3 Groups Officer's Report – James McGill introduced Helen Rushby & Helen Aplin, Local Organisers appointed by Central Office. James reinforced Martin's comments about the need for Central Office and Areas to work better together.

The Report and Accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Alan Wilson

Seconded: Allan Rogers

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

10 Officers and 1 Council Member were elected. See Appendix II. Martin explained the Rights of Way Officer role had become too big for one person to manage and a new post of Tourism and Heritage Paths Officer had been created. Paddy thanked Chris Thompson for his 20+ years' service as ROW Officer and all Nottinghamshire benefited from Chris's extensive knowledge and hard work.

9. RAMBLERS' GENERAL COUNCIL 2018

This would be held at the University of Bangor, Saturday/Sunday, 6th/7th April 2018. Nottinghamshire sends two Delegates (paid for by Ramblers' Central Office) and two visitors (paid for by Area). One of the Delegates is Area Secretary.

It was agreed that the following members would go to General Council:

Delegates - Judith Anson, Secretary and James McGill, Chair

Visitors - Chris Thompson and Jim Norris

10. MOTIONS

- 10.1 Motions relating to Nottinghamshire Area – none received.
- 10.2 Motions to go to General Council 2018 – none received.

11. SPEAKER – RICHARD MAY, MEMBER OF RAMBLERS' BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard explained the function of the Board of Trustees. The new Chief Executive, Vanessa Griffiths had been appointed early in 2017 and there had been a determination to bring antiquated systems up to date with a new focus on the core priorities. Richard detailed the action taken during 2017 and the Board of Trustees were very positive about the future. Richard turned to what was planned for 2018.

There was a new 'one team' concept aimed at bringing together the 16 databases held at Central Office and ensuring all departments could communicate electronically in an efficient way. The project had been funded by the Post Code Lottery. Richard also spoke of the need to prepare for the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) coming into force in May 2018. Further information would be sent to Areas and Groups about GDPR but they would need to start reviewing the data held and checking data storage was secure.

Richard spoke of better support for Areas from Central Office and the need to secure more diverse and reliable income streams. Although legacy income provided funds, this was uncertain. Richard mentioned Walking for Health (WfH). Funding arrangements with Macmillan was ending and no new 'big' funder had been found. However, partly due to money from the Postcode Lottery, Ramblers were able to continue to operate WfH through to the end of 2018. He also said the way WfH was run was underway

Richard then referred to Paddy's opening remarks about the opportunities for dialogue with land owners. He spoke of the urgent need for discussions about permissive paths. Many hundreds of these currently exist and all could be put at risk by the ending of the CAP. Richard's home county of Norfolk had a particularly large number of permissive paths.

Richard talked about a steadily declining national membership and the need to address this. He said Ramblers would be bolder in promoting the Ramblers 'brand'. Richard also spoke of the need for Groups to ensure they planned walking programmes for all their membership, being as inclusive as possible. It was important to make new walkers feel welcome by providing specific meet and greet arrangements. Richard gave an example of people being nervous and perhaps not getting out of their car at the rendezvous. Norfolk had produced a card about Ramblers to be handed out to other walkers. The intention was to encourage them to join Ramblers to protect Rights of Way, whether they walked with Ramblers or with other walking groups. Norfolk had also used Meet up with success. Judith Anson said that the One Step Walkers had started to use Meet Up but found the numbers attending were unmanageable and walkers often came inadequately dressed or prepared for the hard walks in Derbyshire. In view of this, the Communications Group had advised Nottinghamshire Groups not to use Meet Up.

Richard then talked about ongoing discussions around the use of shared paths with cyclists and walkers. He acknowledged the contentiousness of the subject and said that a new policy document on the subject was awaiting sign off and would be published in the near future.

Richard went on to talk about 'Pathwatch' and 'Don't lose your Way'. He said the Pathwatch app was still available and being used but the scheme was being reviewed. He talked about a new focus on the 2026 cut-off date for claiming new rights of way. A new officer was focussing on this and there was a need to work with other organisations to ensure maximum efficiency with minimal duplication of effort.

Richard showed the new Ramblers promotional video. Comments and questions were then requested.

In answer to a question about Groups for younger walkers, Richard said this was a problem as people didn't want to leave a Group where they had friends so the members tended to age together. A new Group then had to be established for

younger walkers. Rachael Drewery of the Notts & Derbys Group replied this was their experience but they were looking at re-launching/re-positioning.

Another comment was on the need to reach out to non-Ramblers walking groups to impress on them the vital work Ramblers does and hopefully to recruit more members. Richard referred to the cards which they handed out to any non-Ramblers they met on walks.

There were also two further similar comments saying that Ramblers Central Office needs to do more to raise the profile of Ramblers and to promote the benefits.

Martin thanked Richard for an informative presentation.

12. CLOSING REMARKS FROM AREA CHAIR

Martin invited James McGill as new Chair to make the closing remarks. James identified his priorities: to raise the profile of Ramblers in Nottinghamshire; to enhance links with the County Council on Rights of Way; to improve communication and links with Central Office; and to follow up the majority of members who either did not participate in the Group they were allocated to or had chosen not to belong to a Group.

James thanked Martin for being Chair in what had been a difficult year for him. James also thanked Judith Anson for taking on the Area Secretary role and working behind the scenes.

13. DATE OF NEXT AREA AGM SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2019

The next Area Annual General Meeting would be held on Sunday, 3rd February 2019. Gedling Group agreed to ask their Committee about being the host Group.

APPENDIX I

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2018

ATTENDANCE LIST

Anson	Judith	Area Secretary
Aplin	Helen	Notts Local Organiser
Barker	Martin	Broxtowe
Bister	Anne	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Bramley	Stephen	Mansfield & Sherwood
Chambers	John	Broxtowe
Coxon	Keith	Rushcliffe
Culpin	Brian	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Culpin	Wendy	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Dobson	Barbara	Nottingham
Dobson	David	Nottingham
Drewery	Rachael	Notts & Derbys Group
Fenton	Paul	Vale of Belvoir
Gawith	Martin	Area Chair
Gilbert	Frances	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Hobson	Elaine	Vale of Belvoir
Hobson	Dave	Vale of Belvoir
Johnson	Polly	Gedling
Large	Chris	Gedling
May	Richard	Ramblers Trustee
McGill	James	Area Groups Officer
Mitchell	Brenda	Vale of Belvoir
Morley	Lynne	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Newton	Barry	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Norris	Jim	Area Vice Chair
Page	Susan	Broxtowe
Parkhouse	Steve	Area Minutes Secretary
Prust	Jack	Area Treasurer
Rick	Sue	Mansfield & Sherwood
Rogers	Allan	Robin Hood Way SI
Rogers	Kath	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Rushby	Helen	Notts Local Organiser
Sendall	Margaret	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Sendall	Mick	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Squires	Merv	Ravenshead & Hucknall
Staniforth	Alex	Mansfield & Sherwood
Thompson	Chris	Area Rights of Way Officer
Tipping	Paddy	Area President
Torr	Brian	Gedling
Wallace	Keith	Area

Wilson
Young
Young

Alan
John
Kim

Rushcliffe
Vale of Belvoir
Vale of Belvoir

APPENDIX II

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2018

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Paddy Tipping

The following Area Officers were elected:

AREA CHAIR

Nominator: Judith Anson

James McGill

Seconded: Martin Gawith

AREA VICE CHAIR

Nominator: Steve Parkhouse

Jim Norris

Seconded: Judith Anson

SECRETARY

Nominator: James McGill

Judith Anson

Allan Rogers

TREASURER

Nominator: Judith Anson

Jack Prust

Seconded: Merv Squires

RIGHTS OF WAY SECRETARY

Nominator: Kath Rogers

Nominator: Janet Ross

Job Share:

Allan Rogers

Seconded: Brian Culpin

Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Alan Wilson

TOURISM & HERITAGE PATHS OFFICER

Nominator: Paddy Tipping

Chris Thompson

Seconded: Judith Anson

COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

Nominator: Steve Parkhouse

Jim Norris

Seconded: Judith Anson

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Nominator: James McGill

Judith Anson

Seconded: Keith Wallace

PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER

VACANT

GROUPS OFFICER

VACANT

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Nominator: Martin Gawith

Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Jim Norris

MINUTES SECRETARY

Nominator: Chris Thompson

Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Alex Staniforth

COUNCIL MEMBER

Nominator: James McGill

David Hunt

Seconded: Judith Anson