

MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT BILSTHORPE WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT,
BILSTHORPE ON TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Jenny Fillingham	Area Secretary/Minutes Secretary
	Jack Prust	Area Treasurer
	Chris Thompson	Area Rights of Way Secretary
	Peter Revill	Area Walking Environment Officer
	Judith Anson	Area Membership Secretary
	James McGill	Area Groups Officer
	Steve Parkhouse	Area Newsletter Editor (Web)
	David Hunt	Area Committee Member
	Allan Rogers	Area Committee Member
	Barbara Dobson	Nottingham Group
	David Dobson	Nottingham Group
	Barrie Evison	Southwell Group
	Jim Norris	Gedling & Dukeries Group
	Keith Jacobs	Broxtowe Group
	Alan Wilson	Rushcliffe Group

Keith Wallace had resigned as Area Chair on Thursday 13th October 2016 and David Hunt had kindly agreed to Chair tonight's meeting.

David welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Keith Jacobs, Broxtowe Group, who was attending for the first time. Unfortunately Barry Cordery was ill and would be standing down as Broxtowe Group's representative at the Group's AGM.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Rod Fillingham, Area Vice Chair; Robin Davison, One Step Walkers; Sally Frazer, Retford Group; Diane Jackson, One Step Walkers; Harriet Lagnado, Notts & Derby Group; Alex Staniforth, Mansfield & Sherwood Group.

Rod had suffered a heart attack on Monday 26th September 2016. He had an Angioplasty and two stents had been inserted. He was recovering but had to take it easy until he had completed his 'cardiac rehabilitation'. A card had been circulated for members to sign this was handed to Jenny to give to Rod.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Tuesday 19th July 2016)

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

Proposed: Judith Anson

Seconded: Steve Parkhouse

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Robin Hood Way Flexi Group – Jenny had taken a list of what sections needed wardens to the Members Day. Three new wardens had come forward.

8. Area Officers Reports – Treasurer: Jenny had let Jack know he could pay the renewals for CPRE and Northern Footpath Society. These had now been paid.

4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Notts Area AGM Sunday 5th February 2017

Broxtowe Group is hosting this AGM. Greasley Parish Hall has been booked from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. There would be walks available in the morning. The main AGM would start at 2.00 pm.

A discussion took place on whether we would like a speaker on the day. Suggestions put forward were: A member of the D H Lawrence Society; Ramblers Holidays.

A member of the Ramblers' Trustees would be attending but we do not know which one. We have not put a request in for a particular Trustee.

The Robin Hood Way Flexi Group would have a display.

We need to produce an Area Annual Report could all Council Officers and Groups please let Jenny have their reports by 1st December 2016. They should cover the period 1st October 2016 – 30th September 2017. Jenny would prepare the report to go on the website/newsletter and forward it to Steve. Aim is to send it to members between Christmas and New Year.

Action: ALL

Officers not standing for re-election at the Area AGM are: Chair; Vice Chair; Secretary; Groups Officer; Minutes Secretary. These vacancies would be advertised as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the post of Area Webmaster (Administration) would be deleted. The Area Communications Subcommittee covered this.

4.2 Members Days

A discussion took place on whether the Members Day on 19th November 2016 at Coddington should go ahead. This had been organised by Keith Wallace and he would not be attending. It was agreed to cancel this. Notices to go on Walks Finder, Facebook, Web and Jenny would let the Group Secretaries know.

The future of Members Days in 2017 was discussed. It was felt that they should be open to non-members; have a new name; possibly have them in places where new path claims had been made. It was agreed unanimously to look at this again next year.

4.3 How can we attract more members?

It was suggested that we send the web Notts Walker to other walking groups i.e. Walking for Health; Footpath Preservation Society.

A discussion took place and the following suggestions were made: what sort of member do we want to attract; connect to other walking websites i.e. Walk & Talk, Walking for Health; send information to Walk & Talk website.

Shows – Alex & Marian Staniforth and Rod & Jenny are willing to continue promoting the Ramblers at local shows. They now have Ramblers' Polo Shirts, Fleecees and Caps and members of the public can spot them when they are not actually on the stand.

5. GROUP REPORTS

See Appendix VII

Several Group Reports had been received late. Jenny had added these to the Group Report and would send out the amended report to members.

Action: Jenny

Gedling & Dukeries Group had managed to get a space to advertise the Ramblers when the new Go Outdoor Store opens in Daybrook (28th October 2016). They would have a stand on Saturday 5th November 2016.

Before the break Jenny handed out copies of a letter regarding the Chair's resignation which with Council approval would be sent to the Ramblers CEO.

6. DECISIONS

Decisions had been taken as the subjects were discussed.

7. AREA REPORTS

See Appendix II; III; IV; V; VI.

Secretary's Report - Jenny had several items she wished to bring to members attention:

Miner2Major Project – An email had been received from Beki Howey asking if the Notts Area Ramblers would like to become involved in this project. After discussion it was agreed that Jenny should invite them to do a presentation at the Area AGM.

Action: Jenny

Notts Guided Walks Partnership – Jenny read out a letter from Brian Cluff asking if he could give a ten minute presentation at the Area Meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2017. It was agreed that he could. Jenny to let him know.

Action: Jenny

Group AGM's – Could all Groups please let Jenny have their new committee details after their Group AGM.

Action: Groups

Notts Wolds Way – Jenny had been given copies of this booklet to give one to each Area Council Member and one to each Group.

Contact Email – Jenny's private email address would be changing shortly. Could all members please use secretary@nottsarearamblers.org.uk

Thanks were given to the Communications Sub Committee on what they had achieved.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Resignation of Area Chair

David gave some background details to Keith's decision to resign.

He was a highly motivated chair who had taken the Area forward in a progressive manner with his own unique ideas on bringing Area into the 21st century and looking at very different ways of achieving the aims and objectives of the Ramblers.

Members had read the letter and suggested one or two amendments. With the amendments made the letter should be sent to the New Ramblers' CEO Vanessa Griffiths. ***(Vanessa Griffiths does not take up her post until the end of November so Jenny sent it to Natasha Clayton the Interim CEO with a request that she makes sure Vanessa is made aware of the situation when she takes up her post.)***

Action: Jenny

Whilst we are without a Chair the Vice Chair will take on this role. Rod should be able to attend the meeting in January and has already had the Chair's email address sent to his. Keith will forward any mail he receives to Jenny.

8.2 Hosting General Council 2019

Depending on whether we fill the vacant posts on Area Council at Notts AGM will decide whether we cancel this offer or not. Caroline Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Chief Executives' Office, Ramblers said in a recent Email: *"We've already registered Nottingham's interest in hosting GC 2019 but that's a very long time off and we have only just started looking at venues for 2018, so no need to worry about whether you'll still be wanting to do that yet - we'll see where we all are next year."*

8.3 Publicity Material

Judith asked what publicity material the Ramblers supplied. Jenny said they supplied the membership form, a 'Find your Perfect Walk' flyer, pens and badges. This year Jenny had contacted the Editor of Walk Magazine who had supplied copies to hand out to the public.

The booklet 'The Heart of Walking' was no longer available. This was a really good informative booklet which gave details of what the Ramblers did: Campaigning, Protecting Paths, Ramblers Activities, Membership and Contact Information.

A discussion followed on whether we should design our own leaflet. It was agreed that this should be looked into and also sponsorship for the leaflet. Jenny would send a copy of 'The Heart of Walking' leaflet to Judith.

Action: Jenny

8.4 Ploughing and Cropping Surveys

Allan Rogers reported that the Ploughing and Cropping Surveys would be running from the 3rd October for four weeks covering the whole county. Notts County Council had decided to go ahead with this after the successful Spring survey.

James reported that he was involved in the Spring survey and had no communication from them and no feedback.

It was agreed that the four District Coordinators would get together and send on comments.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.