

**MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD AT BILSTHORPE WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT,**  
**BILSTHORPE ON TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 7.30 PM**

|                        |                  |                                  |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b><u>PRESENT:</u></b> | Keith Wallace    | Area Chair                       |
|                        | Rod Fillingham   | Area Vice Chair                  |
|                        | Jenny Fillingham | Area Secretary/Minutes Secretary |
|                        | Jack Prust       | Area Treasurer                   |
|                        | Chris Thompson   | Area Rights of Way Secretary     |
|                        | Judith Anson     | Area Membership Secretary        |
|                        | James McGill     | Area Groups Officer              |
|                        | Steve Parkhouse  | Area Newsletter Editor (Web)     |
|                        | Allan Rogers     | Area Committee Member            |
|                        | David Hunt       | Area Committee Member            |
|                        | Barry Cordery    | Broxtowe Group                   |
|                        | Robin Davison    | One Step Walkers Group           |
|                        | David Dobson     | Nottingham Group                 |
|                        | Jim Norris       | Gedling & Dukeries Group         |
|                        | Diane Jackson    | One Step Walkers Group           |
|                        | Alan Wilson      | Rushcliffe Group                 |

Keith welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the new format.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Steve Holland, Area Website Administrator; Brendan Barnes, Notts & Derby Group; Rab Bird, Vale of Belvoir Group; Brian Clayton, Nottingham Group; Barrie Evieson, Southwell Group; Sally Fraser, Retford Group; Harriet Lagnado, Notts & Derby Group.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016)**

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

Proposed: Judith Anson

Seconded: Alan Wilson

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The actions in the previous minutes had been carried out.

**4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**4.1 Setting up of a Membership & Recruitment Subcommittee**

**Area Council is asked to agree** to the setting up of a Membership & Recruitment Subcommittee. This committee will be formed and chaired by the Area Chair, Keith Wallace, initially. Its purpose is to look at membership retention and recruitment across the County and will include working with Walking for Health and oversight of the Get Walking Week to be held in September 2016. Group Membership Secretaries will be invited to play an active role in developing the work done by this committee. Judith Anson, Area Membership Secretary, would be involved in this subcommittee.

#### **4.2 Change of name from District Coordinator subcommittee to Rights of Way subcommittee**

We currently have a Rights of Way subcommittee that doesn't meet. It is mainly made up of Group Footpath Officers and the Area Rights of Way Officer. We also have a District Coordinators subcommittee that meets approximately every three months and is mainly for District Coordinators, the Area Rights of Way Officer and the Area Walking Environment Officer (post currently vacant). Group Footpaths Officers may also attend the DC subcommittee.

**Area Council is asked to approve** the amalgamation of the two sub-committees under the name of Rights of Way subcommittee, to be chaired by David Hunt. This will ensure that the County's rights of way are properly looked after at all levels. The Area Rights of Way Officer will retain the right to call a meeting specifically for Group Footpath Officers as and when appropriate.

#### **4.3 Notts Wolds Way Presentation – Alan Wilson**

Alan Wilson is involved in the creation by Notts Footpaths Preservation Society (NFPS) of this new long distance path just south of Nottingham. The Notts Wolds Way (NWW) is about 26 miles long meandering from Bunny to Cropwell Butler and going through the villages of Wysall, Willoughby on the Wolds, Widmerpool, Keyworth, Normanton on the Wolds, Clipston on the Wolds and Stanton on the Wolds and Cropwell Bishop. The route uses existing footpaths and bridleways, many of which are new and not yet appearing on OS maps. Waymarking of the route is now complete and the NWW brochure and website are being developed in preparation for the official launch on Tuesday 23 August 2016. The work is supported by a matching grant from the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust and has the backing of the County Council Rights of Way team.

#### **4.4 Walk Leader Training & Register**

Some Groups are lucky enough to have plenty of walk leaders whilst others struggle. Some Groups have also asked about Walk Leader Training.

**Area Council is asked to approve** steps to set up some walk leader training and to introduce a register of walk leaders who are willing to help struggling Groups by providing an occasional walk. Central Office will help Area to set up appropriate Walk Leader Training (*this will only be for people who ask for it*). The register will be for any Walk Leaders who *volunteer* to lead a walk for another Group. At its simplest, Walk Leaders could offer to lead a walk that they have already done for any Group that want it.

#### **4.5 Volunteer Path Clearance/Maintenance Teams Formation & Training**

All around the country, Ramblers volunteers work to maintain and enhance the rights of way network, but not in Nottinghamshire. Notts County Council has consistently refused to discuss the Ramblers getting involved in volunteering. An alternative would be to form Volunteer Groups, get them trained then work directly with Landowners.

The launch date for the VIA to take on the responsibility for path maintenance has been put back to July 2016.

The time was right to strike now and offer to help with path maintenance.

David Hunt explained that he had a meeting with Councillor Wilkinson, Notts County Council in the near future and he would raise this matter with them.

Our Ramblers' Liability Insurance will cover us for this work. David said he would check this out too.

#### **4.6 New Area Walking Environment Officer**

Keith had met with Dr Peter Revill a University Lecturer and Environmentalist who would be retiring shortly. Peter had looked at the job description on the Ramblers' Website and was very interested in taking on this vacant position. He was used to working in a team with strong minded people and was a member of the Ramblers.

Keith asked if he could co-opt Peter as the Area Walking Environment Officer. This was agreed unanimously.

Peter was planning to attend the Members Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which would be an opportunity for members to meet him.

Jim said he would pass his records on to Peter.

**Action: Jim Norris**

### **5. GROUP REPORTS**

See Appendix VIII

**Nottingham Group** – David Dobson gave an update on the Group's YHA weekend to Kington, Herefordshire, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The weekend was excellent. The Group woke to a snowstorm on the first morning but they were still able to complete a walk each day.

**One Step Walkers** – They managed to run a walk programme which included: Spring/Summer - evening midweek walks; Saturday - long walks; Sunday - short walks starting late morning (enabling members to enjoy a lie in). They had a variety of social events, weekends away and holidays. They had 134 members.

#### ***Social/Break***

### **6. DECISIONS**

4.1 15 in favour 1 Abstention

4.2 All in favour

4.3 No decision required

4.4 All in favour

4.5 All in favour

4.6 All in favour

## 7. **AREA OFFICER'S REPORTS**

These reports had been sent out on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**Communications Subcommittee Report** – This had been omitted from the reports and Jenny had emailed it out before she came to the meeting. Printed copies had been given to members attending this meeting.

There were no updates or questions on the reports.

**Mandate for Unity Trust Bank Account** – Jack explained that due to changes to the Area Council Officers made at the Area Annual General Meeting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016 it was necessary to appoint two new signatories.

*The two new signatories for the Nottinghamshire Area Unity Trust Bank Account would be: Keith Wallace and Rod Fillingham.*

Proposed: Jack Prust

Seconded: Alan Wilson

Agreed Unanimously

Jack would complete and send off the necessary forms.

**Action: Jack Prust**

## 8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 **Members Day** – This would be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Full details would be emailed to members.

8.2 **Volunteer Development Day** – This would be held at the Nottingham CVS on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. Two workshops had been cancelled due to lack of interest: Get more people walking with Routes, webpages and walks and Taking part in a Public Inquiry. There were still places available on the other workshops.

8.3 **Group Treasurers Meeting** – Jack would be contacting the Group Treasurers shortly with details of the arrangements and date.

## 9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm.