

MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT BILSTHORPE WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESENT,
BILSTHORPE ON TUESDAY 19th JULY 2016 AT 7.30 PM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Keith Wallace	Area Chair
	Rod Fillingham	Area Vice Chair
	Jenny Fillingham	Area Secretary/Minutes Secretary
	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
	Brian Clayton	Nottingham Group
	David Dobson	Nottingham Group
	Barrie Evison	Southwell Group
	Sally Frazer	Retford Group
	Jim Norris	Gedling & Dukeries Group
	Martin Smith	Rushcliffe Group
	Alex Staniforth	Mansfield & Sherwood Group

Keith welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Barrier Evison, Southwell Group, who was attending for the first time.

1. RAMBLERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Keith brought everyone's attention to the new Ramblers' Code of Conduct. This would shortly be followed by the Ramblers' Disciplinary Procedure (this was just waiting for the official sign-off).

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Jack Prust, Area Treasurer; Allan Rogers, Area Committee Member; Steve Holland, Area Website Administrator; Rab Bird, Vale of Belvoir Group; Barry Cordery, Broxtowe Group; Robin Davison, One Step Walkers; Diane Jackson, One Step Walkers; Harriet Lagnado, Notts & Derby Group.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Tuesday 19th April 2016)

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

Proposed: Chris Thompson

Seconded: David Hunt

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The actions in the previous minutes had been carried out.

5. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Robin Hood Way Flexi Group

See Appendix X

Jenny gave details of the history of the Robin Hood Way and details of how important Wardens were in keeping the path useable and waymarked. More Wardens were needed and if any person/or group would be interested in becoming a Warden for a Section of the Robin Hood Way would they please let her know.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that at the next Members' Day on Saturday 6th August 2016 Jenny would bring a list of which sections needed Wardens.

Action: Jenny

5.2 Walking for Health (WfH)

WfH is now fully embedded at a national level and the next step is to build on the relationships already taking place between Ramblers Groups and WfH Schemes. Keith is in discussions with the Regional Officer for Walking for Health regarding developing links between Nottinghamshire's Walking for Health Schemes and Nottinghamshire's Ramblers Groups. Three good examples already exist within the County and others are being developed.

- 1) Broxtowe Ramblers and Broxtowe Walk and Talk
- 2) Rushcliffe Ramblers and Rushcliffe Move & Mingle
- 3) Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers and its own On Your Doorstep Scheme

The three step plan is as follows:-

- 1) To link up Groups and Schemes where it is beneficial to both.
- 2) Where necessary, to set up new Groups or Schemes to go with existing Groups/Schemes.
- 3) To look at population areas with neither a Group or a Scheme to see if a new Group/Scheme is viable.

Any plans to set up new Groups would, of course, be brought to Area Council first.

No vote is required but Area Council Members are invited to comment and discuss.

A discussion followed and it was noted that Mansfield and Sherwood Group had gained 17 new Ramblers' members from WfH.

The two elements for progression were: Enjoyment/Social Aspect and Confidence (encouraging WfH walkers to have the confidence to move on).

5.3 General Council 2019

There is currently a vacancy for an Area to host the 2019 General Council of Ramblers. Keith has provisionally booked this for Nottinghamshire, subject to the approval of Area Council. The thinking behind this is that the event would serve as a focal point for the work that we are doing over the next couple of years, including developing Walking for Health; membership & recruitment; rights of way work; communication and publicity; a new focus on recruiting younger members.

Area Council is asked to approve a bid by Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers to host the 2019 Ramblers General Council.

A discussion followed. A vote would be taken after the break.

5.4 Walkers and Cyclists

See Appendix XI

Amongst the papers sent out for this Area Council is a press release from Ramblers Central Office dated 7th July that Keith has called “Walkers and Cyclists”. The Rights of Way sub-committee (District Coordinators and Group Footpath Secretaries) are already discussing this issue and the Area Rights of Way Officer, Chris Thompson, will be issuing a paper to its next meeting in September. Group Reps are asked to bring the press release to the attention of their Group Footpaths Secretaries.

Although there will be no debate or vote at this Area Council, in order to inform Chris' paper, Area Council members are invited to give their initial thoughts on this matter.

A very lively discussion took place.

6. GROUP REPORTS

Martin Smith, Rushcliffe Group, would like to add to his report that Jeremy Pratt had stood down as Group Treasurer and Keith Coxon had taken on the role.

PRESENTATION TO ALEX STANIFORTH

Keith made a presentation to Alex of a certificate from the Ramblers' acknowledging all the work that he had done over the 31 years he has been a member (joined in July 1985) and served on Nottinghamshire Area Council for 28 years.

7. VOTE ON HOSTING GENERAL COUNCIL 2019

The following was proposed:

Nottinghamshire Area should put in a bid to host the Ramblers' 2019 General Council.

Proposed: Keith Wallace

Seconded: Chris Thompson

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Keith would contact Head Office and let them know that we would like to host Ramblers' General Council 2019.

Action: Keith

8. AREA OFFICER'S REPORTS

See Appendices (there is no Appendix V Area Walking Environment Officer or Appendix VII Area Groups Officer).

Alex referred to the section in Keith's report concerning Walk Leader Training. In the past

he and Geoff Rix had run these courses and he still had his notes and equipment which they had used.

Appendix III Area Treasurer's Report asks for approval to renew our annual membership of the CPRE and the Peak and Northern Footpath Society. This expenditure has already been budgeted for.

A vote was taken: For 15 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Jenny would let Jack know that he could pay these renewals.

Action: Jenny/Jack

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alex explained that over the years in his various Area roles he had accumulated lots of items. He would like to ask Council what they thought he should now do with them. The items were: DVD Player – no longer used; Display Boards – very tatty; very basic Gazebo; One set of two way radios.

After discussion it was agreed that they should all be disposed of. The display boards would be given to Martin Smith, Rushcliffe Group.

Alex also had copies of all the Notts Walker Magazine. This would be going to the Nottingham Archives.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.