

MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT BILSTHORPE WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT,
BILSTHORPE ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30 PM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Rod Fillingham	Area Vice Chair
	Jenny Fillingham	Area Secretary
	Jack Prust	Area Treasurer
	Chris Thompson	Area Rights of Way Secretary
	Judith Anson	Area Membership Secretary
	David Hunt	Area Committee Member
	Allan Rogers	Area Committee Member
	Barbara Dobson	Nottingham Group
	David Dobson	Nottingham Group
	Barrie Evison	Southwell Group
	Keith Jacobs	Broxtowe Group
	Jim Norris	Gedling & Dukeries Group
	Alex Staniforth	Mansfield & Sherwood Group
	John Young	Vale of Belvoir Group

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: James McGill, Area Groups Officer; Steve Parkhouse, Area Newsletter Editor (Web); Robin Davison, One Step Walkers; Philip Storer, Notts & Derby Group; Alan Wilson, Rushcliffe Group.

2. PRESENTATION: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUIDED WALKS PARTNERSHIP

Rod introduced Brian Cluff to members and explained that Brian would be giving a short presentation on the Nottinghamshire Guided Walks Partnership.

Brian explained that the first programme they organised was in 2010 after Notts County Council decided not to produce the Nottinghamshire Walks Programme. They have received funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

They have 8,000 walk booklets printed which are available from Notts Area Libraries and local shows. They have a website: www.nottsguidedwalks.co.uk which any walks received after the cut-off date for printing the programme go on.

Brian would like to encourage all Groups to think about adding some of their walks to the 2017 Programme. Walks are normally up to a maximum of 10 miles. It is an ideal opportunity to introduce new walkers to the Ramblers.

The deadline for this year's programme is 28th January 2017. Please send your walk details to Alex Staniforth, email: a.staniforth1@ntlworld.com

Rod reminded members that any walk put forward must be in the Group's Walks Programme so that the leader would be covered by the Ramblers' Insurance.

Rod thanked Brian for an interesting presentation and hoped that the Groups would take up the opportunity to recruit new members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Tuesday 18th October 2016)**

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

Proposed: David Hunt

Seconded: Jack Prust

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

4.1 **Notts Area AGM** – The Annual Report had been put on the Notts Area Website before Christmas and Steve had sent out the Notts Walker on 5th January 2017.

5. **Group Reports** – Jenny had sent the revised Appendix VII Group Reports out.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

Miner2Major – Jenny had contacted Beki Howey who agreed to attend the Area AGM and give a presentation.

Notts Guided Walks Partnership – Jenny had contacted Brian Cluff who had given his presentation at the start of this meeting.

New Group Committee Contact Details – Jenny had received these.

Wolds Way Booklet – Bought here again this evening and Jenny will take them to the Area AGM.

8.1 **Resignation of Area Chair** – Jenny had sent the letter to Natasha Clayton, Interim CEO, with a request that she makes sure Vanessa Griffiths is made aware of the situation when she takes up her post. Reply had been received and forwarded to Area Council Members and Group Secretaries.

8.3 **Publicity Material: Produce our own Leaflet** – Jenny had sent Judith a copy of 'The Heart of Walking' leaflet. This had been discussed at the Communications Groups meeting and it had been decided that if specific publicity was needed for an event then material targeted at a specific audience would be produced in small quantity (See Appendix VI).

5. **AREA OFFICERS REPORTS**

5.1 Chair

Nothing to report.

5.2 Secretary

See Appendix I

Jenny brought attention to the following:

Resignation – Peter Revill, Area Walking Environment Officer, had resigned on 29th December 2016. Jenny had informed Central Office and received a reply to ask if he would still be carrying out the duties of Area Countryside Officer. This was very disturbing

as Des Garrahan had confirmed that the post of Area Countryside Officer had been deleted and replaced by Area Walking Environment Officer. On the Ramblers' website there is not a job description for Area Countryside Officer, the form to send in changes to Area/Group Committees does not have a space for Area Walking Environment Officer only Area Countryside Officer and the Survey just sent out has a list of Area/Group positions but no mention of the Area Walking Environment Office only Area Countryside Secretary! Communication is still a problem not only with Central Office and Areas/Groups but with Central Office Departments.

Gedling & Dukeries Group – At their recent AGM they had agreed to let Mansfield & Sherwood Group have the old Dukeries Group Postal Codes. Members would still be able to stay in the Gedling Group. Mansfield & Sherwood Group agreed but would not be using the Dukeries name. They would need to amend their Group Constitutions at their next AGM to reflect any name change. Jenny to let Central Office know.

Action: Jenny

Trustee Minutes 16th/17th November 2016 – Jenny brought members attention to these minutes in particular the reference to Trustees adopting a mechanism through which the board can manage Areas.

General Council – Received first set of documents. Deadline for Motions is 18th February 2017; Deadline for Booking Forms is 18th February 2017. General Council is on 1st/2nd April 2017 at the University of Southampton. Chris had already let Jenny know that he would like to go. This will be discussed at the Area AGM as Central Office normally pay for 2 Voting Delegates and Area pay for 2 Visitors to attend. It was agreed that we would not be sending a Motion forward.

Survey 'Tell us your views on improving support for Ramblers Groups and Areas' – A discussion took place and it was decided to leave this until after our Area AGM. The closing date is 31st March 2017.

5.3 Treasurer's Report

See Appendix II

5.4 Rights of Way Secretary

See Appendix III

Chris wanted to point out that this report was on behalf of Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers Rights of Way Subcommittee.

Allan brought members attention to the HS2 route which had been modified. There were two meetings being held in our area: Trowell 27th January 2017: 12.00 noon – 8.00 pm and at Long Eaton 28th January 2017: 10.00 am – 9.00 pm.

A discussion took place about the survey for fracking around Sherwood Forest. Rod explained that this was a Geological Survey and Notts County Council had confirmed that they had received no application for fracking.

5.5 Walking Environment Officer

Nothing to report

5.6 Membership Secretary

See Appendix IV

5.7 Groups Officer

Nothing to report.

5.8 Communications Subcommittee

See Appendix VI

6. GROUP REPORTS

See Appendix V

Mansfield & Sherwood Group – Alex reported that they now had a new Treasurer. Jack asked him to send contact details to himself and Jenny.

Action: Alex

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Area AGM Sunday 5th February 2017

Keith reported that everything had been arranged and Sue had sent full details which had been put on the Notts Area Website. There would be cakes available to purchase at lunchtime. Thanks to Sue who had been responsible for the arrangements and would also be leading one of the walks on the day.

Chris asked if there would be display boards available for his Rights of Way display. Martin Smith would be asked if he could provide the boards as he had been given Alex's display boards as we no longer used them.

Paul Rhodes is the Ramblers' Trustee who will be attending our AGM. He has not been in touch yet.

7.2 Walking Safely

Allan brought to everyone's attention the fact that there had been several articles in the National Press about walkers getting lost and in difficulties on the hills. It was very important that when we go walking alone we all leave details of where we are walking and that we wear the correct clothes.

7.3 Laurence Ogden Request

Alex gave details of Laurence Ogden and his group of friends who would be staying in the Edwinstowe area on 9th/10th May 2017. Laurence had contacted Alex to ask if he could provide two walks leaders. Maximum mileage 8 miles. Alex is the contact point.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

Meeting closed at 9.27 pm.