

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM AT
BILSTHORPE MINERS WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT,
BILSTHORPE**

Minutes

Present Judith Anson, (Area Secretary & Membership Secretary), Martin Gawith (Chair), Jim Norris (Vice chair, Countryside Officer and Gedling), David Dobson (Nottingham), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), Barrie Evison (Southwell), Alan Wilson (Rushcliffe), Chris Thompson (RoW Secretary), James McGill (Groups Officer), Alex Staniforth (Mansfield & Sherwood)

1. Apologies – Steve Parkhouse (Minutes Secretary, Newsletter Editor), Allan Rogers (Council), Sally Fraser (Retford), Diana Munro (Worksop), David Hunt (Council), Jack Prust (Treasurer)
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (17th October 2017)
Approved
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - 3.1 Walks with MPs –
The original minute from July 2017 was referred to: *Area asked to organise walks with MPs. Paddy Tipping willing to organise a walk with the Nottingham City MPs. Other Groups to organise walks but coordination needed where MP constituencies over lapped into several Groups - CT to arrange.* Chris Thompson confirmed he would take forward the July action.
 - 3.2 Walking for Health
Martin Gawith reported the 9th January meeting between Walking for Health and Ramblers Groups had been productive with all present being willing to work together. The Walking for Health Groups thought in terms of time, while Ramblers Groups thought in miles. Rod Wallis, the national Walking for Health Organiser had attended but had been unable to confirm the position on national funding from 1st April. Alan Wilson confirmed Walking for Health members had joined Rushcliffe Group. Area Council would work with Keith Wallace on taking it forward.
4. Area Officers Reports
 - 4.1 Chair *Appendix I* Martin Gawith proposed the creation of a new Area Officer post, Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer. This would reduce the workload of the ROW Officer. Alan Wilson seconded the proposal. The new post would be added to the posts to be filled at the AGM. The postholder would work under the auspices of the ROW Committee.
 - 4.2 Secretary *Appendix II*
 - 4.3 Treasurer *Appendix III* Jack Prust had returned to work but was still undergoing treatment. It was noted the quarterly payment had not been made to the Groups. The following resolution also approved, seconded by Alan Wilson:

Area Council agrees that the following officers of the Area Council should be appointed as signatories to the bank account and they will also to be given access to the online banking facility. The officers in these posts will be formally elected at the Area AGM on 4th February 2018.

Area Chair – to be appointed at AGM on 4th February 2018

Area Vice-Chair - to be appointed at AGM on 4th February 2018

Area Treasurer - to be appointed at AGM on 4th February 2018

Area Secretary - to be appointed at AGM on 4th February 2018

- 4.4 Rights of Way Secretary *Appendix IV*, Chris Thompson explained that his Area Report was also the ROW Annual Report
- 4.5 Countryside Officer *Appendix V*
- 4.6 Membership Secretary *Appendix VI* Judith Anson apologised that the standard template still referred to Gedling & Dukeries. There were 67 members now Not in a Group. Although members had always been able to choose this option, now most new members joined on line the number choosing this had greatly increased. Judith wanted to explore ways of involving these members as they were not able to attend Area council. Although several members of Area Council thought these members should join a Group if they wanted to be included in Area activity, it was agreed that Judith should contact other Areas to see how they involved these members.
- 4.7 Groups Officer *Appendix VII* James McGill explained the move from postcodes to parishes and the process had begun with Gedling and Mansfield & Sherwood. This would be helpful to Group Footpath Secretaries and the District Coordinators. James also explained that two Local Organisers had been appointed by Central Office to Nottinghamshire. The following resolution was approved, proposed by James and seconded by Martin:
- a letter be sent to Central Office stating that:
1. the existing Local Organisers must work within the same governance rules as all current volunteers i.e. they are accountable to either a Group or to Area Council and they must work to agreed Area policy; and
 2. Area must be involved in the short listing and appointment of any future Local Organisers.
- 4.8 Communications Subcommittee *Appendix VIII* A compliment slip from One Step Walkers was circulated. This would be sent to other Groups to see if they wanted to adapt it. Where there was a problem with IT expertise in a Group, the Communications Group would see if it could help.
5. Group Reports *Appendix IX*
Gedling – the Group had considered the parishes and agreed that all parishes in the Borough of Gedling should be included, to the north up to Ravenshead & Hucknall and to the east if not ‘claimed’ by another Group.
6. Area AGM 4th February and 2019 AGM
Final papers for the AGM would be on the website shortly. A Group was needed to host the 2019 AGM.

7. Discussion Topic for April

Agreed to ask if Keith Wallace could attend for a further discussion on Walking for Health.

8 Discussion – Impact on the Environment

Facilitated by Jim Norris

Jim set out the Ramblers definition of the environment and encouraged members to visit the CPRE website www.cpre.org.uk. The new planning regulations gave an assumption to develop and had removed the restrictions of building on flood plains.

Members were asked to identify and discuss the major environmental issues for Nottinghamshire. Those considered were:

sand & gravel extraction because of the Trent flood plain

housing built on green belt rather than brown field sites and reconciling this with the need for housing for future generations

HS2 the RA policy was to accept it but protect ROW, the number of users of ROW affected were to be counted and we need to walk those identified as a priority

fracking

fly tipping

solar farms and wind farms

traffic pollution

Members considered solutions but ran out of time. We should campaign for sustainable transport or alternatives such as walking and cycling. All planning applications should be reviewed.

Jim was thanked for leading a very interesting discussion.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 17th April 2018 at 7.30 pm