

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH APRIL 2018 AT 7.30 PM
AT BILSTHORPE MINERS WELFARE & INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT, BILSTHORPE**

Minutes

Meeting chaired by Jim Norris

Present Judith Anson, (Area Secretary & Membership Secretary), Jim Norris (Area Vice-chair, Area Countryside Officer & Gedling), Jack Prust (Area Treasurer), Steve Parkhouse (Minutes Secretary, Newsletter Editor & ROW Secretary), Alex Staniforth (Mansfield & Sherwood), Barbara Dobson & David Dobson (Nottingham), Allan Rogers (ROW Secretary), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Officer), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), Dave & Elaine Hobson (Vale of Belvoir), Barrie Evison (Southwell), Keith Wallace (speaker)

1. Apologies James McGill (Area Chair), David. Hunt, Alan Wilson (Rushcliffe), John Young (Vale of Belvoir). Jim Norris read an email from David Hunt concerning his current health difficulties.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16th January 2018)
Approved
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - 3.1 Walks with MPs – see item 4.1
 - 3.2 Walking for Health – see item 8
 - 3.3 Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer – Jim welcomed Chris Thompson to the role.
 - 3.4 Local Organisers – Letter sent to Central Office setting out the resolution of Area Council on how Local Organisers will work in Nottinghamshire.
 - 3.5 2019 AGM – Gedling has volunteered and Jim asked the Area Secretary to contact Johnathan Ankers, Group Secretary
 - 3.6 Impact on the Environment – see article on website
4. Area Officers Reports
 - 4.1 Chair Appendix I Chair has requested in his report that the two Local Organisers be invited to attend July Area Council to make a presentation on inviting MPs and County Councillors to join Ramblers' walks. Area Council agreed to invite them. A draft job description for the post of Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer had been circulated but this would be subject to further discussion. GDPR would be impacting on Areas and Groups and was mentioned in several Officer reports.
 - 4.2 Secretary Appendix II Judith had not received the revised list of parishes and maps from Central Office. The joint meeting with Walking for Health about GDPR was confirmed for 10th May at 2pm. Six Ramblers Groups would send representatives. The Rushcliffe Membership Secretary was the only volunteer from Groups for the GDPR working party. (*Post Meeting Note: Southwell Group Chair has also come forward.*)
The following resolution was approved:
Area Council agrees to fund a meeting at The Station Hotel, refreshments and travel expenses for a meeting between representatives of Ramblers Groups and Walking for Health Schemes at an approximate cost of £100.
 - 4.3 Treasurer Appendix III Jack explained there had been delays at Unity Bank with the change of signatories and few payments had been made in the last quarter. Two quarters payments had been made to Groups. The third was normally paid in April but the funds had not been received from Central Office. The annual budgeting exercise would start shortly. Jack proposed to request only Group funds for 2018/19 to reduce the Area surplus and to meet Central Office requirements. Groups were asked to note Jack's change of business address.

- 4.4 Rights of Way Secretaries Appendix IV Alex asked about the Ethel Ave claim – new witnesses now being sought by local residents.
- 4.5 Countryside Officer Appendix V Jim raised the Defra Agriculture consultation. Allan Rogers informed the meeting that Central Office had asked Rights of Way Secretaries to make a submission. It was agreed to put the email with specimen letter on the website and the Area Secretary would forward to Groups.
- 4.6 Membership Secretary Appendix VI Judith congratulated the Groups on the across the board increase in numbers.
- 4.7 Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer Chris Thompson will be writing to all Groups about a new walk book with a target publication date of 2020. There had been considerable changes in the County since the last book, including the creation of permissive and recreational paths following the pit closures. Chris hoped all Groups get involved in this.
- 4.8 Communications Subcommittee Appendix VIII nothing to add
5. Group Reports Appendix IX nothing to add
6. Discussion Topic for July
As agreed in 4.1 the Local Organisers would make a presentation.
7. Notts Walker
Alex Staniforth had found two more sets of hard copies of all Notts Walkers. There was already a full set in the Nottinghamshire archives and Alex asked for ideas for these additional copies. It was agreed to consider this for the next Area Council. One suggestion was an exhibition of the archives at the 2019 AGM. Central Office could also be asked if they wanted a copy.
8. Walking for Health Facilitated by Keith Wallace
Four papers from Keith were circulated in preparation for this session and Jim gave a short introduction from the session at General Council.
- The joint meeting between Walking for Health Schemes (WfH) and Ramblers Groups on 9th January had established the principles of closer working within Nottinghamshire. Keith explained the future plans for WfH. Macmillan and the People's Postcode Lottery would pick up the costs until December 2018 when national funding would cease. From 1st April WfH would be known as Ramblers Walking for Health and there was a new logo. All WfH Schemes were very different and did not need Ramblers to continue to operate providing they could obtain insurance. There were benefits to both Schemes and Groups from walkers moving “up” to Group walks, “down to “Scheme” walks or walking in both. Joint social events would enable members of Groups and Schemes to get to know each other. It was noted that WfH walkers were unlikely to join Ramblers. One of the charitable aims of Ramblers is to encourage people to walk, whether members or not.
- The meeting resolved to support Keith's request to continue to have a commitment to reaching out to the WfH Schemes and address the need for a County wide strategy that engages not just WfH Schemes, but other walking organisations.
- The Vice-chair thanked Keith for an interesting and informative session – it was disappointing there were not more Group representatives present.

Finished 9.25pm