

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 17TH JULY 2018 AT BILSTHORPE**

Minutes

Present James McGill (Chair) Judith Anson (Area Secretary & Membership Secretary), Jim Norris (Area Vice-chair, Area Countryside Officer & Gedling), 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 Paths Officer), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Alan Wilson (Rushcliffe), Rachael Drewery (Notts & Derbys), Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), Helen Aplin & Helen Rushby (Local Organisers and speakers)

1. Apologies
David Hunt (Area Council Member), Jack Prust (Area Treasurer), Barrie Evison (Southwell)
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (17th April 2018)
Approved
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
None – all covered on agenda.
4. Area Officers Reports
 - 4.1 **Chair Appendix I.** Suggestion of organising short walks based on schools and GP surgeries. All encouraged to claim expenses to give a Central Office (CO) a realistic view of costs of running Area. Emphasis on positive working with County Council, landowners and other organisations concerned with countryside access and ROWs.
 - 4.2 **GDPR** Groups have received advice on GDPR from Area to only use CO membership lists. The opt in figures for email had fallen considerably, adversely affecting the Notts Walker distribution list. Groups were concerned members had not understood the importance of the opt in email from CO and did not realise this would exclude them from local communications. Individual members had experienced difficulty in changing their choices on line, although there were CO officers available on the 'phone to make the changes. Groups were particularly concerned at losing touch with their members which could result in reduced membership numbers. There was no Forum where Areas and Groups could post questions so Felix Wilkey, CO Data Protection Officer would be answering the same queries from every Area and Group which seemed a waste of resources. Area Secretary asked to write to Central Office setting out the concerns of Area Council.
 - 4.3 **Secretary Appendix II** Free First Aid Courses offered by the Red Cross. In addition to the course at the Area AGM, it was agreed to offer training in 3 centres in Notts to assist Groups. The Quaker Meeting House, in Mansfield,

the Robin Hood Theatre at Averham and a venue in Bingham/Ratcliffe were suggested. Judith would arrange.

- 4.4 **Treasurer** *Appendix III* Jack was in hospital and Judith circulated a brief statement from the bank account. James asked if a Group Treasurer would be able to help Area if Jack was unable to continue. Rushcliffe agreed to ask their Group Treasurer. Alex Staniforth had been concerned papers were no longer available in meetings or the AGM. Alex had spoken to Rod and Jenny Fillingham who were willing to use their commercial printer to make papers available in meetings. This would be an estimated cost of £100 for the year. Council thanked Jenny for the offer but agreed members would print their own if required or use their electronic devices.
- 4.5 **Rights of Way Secretaries** *Appendix IV* over 260 user forms received so far for the Lady Bay claim. NCC using Statutory Declaration on their own land at Eastwood to legally recognise footpaths. It was reported Gedling District Council had a new cycling strategy.
- 4.6 **Countryside Officer** *Appendix V* Jim reported HS2 plans now included bridges or underpasses in most places to accommodate rights of way. This was a great success for Ramblers. Alan Wilson added that he was now Secretary of the Nottinghamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
- 4.7 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix VI* Since the report had been prepared, Felix Wilkey had explained the June opt in figures had included positive choices and those who had not replied. The July opt in figures were only those who had positively opted in which explained the drop in numbers. Judith hoped the August figures would improve the number of members opted in to emails.
- 4.8 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer** *Appendix VII* Chris asked Groups to contribute to the book which NCC had been supportive of.
- 4.9 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VIII* Vale of Belvoir Group Committee thanked Area for the work on GDPR. Judith expressed concern that the actions of CO on Walking for Health Schemes would jeopardise the joint work undertaken by Area and Schemes locally and 'taint' Ramblers. No further action was possible until it was known how many Schemes would withdraw from Ramblers.
5. Group Reports *Appendix IX*
James gave a quick summary of Newark's report.
6. Discussion Topic for October
Council agreed the discussion topic for October would be led by Vale of Belvoir on Compiling a Walk Programme. Walk Coordinators would be invited to attend for this item.
Post Meeting Note: John Young would not be able to attend the October Council and it was agreed to delay this item until 15th January 2019 Council. The topic for October will be confirmed later.

7. Contacting MPs and County Councillors

Helen Aplin and Helen Rushby, Local Organisers, presented two papers to Council and facilitated a discussion. The paper and toolkit reflected the training from CO to all Local Organisers on contacting MPs. This training could be replicated for Groups if requested. Helen and Helen outlined the key points from the papers.

Area has used Paddy Tipping in the past to be the link with MPs. Contact with NCC was key to rights of way and also the involvement of organisations such as NFU and the Landowners Association. There was already a formal process in place for responding to consultations so the emphasis needed to be on influencing decision makers.

In response to questions about what CO was intending to achieve, Helen replied that CO wanted to promote national campaigns locally. Their new CO Manager had only been in post 3 weeks and Helen and Helen were hoping for a better steer on their role. Council felt membership, recruitment and retention was a vital campaign if Ramblers was to succeed.

Helen and Helen were thanked for their presentation. It was agreed Council members would ask their Groups if the Local Organisers could help with any specific items for MPs and Councillors.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 16th October 2018 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed 9.15pm