

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.30 PM AT BILSTHORPE MINERS WELFARE &
INSTITUTE, THE CRESCENT, BILSTHORPE**

Minutes

Present Jim Norris (Area Chair), Steve Parkhouse (Area ROW Secretary & Newsletter Editor), Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers), Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), James McGill (Area Vice-Chair), Judith Anson (Area Secretary & Area Membership Secretary) Alex Staniforth (Area Press & Publicity Officer), Barrie Evison (Southwell), Alan Wilson & Trevor Griffiths (Rushcliffe), Sue Rick (Mansfield & Sherwood), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Officer), Allan Rogers (Area ROW Sec)

1. Apologies
Dave Hobson & John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Andrew Yeoman (One Step Walkers), Jeremy Pratt (Area Treasurer), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), David & Barbara Dobson (Nottingham)
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16th July 2019)
Approved. Proposed: Alan Wilson Seconded: Keith Ross
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 3.1 **Trent Hills (Minute 4.1)** - Steve Parkhouse reported on action since the last meeting. Council agreed Steve should follow through on emails received from and sent to Neil Lewis. It was agreed the deadline for taking the case to the Ombudsman should be extended to the end of October.
- 3.2 **Peak & Northern Footpath Society (Minute 5.3)** – see Minute 4.2
- 3.3 **Campaign to Protect Rural England (Minute 5.3)** – see Minute 4.2
- 3.4 **Mayflower Pilgrim Trail (Minute 5.7)** – Council received a paper on the Mayflower Pilgrim Trail. While members were impressed by the outstanding work carried out in developing the trail and its supporting literature, it was agreed that it was not a function of Area Council to manage a long distance trail. The proposal was for Chris Thompson to establish a properly constituted body entirely separate from The Ramblers, with its own bank account and governance. The Robin Hood Way Association would be a model to follow. The separate body would be able to apply for funding from any source, including Area Council. Area Council agreed to recommend to Chris that such a body be established to take the Trail forward.
- 3.5 **Policy on Memorials (Minute 5.10)** the paper circulated at the last meeting had been withdrawn and it was agreed to leave it up to Groups. Allan Rogers reported that he had found of examples in old group reports of memorials being done without the involvement of Area.
4. Area Officers Reports
- 4.1 **Chair Appendix I**
Jim had received five enquiries about the Area Treasurer role. This had been so successful a further email would be sent out in the New Year for other vacant posts.
- 4.2 **Secretary Appendix II & II.1**
Voting Delegates to General Council Central Office had circulated a paper asking Areas to review how the voting delegates for 2020 were chosen. Council received a paper stating that Nottinghamshire already met the requirements and recommending the arrangements

did not need to be changed. The Area Secretary would continue to be one of the voting delegates but the AGM papers would encourage women to put themselves forward to attend GC.

Proposed: Janet Ross

Seconded: Alan Wilson

Peak & Northern Footpath Society Members had been asked to view the P&NFPS website and were asked to decide whether to continue to subscribe for 2020/21. Alan Wilson supported the continuing subscription as Groups walked in the Peak District regularly. Janet Ross opposed it as Worksop felt individuals should be encouraged to join to provide increased funding for P&NFPS. The corporate membership diluted the support and funding.

Proposal: that Area should continue to subscribe to P&NFPS for 2010/21,

Proposed: Alan Wilson

Seconded: Allan Rogers

Vote: 8 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention

Proposal carried

Campaign to Protect Rural England no response received to date, despite the request being sent in writing and made personally to the Area Support Team.

Area AGM 2nd February 2020 Vale of Belvoir were thanked for organising the AGM walks and the day. Alex Staniforth would make the arrangements for the Area Annual Report and AGM.

Area Website & Walksfinder there was a national problem with Area and Group websites following an update to systems at Central Office. It appeared the update had not been tested with the approx 150 websites managed by volunteers on the Joomla system. This resulted in the failure of the link to Walksfinder/GWEM. This was unacceptable and Judith had complained to Central Office.

4.3 **Treasurer** *Appendix III* no questions

4.4 **Rights of Way Secretary** *Appendix IV* no questions

4.5 **Countryside Officer** no report

4.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix V* a small increase in national total and congratulations to all Groups on their recruitment.

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer** *Appendix VI* a formal proposal on a new County walk book would be brought to January Council.

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VII* Judith Anson circulated copies of the three promotional leaflets which had cost £25 for 100 of each one. Members were asked to provide-constructive feedback. The idea had been taken from One Step Walkers.

4.9 **Press & Publicity Officer** *Appendix VIII* Alex Staniforth has copies of the new Central Office recruitment leaflet if anyone needs them. The eventing tent had worked well and this was an Area investment so should be used as much as possible. Groups were asked to contact Alex with events where the tent could be used. Jim suggested GreenFest in 2020. Allan Rogers said the pull up banners for the Robin Hood Way had attracted the most interest to the public. Alex confirmed these would cost £49. Judith proposed that a banner should be designed and purchased for Area. Allan Rogers Seconded and Council agreed that at least one banner would be bought. The design would be agreed by the Communications Subcommittee and the cost would be out of the £500 budget.

5. Group Reports *Appendix IX*

2020 would be the 10th Anniversary of the One Step Walkers and members offered their congratulations. Several Groups commented on their Group events to celebrate anniversaries. The reports for Ravenshead & Hucknall and for Broxtowe were read out.

6. Discussion Topic for January 2020

Following the discussion earlier in the meeting, Jim suggested we look at Area Officer structure. Given the difficulty in filling posts, what are the posts actually required? Under the constitution there are only 3 – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who must all be different people. It was agreed Jim would prepare a paper for the meeting. Alex also reminded members that Area used to hold a guided walks and open day for all members but it had not happened for some years. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting whether this should be revived for 2020 as it had generated publicity.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 PM on Tuesday, 21st January 2020.

8. **Press & Publicity Discussion Session** led by Jim Norris and Alex Staniforth, Members worked in small groups and discussed ideas how to improve publicity for Ramblers. The following points were made:

- we should promote walking for health and well being
- could we offer a challenge e.g. Country Walking 1,000 mile challenge
- we have different age groups in Ramblers and publicity needs to reflect that; target publicity at the groups
- have a target focus e.g. walking in Clumber park
- need to see about Ramblers in the press and tell people what Ramblers do
- what is our key message?
- is Ramblers the wrong name?
- how can we make better use of social media?
- people's reasons for joining the National Trust have changed over the years and the NT are now focusing on what individuals can get from their NT membership rather than the NT just caring for land and houses; Ramblers needs to re-think its approach
- emphasise Ramblers is a non-profit making national organisation and members can join with any Ramblers Group for a walk e.g. on holiday
- Notts CC not using volunteers to maintain ROW and this prevents Ramblers from using this as a recruitment tool i.e. some people would be attracted to the maintenance work
- need to publicise the wide variety of walks offered by Ramblers – long, short, urban, country
- need to get people into the habit of walking

Jim thanked all members for their valuable contribution to an interesting discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.35PM.