

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 PM AT BILSTHORPE

Minutes

Present Jim Norris (Area chair), James McGill (Area vice-chair), Judith Anson (Area Secretary & Membership Secretary), Steve Parkhouse (Minutes Secretary, Newsletter Editor & ROW Secretary), Barbara Dobson & David Dobson (Nottingham), Allan Rogers (ROW Secretary), Alex Staniforth (Area Press & Publicity, Mansfield & Sherwood), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Alan Wilson, Jeremy Pratt & Keith Coxon (Rushcliffe), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), Susan Cobley (Vale of Belvoir Treasurer), Keith Ross & Janet Ross (Worksop), Susan Rick (Mansfield & Sherwood), David Hunt (Area Council Member), Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers), Margaret Shaw (Newark Treasurer), Barrie Evison, Sandy Sheffield (Southwell), Rachael Drewery (Notts & Derbys), Alex McGowan & John Crofts (Gedling), Dick Harrison (Retford Treasurer), Anne Bister (Ravenshead & Hucknall), Wendy House (Broxtowe Treasurer).

1. Apologies
John Young, Vale of Belvoir, Ian Gillings, Southwell
2. Death of Alan Shiret
Alan Wilson explained the sad circumstances of the death of Alan Shiret on a Rushcliffe Group holiday at Ross-on-Wye. Group members trained as first aiders and first responders had worked until the para-medics and air ambulance arrived. There was a minute's silence in remembrance of Alan. Members asked their condolences be passed on.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (15th January 2019)
Approved
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
None – all covered on the agenda
5. Area Officers Reports
 - 5.1 **Chair** *Appendix I and I.I* – Heather Ingram, gave a brief verbal comment on General Council and the focus on alliances with other user groups. Jim reported on the very professional presentation by the management team. A full report to be made to July Council. Jim thanked Steve Parkhouse for his work on the CEO visit and his paper.
 - 5.2 **Secretary** *Appendix II* – No questions. A Group is required to host the 2020 Area AGM.
 - 5.3 **Treasurer** *Appendix III* – No questions.
 - 5.4 **Rights of Way Secretaries** *Appendix IV and IV.I, IV.II and IV.III*
The following resolution on Trent Hills was approved by Council
 - that over 15 years wait is too long and if it has not been referred to the Planning Inspectorate by the 16th July Area Council, notice of intention to take the matter to the Ombudsman will be served on the

Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive or the designated Legal Officer. If there has been no progress by the next Area Council meeting on 15th October the complaint will be made to the Ombudsman. Proposed: Alex Staniforth, Seconded: Alan Wilson.

- 5.5 **Countryside Officer** - no report
- 5.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix V* – in addition to the report, an email had been sent to Group Membership Secretaries setting out other problems. A presentation at General Council had shown the numbers of members falling as membership fees increased (although a causal relationship was not proved). A Central Office Membership Plan was promised.
- 5.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer** – Chris Thompson was not present for this item.
- 5.8 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VII and VII.I* The following resolution was approved by Council
- to purchase an event shelter at a cost of £764 and a sum of £500 be allocated to cover printing of compliment slips and entrance fees to be paid for events. The proposal was for 2019/20 only and would be reviewed with a further proposal put to Area Council for 2020/21.
Proposed Susan Rick, Seconded David Hunt.
Alex asked Groups to notify him of local events where Ramblers could have a presence.
- 5.9 **Press & Publicity Officer** *Appendix VIII* had unfortunately not been circulated and Alex spoke to it. Alex McGowan asked that a letter be sent to Central Office expressing concern that Areas were now having to produce their own publicity material, duplicating effort.
- 5.10 **Navigation Courses** - Alex Staniforth explained that a proposal to revive the courses will be an Agenda item in July.
- 5.11 **Miner2Major** - Alex Staniforth informed Council this project was now underway after a delay.
- 5.12 **Memorial to Des Whicher** - David Hunt explained a previous Council meeting had approved a memorial bench but Central Office had been contacted to ensure this complied with Ramblers Charitable objectives. David had received confirmation of this and proposed that £600 be allocated from Area funds to arrange a seat in Market Square, Newark. This was seconded by Jim Norris.
Post Meeting Note: in reading the previous Council minutes from 2015, the Executive has noted that those minutes did not confirm the basis on which this matter was discussed. The Executive has agreed no action is to be taken to implement this decision and it will be returned to Council in July.
6. **Group Reports** *Appendix IX*
An additional report was received from Collingham. Nottingham Group reported they were now using BACS payments, not cheques. Worksop Group had highlighted the issue of a man in a motorised wheelchair wanting to

attend walks. Jim had replied to confirm a 'reasonable adjustment' only was required.

7. Discussion Topic for July 2019
This would be press and publicity.

8. Group Accounts

Jeremy Pratt welcomed Group Treasurers and emphasised the key role of the Treasurer in holding the Groups together. Papers had been circulated and Jeremy explained the key points from these particularly – the use of the Annual Report Form Short, main reserves, Independent Examiners, Bank accounts, donations and volunteer expenses. Members then worked in small groups.

Jim thanked Group Treasurers for attending and Jeremy for leading the session.

9. Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday, 16th July 2019 at 7.30 pm