

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2020 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), Keith & Janet Ross (Workshop), Judith Anson (Area Secretary & Area Membership Secretary) Alex Staniforth (Area Press & Publicity Officer), Dave Johnson (Southwell), Alan Wilson (Rushcliffe), Sue Rick (Mansfield & Sherwood), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Officer), Allan Rogers (Area ROW Sec), Frank & Barbara Dobson (Nottingham), David and Sybil Dale (Nottingham), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), John Young (VBR), Allan Rogers (Area ROW Secretary)

1. Apologies Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers)
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (15th October 2019)
Approved: Proposed: Chris Thompson Seconded: Keith Ross
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - 3.1 **Campaign to Protect Rural England (Minute 3.3)** – still no reply from Central Office
 - 3.2 **Trent Hills (Minute 3.1)** – Steve Parkhouse reported he was waiting to refer the case to the Ombudsman as Notts County Council were trying to progress the case and had employed external solicitors.
4. Area Officers Reports
 - 4.1 **Chair Appendix I**

Jim reported the Ramblers Chief Executive had resigned with no reason given. The absence of a CEO could affect General Council and further information was awaited. Following the General Election, there were implications for the countryside such as the Agriculture Bill, a decision on HS2, fracking, etc. There also appeared to be a proposal to criminalise trespassing (currently a civil offence) with potential implications for ROW. It would be essential for Area to have a Countryside Officer. If no one came forward at the AGM, an advert would be sent out to the membership. A very positive meeting with Councillor Barnfather at Notts CC meant Ramblers would be able to undertake ROW maintenance. An Officer would need to lead on this and Jim suggested this should be the April discussion topic to ensure Notts Ramblers could meet this challenge.
 - 4.2 **Secretary Appendix II**

In answer to a question about the Walk Leaders courses, Judith explained these had been organised by Central Office (CO). There was a waiting list and Judith would be contacting CO to ask if they could organise a further course. Area had organised courses in the past. Alex thanked Janet Ross for her article asking people to stay for the AGM, rather than just attend the walks.
 - 4.3 **Treasurer Appendix III**

Neil reported the quarter allocation had been received and would be sent to Groups shortly.

4.4 **Rights of Way Secretary** *Appendix IV*

Allan Rogers had received several orders today but there were no concerns. Two items were awaiting the return of James. There was contact with Network Rail about padlocked gates on rail crossings but Allan was working with Network Rail on these. Steve Parkhouse reported that hopefully Warsop FP14 problems will be resolved as landowner has accepted replacement of the unusable footpath by bridleway (claimed in 2012).

4.5 **Countryside Officer** no report

4.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix V* no questions

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer** no questions

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VII* No questions

4.9 **What 3 words** *Appendix VIII* Neil Stafford presented a paper about What3Words which was being used by Notts Police, Fire & Rescue and EMAS to locate people in an emergency. There were mixed views from members: that everyone should be encouraged to use a map and compass; the system was not used by Leicestershire, Derbyshire or the Mountain Rescue in the Peak District or the Lake District; that walk leaders should be made aware of the system which might assist rescue in an accident on a walk; that it needed precision or the directions were a long way out. It was agreed a piece about What3Words would be included in the next Notts Walker to make members aware of it and decide whether to download it to their 'phone. Neil would also produce an article for the website.

4.10 **Press & Publicity Officer** *Appendix IX* no questions. Alex circulated a copy of the flyers/leaflets produced by the Communications Group.

5. Group Reports *Appendix X*

Nottingham Group – David Dobson reported the Group would discuss holding the 2021 Area AGM. Jim thanked David and hoped Nottingham would agree.

Rushcliffe Group - Alan Wilson drew attention to the proposed bridge for pedestrians and cyclists across the Trent below Lady Bay bridge. It was agreed Area support the scheme: proposed: Alan Wilson and seconded: Steve Parkhouse. It was resolved that Steve Parkhouse write to Hugh McClintock (Peddles) reiterating the support from Area, Rushcliffe and Nottingham Groups.

Gedling Group – details of the Gedling Access Road could be viewed on line.

Southwell Group – 30th anniversary in 2020 with special activities planned.

Ravenshead & Hucknall Group – the summer programme was being revised and a trip to BBC Nottingham organised.

Vale of Belvoir Group – preparations for the AGM were well advanced although the weather was causing problems for the walk leaders

6. Discussion Topic for April Council

It was agreed the session would be led by the Rights of Way Committee and would focus on the agreement with NCC on maintenance of rights of way – how this would be managed, who would do the work, etc.

7. GDPR – Advertising Breach

Jim reported there had been a breach of the advertising part of the Ramblers GDPR rules in that the January Notts Walker had been circulated to all members with an email address. Although this edition contained notification of the AGM which could be sent to all members, it also included details of courses on map reading and other items of interest to members. The latter could only be sent to members who had opted in to receive emails. Jim read part of the response from Ramblers Central Office thanking Area for notifying them and for the confirmation that would be corrected for 2021. No further action was required.

8. **Area Officer Structure – Discussion Session**

Jim introduced this discussion session. Members were asked to work in groups and consider the following points:

- there was a lack of volunteers for Area and Groups
- there was an excessive burden on those Officers in post
- could we share roles between Groups?
- what support would Groups like from Area?

Each group recorded their ideas which Jim would review and present to a future meeting. There were several immediate comments:

- a new post of “Training Officer” could look at media skills, first aid, navigation, recruitment
- the bigger the Group the more posts required and therefore more people needed
- what could people contribute to their Group?
- flexible posts were needed i.e. without portfolio.

Jim thanked all members for their contribution.

9. Date of Next Meeting

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