

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st APRIL 2020

Minutes

This meeting was conducted by email due to the Covid-19 lockdown preventing physical meetings. Papers were sent to all members of Area Council who were invited to respond to the Secretary by Monday, 20th April. The responses were collated and circulated to members on Tuesday, 21st. Members were asked to vote on resolutions by Thursday, 23rd April. This is a record of those responses and the result of the vote.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (21st January 2020)
Approved subject to the following amendments: change Frank Dobson to David Dobson;
add James McGill to apologies.
Proposed: Alan Wilson
Seconded: Alex Staniforth
Voting: in favour – 10, against - 0, abstain - 0

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2.1 **Minute 4.4 Rights of Way Secretary** – James McGill reported “The level crossing closures in the Gonalston area have been dealt with and, to the best of my knowledge, the FPs are now unobstructed.”

- ### 3. Area Officers Reports

- ### 3.1 Chair Appendix I
- Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - 1.2.3.4. Report noted. Agree that Notts Area should advertise for an Area Countryside Officer. 5. **Healthy Communities Funding** Notts Area should support Brian's request so that he can quote us as supporting this on his grant application. 6. Noted.

Judith Anson: I agree with Jim's comments on the Healthy Communities Funding but Area needs someone to come forward to lead on this. There will be attendance at meetings, paperwork, etc. If no one comes forward, Area can only express written support.

Janet Ross, Workop: Re Healthy Communities Funding - Is there a separate booklet or is this information found in the Nottinghamshire Guided Walk Programme? Before Nottinghamshire Ramblers commit to offering support we would like to know which of the 2 organisations mentioned (NHS, Nottinghamshire County Council) take or have the overall responsibility for managing the scheme. This would include co-ordinating the walks and leaders, budget, advertising, resources and insurance.

Chris Thompson: Require assurance that an advert will be going out if no one has come forward to be Countryside Sec.

Note from Judith: - advert and job description for the Countryside Officer has been agreed but cannot be sent out by Central Office. We will arrange for it be to sent out locally.

Chris Thompson: Confirm acceptance of the report. Congratulate on the report particularly making it clear the Covid19 situation. I hope the Area Committee can put some thoughts in how when the time comes we organise our procedures for return to walking. May I suggest at an appropriate time the Area Committee arrange firstly for a management meeting and then organise a special area meeting before rambling return.”

Note to minutes from Secretary – no individual or Group came forward to assist with the Healthy Communities Funding initiative.

3.2 **Secretary Appendix II**

Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - 1. 2.3.4.5.6. Report noted.

Chris Thompson: I understand from email from Area Sec that a temporary CEO has been appointed. Have we any update on why Val Griffiths Previous CEO resigned.

Note from Judith – no reason official, or unofficial, has been given.

Chris Thompson: Confirm report as presented. General Council - Any update on how motions and other business will be handled?

Note from Judith – no further information received to date.”

3.3 **Treasurer Appendix III**

Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - 1.2.3. Report Noted. 4. **Budget 2020/21 Funding for Recruitment Initiatives** Agree that we should apply for this funding to provide Groups with finance for membership recruitment.

Judith Anson: - I agree Area should make funding available for postal communications where appropriate and that any underspend on campaigns/casework (ROW) should be transferred to the 2020/21 budget.

Chris Thompson: confirm acceptance of Treasurer’s Report.”

3.4 **Rights of Way Secretary Appendix IV**

Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - **1.2.3.4.5.6.7.** Report noted. Record thanks to James for finding someone who could translate Medieval Latin. Congratulations to Steve for going back to 1302 to establish rights of way across Mansey Common. Agree with Allan that Ramblers should make full use of the 'window of opportunity' that will be open when we are allowed out again! This should be done as a matter of urgency so the Ramblers can hit the 'road running' once this pandemic is over.

Chris Thompson: Confirm acceptance of Treasurer’s Report. Keep up the excellent work both Steve and Allan are doing. As mentioned before I continue to offer both of you any assistance in doing ROW work. I will have soon some more Definitive map claims to present.

James McGill: - I agree that the post-lockdown period could be very important for recruitment but, as always, there are the questions of "who, how and where?"

Note from Judith – The document from Sports England and Allan's comments have been sent to Diane Simcoe, our Area Liaison Officer."

3.5 **Countryside Officer** no report

3.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix V*
Comments on report:

"Heather Ingram, One Step Walkers: is there any narrative from Head Office about the drop?

Note from Judith – with most staff on furlough, I don't expect any additional information at the moment.

Chris Thompson: Welcome back Rod. Confirm report presented."

3.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer** *Appendix VI*
Comments on report:

"Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - Agree that once life returns to near normal the Mayflower Pilgrim Ramblers Trail should be completed. We recognise this decision made by the working party. Look forward to seeing Chris' full report on his proposed Notts Rambling Book.

Judith Anson: Area should act in accordance with its minute of 18th October 2019 on the Mayflower Pilgrim Trail (Minute 5.7) i.e. "--- it was not a function of Area Council to manage a long distance trail ----"

James McGill: - I agree that "slippage" is acceptable on the Pilgrim Trail timetable"

3.8 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VII*
Comments on report:

"Rod & Jenny Fillingham: - Report noted. 7. **Area Walks Day** - Agree with this proposal.

Chris Thompson: Confirm acceptance of report as presented. Keep Ramblers Relevant - In total support of the work being carried out here. We are in extremely difficult times. We need to be seen remaining in contact with our members during this difficult period"

3.9 **Press & Publicity Officer** *Appendix VIII*
Comments on report:

"Rod & Jenny Fillingham: Report Noted.

Chris Thompson: Confirm report as presented"

3.10 **Notts Guided Walks Partnership** *Appendix IX*
Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: Report Noted. **Resolution-** Approve that £200 for the advert in the Notts Guided Walks Programme should be paid.

Judith Anson: - agree £200 to be paid to Notts Guided Walks Partnership for the advert.

Chris Thompson: I have to point out that I am involved with this project. If I may however be allowed to point out the COVID19 regulations came out as the Partnership were distributing the brochure and setting up the website. The walks started in early March and continue to early January. We have therefore spent the money on the brochures and the setting up of the website so a considerable cost has already been spent. We do also try to obtain grant funding for the major costs but this year Big Lottery would not allow us a grant. That has meant we have had to dip into our reserves. We are now trying to obtain grant funding to be able to publish a walks brochure for 2021. The committee thanks the Ramblers Notts Area for the groups leading the walks and the funding you can given us in previous years. As you can see the £200 is for an advert to promote Ramblers Notts Area.”

Resolution: Area Council is asked to approve £200 for the advert in the Notts Guided Walks Programme

Proposed: Alex Staniforth

Seconded: Judith Anson

Voting: in favour – 15, against – 0, abstain 2

Resolution carried

3.11 **Funding for Membership Recruitment Initiatives** *Appendix X*

Comments on report:

“Rod & Jenny Fillingham: Agree that we should apply for this in the 20/21 budget request

Judith Anson: Agree that the 2020/21 budget should include a sum to support Group level membership recruitment initiatives.

Chris Thompson: I fully support that a budget is put in place for Membership Recruitment. Particularly this year when we will need to carry out a lot of work to obtain further members.”

Resolution: Area Council is asked to agree that a sum be included in the 2020/21 budget request to Central Office to support Group level membership recruitment initiatives.

Proposed: Neil Stafford

Seconded: Judith Anson

Voting: in favour – 17, against – 0, abstain - 0

4. **Group Reports** *Appendix XI*

Comments on report:

“Heather Ingram, One step Walkers: Many thanks to everyone for submitting their reports and updates – very informative. All our group activities have been suspended and all bookings for weekends/events/holidays deferred. We will be having the Manchester Ramblers song in this week’s newsletter!

Chris Thompson: No comments. Lovely to be able to have a regular report from the groups. It shows we are a complete family.”

5. Discussion Topic for July 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.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 PM on 21st July, Tuesday, 2020. If it was still not possible to hold a physical meeting, the Secretary would contact members.