

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2021

Minutes

This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to the Covid-19 lockdown preventing physical meetings.

Present: Jim Norris Area Chair, Judith Anson Area Secretary & Area Membership Secretary, Neil Stafford Area Treasurer, Steve Parkhouse Area ROW Secretary, Sue Jones Area Countryside Officer, Chris Thompson Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer, Alex Staniforth Area Press & Publicity Officer, Tony Norcross Area Minutes Secretary, Jenny Fillingham Council Member, James McGill Council Member, Joyce Pedersen & Adrian Amer Newark, David & Barbara Dobson Nottingham, Alan Wilson Rushcliffe, Sue Rick & Brian Tuffnell Mansfield & Sherwood, Dave Johnson Southwell, John Young Vale of Belvoir, Heather Ingram One Step Walkers, Allan Rogers Robin Hood Way Flexi-Group

1. Apologies the following Groups did not participate in the Zoom meeting – Retford, Ravenshead & Hucknall, Worksop, Broxtowe, Gedling, Collingham, Notts & Derbys Walkers
2. Welcome Jim welcomed Tony Norcross as the Co-opted Area Minutes Secretary. Tony would be standing at the AGM for the position.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (20th October 2020)
Approved
Proposed: Alex Staniforth Seconded: Jenny Fillingham
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 4.1 **Minute 5.1 Area Chair** – Jim reported this had been overtaken by events as set out in the Chair’s Report. New volunteers had been recruited. The proposed letter on the Agriculture Bill had not been sent as the draft legislation had changed. Central Office had issued guidance available on the Ramblers website.
5. Area Officers Reports
- 5.1 **Chair Appendix I**
Jim thanked John Young for stepping in to Host the Area AGM on Zoom. Paddy Tipping, Area President had stated in a Radio interview as Police Commissioner that he had driven 8 miles to walk at Blidworth Bottoms so members could use that as a guideline for travelling to a walk. Jim would ask at the AGM for people to come forward for the vacant posts or these would be advertised. A Vice-Chair was particularly important as Jim hoped to stand down as Chair in 2022.
- 5.2 **Secretary Appendix II**
The arrangements for the AGM were complete with a rehearsal organised. Neil stated there had been 26 registrations to date. In answer to a question, Judith confirmed the ‘dress rehearsal’ was to test the technology on Zoom, how many votes would be managed and was for the Working Party only. John Young had prepared a presentation of the photographic competition. Judith read the names of the winners and Highly Commended. Jenny asked Joyce if the picture on the Newark website of the Geoff Rix memorial bench

on Robin Hood Hill could be used for the Robin Hood Way Association website. The letter to members without email addresses had been a success with the 416 reducing to 373 at 19th January. A full report would be made to the April meeting. It was noted that if General Council did take place in Birmingham, no visitors would be allowed.

5.3 **Treasurer Appendix III**

Neil confirmed that the cost of letters to members without an email address had been £289.90 which was lower than the £350 agreed by Council in October. The second quarter's payments would be sent to Groups when they were received.

5.4 **Rights of Way Secretary Appendix IV**

Jim confirmed the new volunteers on Rights of Way work were being inducted and linked to the current activities. New District Coordinators in Bassetlaw and Mansfield & Sherwood would relieve Steve of the DC work for these patches. Allan asked about the Winkburn Estate and Chris replied that a meeting had been arranged.

5.5 **Countryside Officer Appendix V**

Council members thanked Sue for her detailed report and for the work she was doing. Central Office was working on the national issues with a template letter on criminalising trespass available on the website. James stated a comment had been received from a West Bridgford resident who felt residents were trapped by the lack of crossings on the A52. Adrian asked about links with local councils and how to inform them of the work done by Ramblers. Joyce added that Newark & Sherwood Council had started an initiative on walking neighbourhoods but it had been stalled by Covid19 restrictions. It was agreed that closer links with local councils would be beneficial in addition to working with Notts CC. There was a suggestion letters be sent to all candidates for the Council elections, but it was agreed to wait until Councillors were elected. The need to work with other rights of way users was beneficial as it added more weight. Sue was working with Miner2Major.

5.6 **Membership Secretary Appendix VI**

Judith has spoken to Central Office to clarify the different numbers shown on the Insight Hub. At 18th January there were 2293 members, a considerable increase on the 2215 at 1st October. There had also been a small increase nationally which probably reflected the increased interest in walking.

5.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer Appendix VII**

Report noted.

5.8 **Communications Subcommittee Appendix VIII**

Sue thanked Groups for sharing their Facebook pages. The increase in followers was encouraging. Brian reported their page had encouraged new members. The Robin Hood Way had also had interest from people. Allan Rogers mentioned emails on the ITRamblersNET about changes to GWEM and agreed to forward these to Judith.

5.9 **Press & Publicity Officer Appendix IX**

Self-guided walks would be added to the Area website and a template was available. Groups were encouraged to submit walks. Alex indicated this was his last year in the post.

6. Group Reports

The following comments were made:

Southwell had enjoyed three good walks in December before the latest lockdown.

Collingham had sent an additional report. All members had been fully involved in the AGM which had been conducted by correspondence. Letters had been sent to those members without email. The first communication was giving the details and asking for any nominations, the second included the Officer reports and asked for written questions. The final letter/email confirmed the outcome of the AGM so the process was transparent.

Jim thanked all the Groups for their reports and for keeping their members interested although no walks were possible.

7. Area Officers

Jim encouraged members to come forward for Area Officer posts. The Council Members without portfolio gave people a chance to see what happened at Area without having a specific responsibility. Allan agreed this was an excellent way to become familiar with Ramblers work. In answer to a question from Alan, Jim confirmed that Officers were expected to attend the Management Meeting, Area Council and possibly the Rights Of Way Committee.

Jim asked for members to nominate and second him for 2021 as it was difficult to obtain signatures. Jim was nominated as Area Chair by Sue Rick and seconded by Sue Jones.

Jim also thanked James and Jenny on behalf of Area Council for their service on the Council over many years. .

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 PM on Tuesday, 20th April and it was assumed this would also be on Zoom. Jim hoped the July Council might be an actual meeting. Zoom would continue to be useful for certain meetings so members were not travelling long distances at night.