

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH JULY 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, Membership Secretary), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Steve Parkhouse (Area ROW Secretary), Sue Jones (Area Countryside Officer), Alex Staniforth (Area Press & Publicity Officer), Tony Norcross (Minutes Secretary), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Adrian Amer (Area Council Member, Newark), David & Barbara Dobson (Nottingham), Sue Rick (Mansfield & Sherwood), Brian Tuffnell (Mansfield & Sherwood), Dave Johnston (Southwell), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Diana Munro (Worksop)

1 Apologies Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), Alan Wilson (Rushcliffe), Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers) Allan Rogers (Robin Hood Way Flexi-Group).

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 20th April 2021

Approved

Proposed: Alex Staniforth

Seconded: Sue Rick

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Jim commented it had been necessary to change the meeting to Zoom following the change of date for the end of lockdown.

4 Area Officers Reports

4.1 **Chair Appendix I.**

Jim reported the Central Office Special Interest Group had been very impressed with the Notts Walker. Alex would be standing down at the AGM and Jim encouraged someone to come forward to take the publicity role. Turning to Covid restrictions, the Ramblers position on events outdoors was unchanged but indoor meetings needed to be clarified. The 'duty of care' liability of Ramblers was unclear.

4.2 **Secretary Appendix II**

Judith read the following comments from Groups not present:

Allan Rogers, Robin Hood Way Flexi-Group "I have strong views on the path that "The Centre" is heading and leading the Ramblers into oblivion. Certainly I have heard general dissatisfaction with the amount of heavy handed central control that is being pushed by "The Centre". That talk indicates a desire to leave The Ramblers and join an independent walking group for friendly informal walks rather than the perceived regimented way that "The Centre" seems to be progressing towards. As discussed on RamblersNET the information on participants on walks appears to be misused and reinforcing the view that no information should be recorded on official Ramblers programmes as it will eventually be used for analysis beyond any bounds originally intended. In fact there has been a suggestion that there may be a breach of GDPR rules."

Keith Jacobs, Broxtowe – "The Committee is concerned about written risk assessments for every walk. This would reduce further the willingness of members to lead walks when

few seem keen to lead walks anyway! The recce has always been adequate in the past, coupled with common sense.”

Judith had reported the risk assessment form introduced by Ramblers in 2020 and only for the Covid situation were now being made compulsory for all walks in the future. Although this was apparently due to requirements of Ramblers insurers, the rules did not seem to apply to other walking groups and there was concern about walk leaders being required to keep the documents for 3 years. Diana thought the risk assessment form was useful. Worksop was using the app and could see how many walks were being done, numbers, attending, etc. Steve thought a risk assessment was essential as was knowing who was on the walk. Steve also reminded members of the death of a member of the Age Concern walking group when they crossed the A1. Sue Rick agreed and had attended the Ramblers training event in Lincoln on using the app. This was a good tool and easier than a paper record of who attended the walks.

4.3 **Treasurer** *Appendix III*

Neil presented the proposed Area budget for 2021/22 and the request for £2,200 from Central Office. The budget showed the reduced expenditure in 2020/21 due to the pandemic with a substantial sum carried forward. A sum of £1,200 had been received from the British Horse Society via the ROW Secretary and Council thanked Steve Parkhouse.

Area Council was asked to endorse the 2021/22 budget request

Vote: all present in favour plus 3 votes in favour from those Groups not present

The following motions were voted on:

Peak & Northern Footpath Society – renewal of membership for 2021/22 at a cost of £22.50

Vote: 1 abstention, all others in favour plus 3 votes in favour from those Groups not present

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England – renewal of membership for 2021/22 at a cost of £36

Vote: all present in favour plus 3 votes from those Groups not present

Neil confirmed the fourth quarter Group payments had been received and would be credited to Group accounts during the week. Jim thanked Neil for his report.

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

Steve did not add to his report.

4.5 **Countryside Officer** *Appendix V*

Sue did not add to her report.

4.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix VI*

Judith reported the Area membership had now increased to 2325 and the number of members who could be contacted by email had also increased.

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer**

Chris had not submitted a report and was discussing with Jim how his role would continue to develop.

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee Appendix VIII**

The opening rate for the last Notts Walker was 63.1%. Sue Jones was managing the Facebook page and the posts about Group walks were liked by more people. Sue had initiated a Q&A item for Groups with Mansfield & Sherwood being the first. This would raise the profile of Groups and help those without a Facebook page to reach more people. Groups were asked to contact Sue to participate.

4.9 **Press & Publicity Officer Appendix IX**

Alex reported the Southwell Ploughing Match was going ahead on 25th September and Council agreed to have a stand. Alex was standing down at the AGM and asked for new people to come forward to help with events. These had been managed by himself and Marian, Rod and Jenny Fillingham and Allan and Kath Rogers for many years. Sue Rick indicated her willingness to help on 25th September and Judith reported Jeremy Pratt had also offered. It was hoped the first self-guided walk would appear on the website shortly.

5 **Group Reports Appendix XI**

Group representatives made the following comments in addition to their written reports:

Mansfield & Sherwood – Sue Rick reported there had been an increase in members and the Group would continue with a booking system as it helped manage the number of cars. A 20 mile challenge walk was being organised as were anniversary celebrations for the Group. Map reading training would be held.

Newark – the Group organised social activities and was very inclusive with younger members joining.

Worksop – Diana reported their Footpath Secretary had left and asked what should happen to the maps and paperwork. Clarification was also sought on the Path warden Scheme. Steve and Diana would speak outside the meeting and Diana would send Jim the list of maps available.

Southwell – the booking system would continue as the Group found it helpful and a number of new members had joined.

6. **In Case of Emergency (ICE) Cards**

Dave Johnson introduced this item. A cycling group had been set up for the U3A and members had been asked to all have emergency contact details with them. Although people might have contact details on a mobile' phone these could not be accessed without a password. Dave asked about new walkers and visitors on Ramblers walks and what would happen if there was an emergency. Should the walk leader ask at the start of the walk whether people had emergency details with them? This could be part of the collection of details for track and trace. The ICE card was available from Central Office and had been circulated with the agenda. Dave asked other Groups for their views.

Neil and Sue Jones reported that Rushcliffe asked members at the start of each walk if they had an ICE card and were given one if not. One Step Walkers mentioned it on their website. Sue Rick said Mansfield & Sherwood gave them to new members. Several members commented that the card could be improved by asking people to attach a prescription as the space to list medication might not be adequate. Adding the NHS number would ensure that medical records could be accessed. There was a discussion about accessing data on mobile 'phones and it was assumed that the emergency services would know how to do that even without a password.

Members thanked Dave for raising this and the discussion had been helpful. It was agreed that Judith would remind all Groups about the ICE card and a reminder would be

added to the Area website and the Facebook page encouraging all members to carry one. The next Notts Walker would also include a comment. Judith was also asked to contact Central Office suggesting improvements to the existing card.

7 Area Council Social and Walk

Judith had asked members of Area Council whether they would like to meet for an outdoor social activity and/or a walk. There had been no support for this suggestion.

8. Date of Next Meeting 19th October

Judith stated that in accordance with the vote at the April Council meeting, the October Area Council would be a physical meeting at Bilsthorpe Miners Welfare providing the criteria were met i.e. it was allowed under Government rules, it was allowed under Ramblers rules and there was no requirement for social distancing or to wear face masks. Judith would contact members nearer the date when the situation was clearer. It was noted that if Jim was not able to attend, a Chair would be sought for the meeting.