

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

Minutes

Present Jim Norris (Area Chair and Gedling), Adrian Amer (Vice-Chair and Newark), Judith Anson (Area Secretary, Membership Secretary), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Tony Norcross (Minutes Secretary), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Sue Jones (Countryside Officer), Steve Parkhouse (ROW Secretary), Sue Rick (Mansfield & Sherwood), Brian Tuffnell (Mansfield & Sherwood), Mike Stock (Rushcliffe), Dave Johnson (Southwell), Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Rosanna Rapacchietta (Notts & Derbys Walkers)

- 1 Apologies David & Barbara Dobson (Nottingham), Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers),
Dave Hufton (Notts & Derbys Walkers), Joyce Pedersen (Newark), Keith Jacobs
(Broxtowe), Allan Rogers (Robin Hood Way Flexi-Group)
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 19th October 2021
Approved
Proposed: Dave Johnson Seconded: Chris Thompson
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 3.1 Stiles – Steve Parkhouse spoke to Appendix X but stressed it was important not to imply
the countryside was dangerous by saying stiles not up to standard should not be used.
Central Office (CO) was being asked if statistics were available on reported incidents
involving stiles. Helen Bates, a CO member of staff who lived locally was assisting the
ROW Committee with this. Steve was hoping to talk to Neil Lewis at Notts County
Council (NCC) about access issues as walkers were put off if they could not get over
stiles. Unfortunately it could be a deliberate tactic to keep stiles in a dangerous condition
to deter walkers but landowners also need to be clear about their liability for accidents.
Janet Ross suggested an article could be sent to the NFU magazine and stated the
Workshop Groups sent letters to people thanking them for cutting back their hedges. The
following action was agreed:
- wait for the response from Ramblers to get an overview of numbers
 - work through the ROW Committee and District Coordinators
 - report back to April Area Council.
- Steve, Dave and Chris were thanked for their work on this important topic.
- 4 Area Officers Reports
- 4.1 **Chair Appendix I.**
Jim encouraged someone to come forward to act as liaison between Area and the
Greenspace Network who were trying to set up links with Ramblers Wellbeing Walks in
Notts. Jim and Sue Jones had been attending the meetings by Zoom but there was not
enough Area Officer time to do more. Chris Thompson was involved from the Notts
Guided Walks Programme.
- 4.2 **Secretary Appendix II**
Judith asked the Groups present about their preparations for the new Ramblers website
and for the introduction of Walks Manager to replace GWEM. All Groups were confident

about these initiatives. Dave Johnson had asked a question about the Ramblers app. Members discussed this and established the app was intended as a register of people who attended a walk and was not intended to be a booking system for people wanting to attend the walk. Two people had attempted to use the app to book on a walk which had caused the confusion. Some Groups found the app very helpful to record numbers on walks.

4.3 **Treasurer** *Appendix III*

Neil informed Groups the quarterly payment had not been received to date but would be sent on to Groups as soon as possible.

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

There were no questions on Steve's report.

4.5 **Countryside Officer** *Appendix V*

Sue commented that there was nothing in the Environment Act about access although it was being funded from public money. Sue was thanked for her comprehensive and detailed report.

4.6 **Membership Secretary** *Appendix VI*

There were no questions on Judith's report.

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer**

Chris was continuing to discuss with Jim the development of the role.

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee** *Appendix VIII*

There were no questions on Judith's report.

5 Group Reports *Appendix IX*

Group representatives made the following comments in addition to their written reports:
Newark – walks are advertised in local magazines and after walks, the group often visits a pub or cafe.

Notts & Derbys Walkers – the Group is working on a plan to recruit younger members. Members discussed this and agreed that younger people were more likely to join a Group of younger people. Janet suggested that the future might be to move away from Groups as walkers demanded a greater choice and wanted a walk tailored to them. Ramblers would need to change and adapt as views changed.

Southwell – as the age group had changed, walks were now mid-week rather than at weekends. This was being reviewed as it might restrict new members joining.

Collingham – Judith read the report from the Group. In October over 3,000 flyers advertising the Group had been delivered and this had brought in new members. Two members had joined the Committee at the AGM.

6. Date and Venue of Next Meeting 19th April 2022

The next meeting will be held in person at Bilsthorpe at 7.30 on Tuesday, 19th April 2022.

7. Discussion Item for April Meeting

The discussion item for the April Meeting will be "To Book or not to Book" and will also cover the numbers allowed on each walk. Janet Ross agreed to lead this discussion.