

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH JULY 2022

Minutes

Present Sue Rick (Area Chair and Mansfield & Sherwood), Judith Anson (Area Secretary), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Tony Norcross (Minutes Secretary), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Sue Jones (Countryside Officer), Steve Parkhouse (ROW Secretary), Diana Munro (Membership Secretary and Worksop), Brian Tuffnell (Mansfield & Sherwood), Dave Johnson (Southwell), Mike Stock (Rushcliffe), David & Barbara Dobson (Nottingham), Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), Dave Dobson (Vale of Belvoir)

- 1 Apologies Adrian Amer (Vice-Chair and Newark), Alex Ellis (Groups Officer), Bob & Heather Ingram (One Step Walkers), Jim Norris (Gedling), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), and Allan Rogers (Robin Hood Way Flexi-Group)
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 19th April 2022
Approved with the following correction: Minute 4.2 – Worksop Group did not do litter picking.
Proposed: Sue Jones Seconded: Steve Parkhouse
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 3.1 Nottinghamshire Day 25th August Chris Thompson reported the Robin Hood Way Association was intending to attend the event on 27th August in Sherwood Forest organised by Notts County Council.
- 4 Area Officers Reports
- 4.1 **Chair** Appendix I.
Steve was thanked for organising the walk with the Rights of Way Team and another walk was planned later in the year.
- 4.2 **Secretary** Appendix II
Judith asked for volunteers to attend the Southwell Ploughing Match on 24th September and to help with putting the stand up on 23rd. Groups attending would bring information about their walks. Southwell, Vale of Belvoir, Newark, Mansfield & Sherwood and Worksop Groups would send representatives. Judith, Alex, Neil and Adrian would attend from the Officers. Chris indicated the Robin Hood Way Association would be represented by Allan & Kath Rogers and he would attend if he could find a leader for his planned walk. Brian, Dave, Judith and Neil would meet at the Showground on Friday, 23rd in the morning. Unfortunately there had been no applications for the Publicity Officer.
- 4.3 **Treasurer** Appendix III
Neil presented the report and several items were discussed:
Area Budget and Funding Request for 2022-23 – Neil explained the proposed budget for 2022-23 and the request for £2,500 for the next financial year from Central Office.
Proposed: Neil Stafford Seconded: Dave Johnson
Vote: all in favour
Budget proposal approved.

Peak and Northern Footpath Society – Area Council was asked to continue the membership at a cost of £22.50. Steve Parkhouse objected to the renewal of membership. Janet Ross felt that Ramblers members should join individually, rather than just Area membership as this provided more funds to PNFS. Dave Hobson, supported by Janet, thought that one charity should not provide funds to another charity although Neil confirmed he had checked that it was possible for charities to do this. David Dobson said the rate for individual members was £15. Steve commented that PNFS had not supported his ROW claims and that the organisation was in direct competition with the Ramblers. Judith added that the ROW Team had been attending the PNFS on line sessions which were very informative and helpful. Chris Thompson felt the PNFS worked very hard in fighting for ROW and that the organisation should continue to receive Area support.

Motion: Notts Area should not be an Associate member of the PNFS

Proposed: Janet Ross

Seconded: Steve Parkhouse

Vote: For 4, Against 9, Abstain 3

Motion was lost

Motion: Notts Area Council is asked to approve continued membership of PNFS

Proposed: Neil Stafford

Seconded: Barbara Dobson

Vote: For 9, Against 3, Abstain 3

Motion was carried

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England: Area Council was asked to approve the continued membership of CPRE at £36.

Proposed: Neil Stafford

Seconded: Steve Parkhouse

Vote: For 13, Against 0, Abstain:1

Motion carried

Mileage Rate for Expenses and Car Sharing: Neil sought the views of members on mileage and car sharing rates given the rising cost of fuel. The current rate of 28p per mile for Officers was unchanged although Neil had asked for clarification from Central Office. Staff received 38p per mile. Groups responded:

Worksop: car sharing - the car driver was bought a drink by passengers and they shared any parking charges; no recce expenses were paid

Vale of Belvoir: members were encouraged to charge for recce expenses as a recce was part of the risk assessment

Southwell: 30p per mile was paid for the recce and for car sharing the mileage was divided by the number of passengers

Rushcliffe: 28p was currently paid within an overall budget for the Group and not everyone claimed, paid on a first come first served basis with a maximum of 100 miles and only 1 recce, the aim would be 45p per mile which was the HMRC limit.

Mansfield & Sherwood – 28p per mile with a maximum claim of £12; many members saw the recce as a social event

Newark: Neil stated the Group paid 28p per mile

Nottingham: on each coach ramble there were 4 leaders and they could not all be paid for the recce so they were encouraged to go together.

Neil thanked the Groups for sharing the information. All Groups were free to make their own decisions and Neil would contact Treasurers if there was any change to the mileage rate from Central Office.

Janet suggested that with the wide variety of walks being offered, people were doing recces on the same walks. In 10 years, the Group structure would need to be reviewed given the age profile and environmental factors affecting car use. Members could recce

local walks and people could choose a walk. Dave Hobson said Lincs Area produced a single printed programme for all the Groups in Lincolnshire.

4.4 **Rights of Way Secretary** Appendix IV

Diana thanked Steve for a very comprehensive report. In answer to a question, Steve confirmed Ramblers had now withdrawn the Pathwatch scheme.

4.5 **Countryside Officer** Appendix V

Sue confirmed there was unlikely to be any action until the new Prime Minister was in post and the government direction was clear.

4.6 **Membership Secretary** Appendix VI

.No questions.

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer**

Chris presented his report and asked members to submit self-guided walks and articles on the history of the County. This could be added to the Area website. Barbara Dobson suggested a walk could be created based on the recent Sherwood TV programme. Neil confirmed he had been contacted by Central Office about adding the walks on the Notts website to the national website.

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee** Appendix VIII

Steve indicated he was preparing a new NottsWalker.

5 Group Reports Appendix IX

A report had been received from One Step Walkers which Judith read out.

6. Discussion Session – Walk Leader Recruitment

In view of the weather and the late running of the meeting it was agreed to delay this session until October Area Council.

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting 18th October 2022

The next meeting will be held in person at Bilsthorpe.at 7.30 on Tuesday, 18th October 2022.