

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2023**

Minutes

Present Sue Rick (Area Chair and Mansfield & Sherwood), Adrian Amer (Vice-Chair), Judith Anson (Area Secretary), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Tony Norcross (Minutes Secretary), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Steve Parkhouse (ROW Secretary), Sue Jones (Countryside Officer), Brian Tuffnell (Mansfield & Sherwood), Joy Walker (Mansfield & Sherwood), Mike Stock (Rushcliffe), Jim Norris (Gedling), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe), Keith & Janet Ross (Worksop), Dave Johnson (Southwell), John Young (Vale of Belvoir), Joyce Pedersen (Newark), Yinka Soetan (One Step Walkers), Dick Brader (Ravenshead & Hucknall) and Brian & Wendy Culpin (Ravenshead & Hucknall)

1 Apologies Alex Ellis (Groups Officer), Diana Munro (Membership Secretary and Worksop)

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 18th October 2022

Approved subject to the following amendments:

Minute 4.2 Page 2 second bullet point: remove “(R&H dispute this)”

Minute 4.3 Page 3, second sentence, remove “Keith Ross quoted from the Financial Regulations but Neil explained this was the 2012 version which had been revised”.

Replace with “Keith Ross quoted from the Financial Regulations but Neil explained that these had been revised in 2012 by FIN014 and read out current guidance.”

Proposed: Sue Jones

Seconded: Steve Parkhouse

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
None

4 Area Officers Reports

4.1 **Chair** Appendix I.

Members supported the idea of a social event for Area Council and ideas included a picnic/walk and booking a venue with people bringing food.

4.2 **Secretary** Appendix II

Ravenshead & Hucknall The key item was the vote on the future of Ravenshead & Hucknall Group (R&H). As Sue Rick was Chair of Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers, Adrian Amer took the Chair for this section of the meeting.

As several members had not been at the last meeting Judith explained the position as set out in October when all Groups had been asked to consider the creation of a flexigroup with the vote being taken at this meeting. Votes had been received from those Groups not present. Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers (M&S) had agreed at their Committee meeting in January to offer a merger with R&H but there had not been time for the two Groups to meet and discuss it. Council was therefore being asked for a vote in principle of the merger.

In answer to a question, Judith confirmed if the merger was not supported R&H would be dissolved as the creation of a Flexigroup was only for a small number of members and would be a new Group. The paper to the October Council meeting had set out that the

AGM held by R&H in November 2021 was unconstitutional and the 'decisions' made were therefore invalid. Dick Brader disagreed with this as, in his opinion, "inactive members" who did not contribute did not have to be asked their view on the future of the Group. Judith stated there were no "inactive" Ramblers members, the term was derogatory and all members had to be offered the opportunity to contribute to a discussion on the future of R&H even if they chose not to. It was confirmed that if R&H was dissolved, all members would be transferred into the Area only category of membership and the income would be lost to Nottinghamshire. Members could move into another Group if they wished.

Motion 1 Merger

Area Council was asked to vote on the following motion:

Area Council approves a merger between Ravenshead & Hucknall Group and Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers in principle, subject to the decision of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ravenshead & Hucknall Ramblers.

For: 16, Against: 2, Abstain: 2 (Votes had not been sought from Groups and Officers not present)

The Motion was therefore carried.

Motion 2 Creation of a Flexigroup

Area Council was asked to vote on the following motion:

Area Council approves the creation of a Flexigroup – name to be agreed – for a small number of members of the Ravenshead & Hucknall Group to continue walking together as a 'friendship' group.

For: 9, Against: 11, Abstain: 4 (Votes from Groups and Officers not present were included)

The motion was therefore lost.

Judith confirmed the next step was for an Extraordinary General Meeting to be organised by Area Officers with all members of R&H being invited to attend or submit a vote. If a Committee could be formed the Group would continue. If not, there would be a vote on the merger. If the merger was not supported the Group would be dissolved.

Sue Rick returned to the Chair.

Area AGM 5th February – Members were encouraged to support the Southwell Group. Photographic Competition – Neil Stafford, Chair of the Judges explained entries had been low for the third year and proposed the competition should be discontinued. Members agreed and it was suggested Groups could run their own competition.

4.3 **Treasurer** Appendix III
No questions.

4.4 **Rights of Way Secretary** Appendix IV
No questions.

4.5 **Countryside Officer** Appendix V
No questions. Sue Jones was standing down at the AGM and Sue Rick thanked her, on behalf of Area for the outstanding work as Countryside Officer.

4.6 **Membership Secretary** Appendix VI
No questions

4.7 **Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer**

No questions

4.8 **Communications Subcommittee** Appendix VIII

No questions

5 Group Reports Appendix IX

No questions

6. Notts Guided Walks Programme

Chris Thompson asked Groups to send walks for the Notts Guided Walks Programme which had a website and a Facebook page. It was hoped funds would be received to produce a printed copy. The walks would run from April to December. In the past Groups had been supportive of the Programme as it gave additional publicity to Group walks. Other local organisations were being asked to contribute walks. In answer to a question from Yinka, Chris confirmed these walks were only in Nottinghamshire. Yinka commented the One Step Walkers walks needed to be booked which would make it difficult to include them. Dave Johnson also thought that where numbers on a planned walk were limited, it would be difficult to advertise them more widely. Chris responded that these issues could be overcome and asked Groups to respond as soon as possible.

7. Discussion Session – Climate Change and the Ramblers

Adrian introduced his paper “Climate Change and the Ramblers: is climate change relevant to the Ramblers? Are Ramblers relevant to climate change?” Climate change was in the newspapers every day and affected all of us. The Ramblers Association had begun as a protest group and the changes to legislation on environmental protection and trespass could again threaten Ramblers and the countryside. Adrian had already received comments from a Retford member. Adrian asked members present for their views:

- Ramblers did not only protect paths but also the environment – recent proposals for a solar array on hillsides and turbines on hills affected views and enjoyment of the countryside
- Ramblers needed to remain within the Charitable aims and there were pollutants affecting the countryside such as methane and nitrous oxide from farms in addition to carbon dioxide
- Ramblers could take part in the Active Travel Network
- Initiatives on climate change should be taken forward by Ramblers centrally
- A policy on solar arrays had been referenced in the Notts Walker
- An explanation of the draft legislation was helpful and we need to tell Ramblers members; need to start small and asking people to sign to show their support would be an easy win
- Important to involve younger members and this was a subject important to them
- Central Office had been contacted for help but this was not available locally although CO did have a member of staff with “climate change” in their job title; this could be raised with the CEO on his visit to Notts on 26th February
- The Green Party was already taking many of these issues on board.

Adrian thanked members for their contribution to the discussion which he would be taking further in Ramblers.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting 18th April 2023

The next meeting will be held in person at Bilsthorpe.at 7.30 on Tuesday, 18th April 2023.