

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2026**

## Minutes

**Present** Alan Burrell (Newark) in the Chair, Judith Anson (Area Secretary), Neil Stafford (Area Treasurer), Chris Thompson (Area Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer), Alex Ellis (Groups Officer), Dave Johnson (Robin Hood Way Flexi Group), Mike Stock (Rushcliffe), Yinka Soetan (One Step Walkers), Dave Hobson (Vale of Belvoir), Elaine Hobson (Vale of Belvoir), Kevin Robotham (Notts & Derbys Walkers), Brian Tuffnell (Area Webmaster and Mansfield & Sherwood), Martyn Gill (Mansfield & Sherwood), Julie Casey (Mansfield & Sherwood), Dave Johnson (Southwell), Brigid Murphy (Newark), Chris Small (Newark), Linda Honey (Nottingham) and Kate Donaldson (Nottingham)

1. Apologies: Tom Munro (Area Chair), Diana Munro (Area Membership Secretary and Worksop), Thelma Ward (Worksop), Jim Sinclair (Southwell), Keith Jacobs (Broxtowe),
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved with the following corrections:  
Present – **Keith Jacobs**, Kevin **Robotham**  
  
Proposed: Alex Ellis                      Seconded: Dave Hobson
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
None
4. Area Officers Reports
- 4.1 **Area Chair's Report Appendix I**  
There were no comments or questions
- 4.2 **Area Secretary Appendix II**  
Judith Anson commented that a Group was required to host the 2027 Area AGM and asked Groups to consider this.
- 4.3 **Area Treasurer Appendix III**  
Neil reported the Quarter 3 payments from Ramblers had been delayed due to changes to the financial system. Neil had emailed all Group Treasurers about the delay and payment would be made by Area when the funds had been received.
- 4.4 **Rights of Way Sub-Committee Appendix IV**  
Judith had received an email from the Robin Hood Way Association about a meeting with the 'Sheriff of Nottingham' who had been told to contact Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers. It was unclear what this was in connection with but Dave Johnson (Newark) did not have any further information.
- 4.5 **Area Membership Secretary Appendix V & Va**  
Judith spoke to Appendix Va. From the General Council papers and a Motion to remove the option for new members to join '96' (Area only members), Judith had found the agreed system of allocating new members by post code and Parishes had been changed

to Centre Points. It was not clear how this affected Groups but comments had been made at the last meeting that members were not being allocated as expected. All members could choose which Group to belong to and walk with any Group but it was unclear what choice they were offered and how they would know there were other Groups. There was also concern about the increasing numbers of members in the '96' category. Judith was seeking more information and the outcome of General Council would be influential.

Neil informed members that it was possible for the person in each Group who maintained the Group page on the national website to identify the centre points. Brian Tuffnell said the Mansfield & Sherwood Group had members walk with them but had not been offered that Group as a choice. Newark was not aware of any issues. Elaine Hobson added that Affiliated Members did not contribute to the Group and would not be walk leaders. Kate pointed out the members could change their Group easily. Yinka said that people walking with their Group were encouraged to choose One Step Walkers when they joined. There were financial implications for Groups as it affected their basic allocation. It was agreed this would be the discussion topic for the July 2026 Council meeting. Judith would provide more information as it became available.

#### **4.6 Tourism & Heritage Paths Officer**

Chris Thompson confirmed the Notts Guided Walks Programme would appear on the Area website shortly and thanked Neil Stafford for producing the final document.

Chris also referred to the Planning Inquiry being held on the Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) 1113 for ROW at Cuckney Hill in Sherwood Forest. Chris had made the original submission but this had been added to and now included the change of a public footpath to a bridleway. Ramblers had supported this DMMO but there had been several objections which had meant a Public Inquiry was required. The Robin Hood Way Association was one of the objectors as they felt the change from footpath to bridleway was detrimental. [Note: all DMMOs can be seen on the Nottinghamshire County Council Website at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/walking-cycling-and-rights-of-way/rights-of-way/definitive-map-statement/modification-order-application-register>]

#### **5. Group Reports Appendix VIII**

The Group reports were taken as read.

##### **5.1 Health & Safety Issues from Groups**

Linda raised an issue on a Nottingham coach walk where a walker had been unable to continue but fortunately a car had been flagged down and the person driven back to the coach. This raised the issue of whether the walker, known to have a health condition should have attended the walk. Brian Tuffnell stated a regular walker had unfortunately become very slow, with the Group constantly having to wait. Brian had spoken to him personally and advised him. Judith confirmed that the walk leader could refuse to accept a walker who they felt was unable to complete the walk or cause a problem for the Group. Brigid commented the Group should walk at the pace of the slowest walker but walks are graded and people should not attempt a walk beyond their ability. In the Vale of Belvoir a walker had experienced a problem and although the person was able to return to her car, she had driven home. Dave Hobson said that if such an incident happened again, the person would not be allowed to drive home on their own.

6. Discussion Topic for July – Allocation of New Members

It was agreed the discussion topic would be the allocation of members to Groups using the new Centre Points and the Not in Group '96'. Judith would circulate information in advance and Groups were encouraged to invite their Group Membership Secretary to the meeting.

7. Ramblers Governance Appendix IX, General Council Papers and Paper from Robert Peel – Vote on Special Resolution

The Area delegates to General Council (GC) (Judith Anson and Neil Stafford) would be required to vote on the following Special Resolution on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Area Council had been involved since July with the Governance proposals and Appendix IX had been prepared by Judith and Neil. Members had also received the full papers for GC together with a paper from Robert Peel of the Kent Area which also explained the Resolution.

**“Special Resolution: Adoption of New Articles and Standing Orders**

COUNCIL MEMBERS RESOLVE BY WAY OF THE SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:  
With effect from the end of this meeting, the draft Articles of Association presented to the meeting be and are hereby approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all existing Articles of Association of the Company.

COUNCIL MEMBERS FURTHER RESOLVE BY ORDINARY RESOLUTION THAT: the Standing Orders presented to the meeting be and are hereby approved and adopted in substitution for, and to the exclusion of the existing Standing Orders, with effect from the date of adoption of the Articles of Association as presented to this meeting.”

Alan invited members to discuss the Special Resolution before the vote. The following comments were made:

- members would not be willing to take the time to go through all the Trustee information and watch the videos so would be unlikely to vote
- there is a problem finding Group and Area Officers and the changes could mean the Area Council was no longer required
- change was required but was this the right way to go about it?
- more people were needed as volunteers and to drive the organisation forward – would these changes achieve that?
- this process was not a good use of charitable funds
- parts of the proposals could be supported e.g. the changes to Trustees but others such as the Forums should be tested first to see if they were successful and to assess costs; other parts such as the removal of General Council could not and could not be reversed
- there was a danger of unintended consequences and if the Resolution was approved there was no way back
- it was unlikely members would be interested in the Forums or in voting

Alan thanked everyone for their comments. Judith had asked all members of Area Council to vote if they were unable to attend the meeting and these votes were added to those in the room. The votes on the Special Resolution were:

For – 1, Against – 20, Abstentions – 2

The Area delegates to General Council were therefore instructed to vote against the Special Resolution.

Judith thanked all members and Groups for their contribution to the discussions over the last 12 months. Judith and Neil would send an email to Area Council following GC informing them of the outcome of the vote.

Post Meeting Note: At GC the Resolution did not achieve the required 75% threshold in favour and was lost.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Judith thanked Alan Burrell, on behalf of Area Council for chairing the meeting.

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026, 6.30PM at Bilsthorpe.