

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT: Mick Rawdin Val Disney Jonathan Ankers
Pat Rogers Ann Staples Alex McGowan
Brian Torr Liz Pritchett Jim Norris

GUEST: Heather Darwent (prospective coach secretary)

APOLOGIES: Graham Dicker, George Wood.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Brian Torr, seconded Ann Staples, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Jim volunteered to raise the failure of the Walks magazine to mention George Orgill at the Area meeting.

Mick confirmed that the Ramblers were receiving sponsorship money from the Postcode Lottery, but no publicity.

Val had sent a letter to the existing Dukeries members.

The calculation of the Area grant was raised at the Area meeting but no explanation was forthcoming.

Lowdham Village Hall had been booked for the AGM.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

A thank you to Brian for producing the current walks programme, which got underway today and to all members who helped distribute the programme either by taking their own copy or taking copies of other members to hand deliver. This method reduces the cost to the Group's finances.

I attended the Area AGM held at Norwell Village Hall with other members of the Group. This subject will be discussed in AOB as per the agenda.

The Notts Walker is now on line. If you have access to a printer be aware as I set the print option -walked out of the room unaware that there are 25 pages to the publication.

The Area website has been upgraded and is now run by Steve Holland. Group walks are shown on a day to day basis. **It was agreed** that Jonathan contact Graham to get our Group's walks uploaded.

I attended the planning meeting at Gedling Borough Council on 13th January 2016 regarding the re-submitted plans for the wind turbine situated close to Fox Wood near Woodborough.

After a lengthy discussion, the turbine was given the go ahead to remain on the ridge by 10 votes to 5.

The crematorium on Catfoot Lane has been given the go-ahead and work has already started on site. Trees have been felled to construct the entrance. I walked past the site last week and the footpath running alongside the site is open and a small wooden fence has been erected between the site and the footpath.

Only a suggestion to try and save money: How about the Group's AGM papers be available on line this year – plus copies available on the day. Does everyone on line have printer? Is there enough saving this way to justify the extra work to get all documents on line in time for the AGM?

Secretary's Report

1. The Ramblers is celebrating the announcement today that Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss has approved the longest stretch of the coastal path so far. Work can now begin to make the path between Filey Brigg in North Yorkshire and Middlesbrough's Newport Bridge a reality. Running for 70 miles through some of the most spectacular scenery in the north east, the new path will help walkers to access historic sites such as Whitby Abbey and the village of Staithes, home to Captain Cook.
2. Nominate a Ramblers volunteer: Certificates recognise people who have given their time knowledge and expertise on behalf of the Ramblers. For example they may have completed a long service or made a notable achievement locally. Commendations recognise local walking champions – those people who have gone the extra mile and made a particularly significant impact on behalf of the Ramblers. Certificates and commendations will be produced 3 times a year. Once a year the commendation recipients will be shortlisted for our national volunteer awards.
3. Sports Minister Tracey Crouch announced a new and more joined up approach to delivery and funding across government to increase physical activity. From now on, there will be an increased focus on organisations that not only increase activity but can demonstrate wider social benefits, namely: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The remit of Sport England will be widened to support certain physical activities that deliver these benefits, such as cycling, dancing and walking. Greater emphasis will be placed on motivating inactive people to become active.

Treasurer's Report

The final current balance is £282.23, although cheques for the coach trips and Annual Dinner will improve this. £50 would be paid, as agreed, to the PDGLA. The Area Treasurer had denied all knowledge of how the grant was calculated. He said that it was all calculated by Head Office! Alex asked why the Area only received £6,000 from Head Office. **Jonathan** would look at the Head Office accounts if they were available on-line.

The transfer of Notts Walker to on-line only had saved over £1,000 in printing costs.

Walks Programme Editor

No report.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Alex Staniforth is now the official coordinator for footpath problems. A meeting between him and me will decide on any action to take.

I have recently walked Gedling Country Park with Chris Thompson. Both were alarmed that vast areas had been fenced off. These areas contain existing public paths that had been used for years. The reason is to promote the habitat but we were uncertain whether this would work unless trees are planted and bird boxes installed.

Since the meeting I have been made aware of a footpath off Spring Lane, footpath no.1, which is to be diverted through existing housing. I will investigate further.

Membership Secretary's Report

29th February 2016

Total	241
Annual Individual	133
Annual Joint	101
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	7
Members no longer in the group	2
New Members	2
Members Reinstated	0

Proposed Dukeries Group Transfer to Mansfield Group

On January 13th letters were sent to 11 members that are likely to be affected should Dukeries Group be transferred to Mansfield Group. Two questions have been asked:-

Should this transfer go ahead would you -

- 1) Would you wish to transfer your membership to the Mansfield Group and become part of that Group or stay as part of the Gedling Group?
- 2) Do you think the 'DUKERIES' name should be transferred to the Mansfield Group or remain the same 'GEDLING & DUKERIES'?

A pre-paid envelope was enclosed for the reply.

A request was made for the replies to be return by 1st March 2016. To date only 6 replies have been received.

3 people have asked to remain in the Gedling Group

1 person would like to transfer to Mansfield Group

1 person has answered 'yes' to question 1 and no answers for question 2?

1 person ticked question 1. Question 2 - assume Gedling & Dukeries as first part ruled out

Of the outstanding replies I only have contact details (email) for 1 person. I emailed this person but still have not had a response. Action: to provide Mick and Jonathan with a report for the next Committee Meeting

Social Sub Committee Report

We had been thanked for the £43 sent to Alzheimers. 46 tickets had been sold for the annual dinner. **It was agreed** to engage QM quartet for a 45 minute slot etween 2100 and 2145 for £75. Jonathan to arrange.

Coach Secretary's Report

The Bridlington trip was full. The bus parking had not been booked. Ann has obtained the necessary permit at no charge. Lesley Green had been given details of a different licence, costing £550 for parking anywhere in the County. This was not appropriate.

A coach trip to Grassington on 2nd October had not been booked because of lack of confirmation about conflicting events possibly using the coach parking facilities.

Publicity

No comments.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

This Report incorporates the Area Council Meeting on 19th January 2016 and refers to the Annual General Meeting on 7th February 2016.

At the Area Council Meeting it was agreed that:

A document entitled "Ramblers New Governance Proposals disseminated in December 2015 – Response by Nottinghamshire Area" should be forwarded to the Ramblers Central Office. In summary this document opposes the Trustee proposals relating to governance. We would support the Kent motion on this matter in principle. Again in summary this opposes the Trustee proposals. The subject of Ramblers Governance was subject to much discussion at the AGM with Des Garrahan, Chair of Trustees, without much movement towards agreement.

Three Area Officials are standing down at this year's AGM: the Area Chair; the Area Countryside Officer and the Area Press and Publicity Officer. The Ramblers Association has redefined the role of Countryside Officer by replacing the national job description with two new roles: Area Access Officer and Area Walking Environment Officer. At the Area AGM Keith Wallace was elected as Chairman but the other two posts remain vacant. This is brought to the attention of all local groups and anyone who is interested is encouraged to apply.

Concern has been expressed over the Notts and Derby Group. This was originally formed specifically to attract members in the 20/30 age category but seems to be moving away from this. Jenny Fillingham is contacting them to discuss the matter.

Alan Rogers reported that his Group has established a "buddy" system so that their members with a computer can share with their members without. He requested that Notts Walker be in pdf format to make it easier to print.

Newark Group has appointed a "Health Walks Officer" who will liaise with local Walking for Health groups.

Nottingham Group reported that one of the doctors from Framework Nature in Mind attended one of their local walks and thought that these walks would be suitable for some of the people with health issues who might want longer walks.

Webmaster's Report

The Walks page map reference produces a pop=up to show where the reference is.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mick expressed concern that the new Area Chairman didn't turn up to the Area AGM.
2. General Council would take place on 2nd April, at which the Pathwatch results would be announced.
3. Val had encountered the Mansfield Instep Group.
4. A host Group was needed for the next Area AGM. It was our turn but we have not volunteered!

The meeting closed at 2100.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 12th May 2016.