

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT: Mick Rawdin Val Disney Jonathan Ankers
Pat Rogers Jim Norris Brian O'Neill
Brian Torr Graham Dicker Liz Pritchett
Alex McGowan

APOLOGIES: George Wood.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Graham Dicker, seconded Brian Torr, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

I have sent a card on behalf of the group to Barbara Horton following the recent passing of her husband John. I understand the funeral will take place this Friday at the Mansfield Crematorium at 14:30.

New walks programme is now up and running -any feedback as it is the Ramblers Walk about Britain week.

I do intend to start going on the Thursday morning walks again in the near future as the work on my house will be completed by next Tuesday.

I note from the minutes of the Area meeting held on the 19th. July 2016 that Keith Wallace is looking for the Nottinghamshire Area to host the 2019 General Council. Is this the correct date? Confirmed.

The Crematorium on Catfoot Lane according to the GBC website will be up and running by December.

Secretary's Report

We are delighted to announce that Vanessa Griffiths has been appointed our new Chief Executive. Vanessa joins the Ramblers from National Trust Wales, where she is responsible for leading the Trust's North Wales team of staff and volunteers. With more than 10 years experience in the charity sector, Vanessa has also previously successfully led Groundwork North Wales - a social enterprise which works with disadvantaged individuals and communities to help them to improve their own lives through the creation of green spaces, green jobs and green energy. Prior to this Vanessa was a senior civil servant within the Welsh government, where she was responsible for economic development and business support.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £1030.82 including coach deposits.

The AGM is confirmed for Sunday 6th November. The deposit has been sent, with the balance due by the end of September. We need to take our own tea towels.

The Christmas fuddle on 4th December is confirmed and paid. There will be a five mile walk starting from Normans Hill car park, as noted in the walks programme.

Walks Programme Editor

The Walks programme was printed at a cost of £105 for 300 copies.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Generally speaking, paths are cleared by the walks leaders prior to their walk taking place.

The trig point was resurrected thanks to Derek Baker (Landrover) Malcolm Costello, David Branston (shovels) Alex McGowan (sighting with levels) and Brian Torr (project manager.) The equipment hire cost of £40 was funded externally.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st August 2016

Total	238
Annual Individual	132
Annual Joint	99
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	0
Members no longer in the group	1
New Members	3
Members Reinstated	0

Walk About Britain

3rd to 11th September. The Group has 4 walks during this time. The aim is to recruit new members. I have received flags from Central Office to carry to show that the walk is part of the 'Walk About Britain' festival. I also have postcards for anyone new on the walk, to complete and return (freepost) to Central Office.

There is a photographic competition for existing members with an opportunity to receive a year's free membership. Any photos taken on a walk can be entered into the draw. The photograph does not necessarily have to be of people; it can be of anything on the walk.

The first of the groups walks on Sunday 4th September from Birchover had 22 walkers, none of them new. I have received one more reply to the questionnaire. – the member is not bothered either way answer to both questions. I will confirm the final response prior to the AGM.

Val was unhappy with the comparison of the photographic prize above to the prize of a fortnight in the Lake District for new members.

Social Sub Committee Report

It had proved impossible to book a hall for a square dance, although the caller was available. It was suggested to postpone the event until the spring. Any unwanted gifts would always be useful for the raffle.

Coach Secretary's Report

5 seats remained for the Grassington trip.

Publicity

Go Outdoors

The Company was keen for us to take part in the October opening. However, permission had been required from RA due to the existing arrangements with Cotswold Outdoors. Val would check public liability insurance for the event.

Gedling Show

Literature had been sent and distributed. There were now limited supplies of the programme for future events.

An advert for the post of Publicity Officer would be placed on the website.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

This Report incorporates the Area Council Meeting on 19th July 2016

The Chairman has identified that half of all Groups have a Facebook Page and has set up an Area FB page.

A number of possibilities have been identified for handling Walk Leader Training. These are:

- Set up our own programme, possibly with support from Central Office.

- An expensive option of offering places on courses run by professionals.

- Utilise existing walking for health programme.

- Work with walking for health to develop a joint leadership course.

Notts County Council Countryside Access Team has restated its opposition to working with any Ramblers Volunteers other than those individuals it already uses.

The Ramblers are implementing a Code of Conduct for Members, Volunteers and Staff. It sets out the basic principles of how everyone will work together in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. It also sets out our common values (e.g. "looking to have fun and create enjoyment"). It is apparently the intention to back this up with a disciplinary process.

The Area Council has voted to apply to host the General Council in 2019.

There was a relatively heated debate at the July Area Council on the subject of the relationship between walkers and cyclists. The attention of Group Footpath Secretaries was drawn to Ramblers press statement on 7th July. Chris Thompson is issuing a paper to the next meeting of the Rights of Way sub-committee in September.

Webmaster's Report

Graham was planning some updates, including the removal of some of the thousands of photographs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Annual AGM reports to be with the secretary by 8th October. The secretary to pass all documentation to the chairman by 22nd. 40 copies of the documents would be provided for distribution on the day. Brian Torr would lead a short walk, returning to the hall by 1200.
2. Committee dates for 2017 were agreed: 5/1, 2/3, 4/5, 6/7, 7/9 and 9/11, with the AGM on 5/11/2017. Brian Torr would book and pay for the meeting room.

The meeting closed at 2045.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 10th November 2016.