

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT:	Julie Najuk	Brian O'Neill	Pat Rogers
	Brian Torr	Alex McGowan	Liz Pritchett
	George Wood	Jonathan Ankers	Heather Darwent
	Jim Norris	Malcolm Costello	

APOLOGIES: Graham Dicker.

1. CHAIRMAN

Brian Torr was elected chairman for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Heather Darwent, seconded George Wood, and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Mick Rawdin had given a talk to the members of the Sunrise Club.

Grahame Ware was recovering slowly from his operation.

4. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Secretary's Report

1. Reacting to Theresa May's speech and publication of the government's 25 year plan for the environment today, the Ramblers welcomes the positive ambition. Need to see detail.
2. Secretary of State - Michael Gove - talks of the importance of public access and connecting with the countryside as he sets out his vision on the future of the farming industry at the Oxford Farming Conference 2018.
3. Eight hundred years ago today (6 November 1217) the Charter of the Forest granted ordinary people the right to access royal forests. This was the first step in a campaign spanning centuries seeking the legal guarantee of freedom for people to access our beautiful landscapes. Today, only around 40% of woodland in England and Wales is available for people to fully explore, compared to the UK average of 50%. And much of this 40% doesn't have a permanent right of access, meaning it could be closed off at any time. A recent YouGov survey commissioned by the Ramblers revealed that people in England are most interested in seeing increased access to woods and forests over other types of land. In response, we're asking people to sign our petition, which calls on the government to improve access to woodland: www.ramblers.org.uk/forest.
4. RA changes coming to your support in 2018, as a result of the survey feedback:
 - We will be piloting 'webinars' – online video conferences where multiple people can join a live training session – to increase volunteers' confidence in using Ramblers digital tools.
 - An improved layout to our online Volunteer Zone to make information more prominent and easy to find.

- We will be piloting a centrally co-ordinated approach to first aid training in England and Wales, and continuing to roll-out first aid training already available in Scotland.
 - Our area support team is growing. To add to our area support officers for the north of England and Wales, and our area and governance administrator in Scotland, we now have an area support manager and are recruiting for an area support officer for the south of England.
 - We will be redesigning the Report-It app (Pathwatch) to make reporting and dealing with path problems much more efficient, everywhere.
 - Researching a new finance system for treasurers.
 - We'll share an update on how this work progresses, in spring 2018.
5. There was a discussion about the Area request to specify the parishes that should make up the Gedling Ramblers' area of responsibility for monitoring paths. **It was agreed** that Jim Norris should advise Area that the parishes should coincide with the Gedling District.

Treasurer's Report

Balance £458.36. There had been no comment on the annual accounts from the Area Treasurer. The Hunstanton trip had been booked.

Walks Programme Editor

A farewell item from Mick Rawdin had been included. All references to "Dukeries" had been removed and a statement of the change of name would be added. The walks grades would be changed in line with the agm decision. There had been no contact from Chris Thompson about his walks.

It was agreed to print 300 copies of the walks programme. Only those members living far away would cost postage.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st December 2017

Total	211
Annual Individual	117
Annual Joint	85
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	1
Members no longer in the group	3
New Members	2
Members Reinstated	0

Social Sub Committee Report

The Christmas fuddle was not well attended due to the weather. The raffle raised £47, which paid for the hall. £33 collection went to Maggie's charity.

George would investigate possible entertainment for the annual dinner.

Coach Secretary's Report

Two trips for 2018 are confirmed: Hunstanton on 6th May and Whitby on 15th July. Hunstanton would be priced at £14.50, with members given first option on tickets. Whitby would be an easy walk and Malcolm confirmed that the bus park would not need to be booked in advance.

Publicity

Nothing to report.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

The next Area meeting would be on 16th January when the chairman, Martin Gaworth, would be resigning.

The agm would be at Ravenshead on 4th February when environmental issues, including gravel pits and fracking would be discussed.

Also, the public would have a say on the Notts. Rights of Way plans.

Webmaster's Report

No news.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th March 2018.

The meeting closed at 2105.