

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 10th December 2019 at Wetwang Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Thelma Brown, Tony Corrigan, Keith Dalby, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ian Reavill, Sean Sedman, Marian Thomas.

Apologies: Richard Bramall, Sam Borman, Matthew Harrison, Martin Hill, Penny Hudson, Joe Neal, Jane Preston, Geoff Richardson, Marilyn Skelton,

AC 33/19 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for attending and welcomed visitor Thelma Brown, Ramblers Board of Trustees member. Apologies were recorded.

AC 34/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [15th October 2019] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: AL/SD

AC 35/19 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

i. AC 27/19 i - Hull Castle Street Major Development

PA updated the meeting that his communications with The Planning Inspectorate are now resolved in that Ramblers objections are included in documentation displayed on the website's Applications portal.

ii. AC 29/19 B - PA suggested DW's legacy residue be used for replacing 'Open Access' signs at Bunny Hill.

TC informed members that finance was no longer required, ERYC having retrieved the template and made two signs. These will be erected by Pocklington's Footpaths Team.

Members were asked to identify purposes to which the legacy residue could be applied.

AC 36/19 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

None.

AC 37/19 Reports from Officers and Groups

A. Finance – Area Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and budget position statement were discussed and accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: SD/DN – **AGREED**

i. Driffeld Show 2020

AL advised members of the 2020 date for Driffeld Show inviting discussion on whether EYDA Ramblers should continue to participate. Recognising it was the only major event in the area where Ramblers could be promoted [and costs reduced by sharing a facility with National Trails] it was agreed that participation should continue on a similar basis. Treasurer to make a provision for estimated expenditure.

Proposed/Seconded: TC/SD – **AGREED**

ii. BBC Countryfile Live2019

DN asked questions concerning the cost of having a stand at the BBC event. AL provided a snapshot of Area's involvement including expenditure items, concluding the event was well within budget. Members discussed CO support for the event. It was considered minimal and thus it is hoped CO can provide appropriate publicity materials for 2020.

NB: Minute 29/19A of 15th October 2019 contains a summary of AL's event feed back

B. Membership Report

The report from MS was noted.

C. Access Report

Information received from NE [Natural England] on 9th December. PA read out a report concerning roll out of the Easington – Filey section of the English Coast Path. In early November 2019 a media station informed our Access Officer that the section report had been signed off at government level and work was due for completion and opening in October 2020. A local media station ran a feature on this information.

It has since come to light that the information was inaccurate, the report is still awaiting signing off and will be a matter for the department of an incoming government.

ACTION: Reference to the original statement has been removed from Area's website.

D. Group Reports

Reports from Howden & Goole, Hull & Holderness, Pocklington, Ryedale, and York were noted.

KD expanded on Pocklington's report concerning VHEY's Wolds Walking and Events Festival that takes place each September. His group has significantly contributed to the festival since it was launched several years ago with a number of new members being recruited. He asked Group Walks Secretaries to note the festival date [12th – 20th September 2020] and as they are now starting to compile their summer walks programme to arrange for one of their walks to be in the Yorkshire Wolds area.

A spin - off from this will be Area Ramblers getting a higher profile in the programme notes, including how to become a member.

ACTION: Group Chairs to bring to the attention of Walk Secretaries

AC 38/19 Correspondence

i. Trans Pennine Trail

An email from the Trans Pennine Trail Officer seeking Ramblers representation at TPT partnership meetings was discussed. The route and/or loop goes through Beverley, H&G, H&H and York Group areas. DN offered to represent EYDA interests.

ACTION: DN to make contact with the TPT Officer.

ii. Don't Lose Your Way

An email from CO's Project Programme Officer [circulated to members] outlining developments to be implemented in early 2020 was discussed. Core to the plans is having activity co-ordinators for each local

authority area. Discussion highlighted that in the North Yorkshire area Ryedale has/did have a group of 7 volunteers. It is not known if it is still active or what was achieved. In ERYC only one member is researching lost rights of way. TC offered to co-ordinate members volunteering to research lost paths in the ERYC area.

ACTION: 1 - TC to co-ordinate ERYC area.

2 - Ryedale Chair to provide an update on position of their team and if a co-ordinator is available.

AC 39/19 Any Other Business

a. Archiving

PA updated the meeting with details of material deposited to date at ERYC Archives and what remains in his possession to be deposited.

Members discussed what material should be archived and storage medium to be used. It was agreed there should be a Document Retention Policy but it would be useful to liaise with CO to determine if any guidelines currently exist.

ACTION: SD to contact CO

b. Climate Crisis

PA told the meeting some suggestions were received from our groups on actions members can contribute towards environmental protection. He had recently attended The European Ramblers Meeting in Germany as a visitor, where 'climate crisis' was raised as an issue by a Swedish delegate.

AC members acknowledged individual actions by our walkers e.g. car sharing, public transport use, litter picking etc may have limited impact. However, if structured into a co-ordinated strategy to be actioned at a local level, it would demonstrate Ramblers commitment to their charitable objective 'protection and enhancement of the beauty of the countryside'.

As 'climate crisis' is subject of national and international focus it would be helpful for Ramblers CO to have a published policy and action sheet on how members can contribute.

Subject to liaison with CO, the subject matter is important enough to raise it as a motion at General Council.

NB: A response to government's proposed climate change legislation plus Ramblers 'Charter for Walking Neighbourhoods' was published on Ramblers website [16th July 2019]

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/latest-news/2019/july/ramblers-responds-to-michael-gove-speech.aspx>

ACTION: PA to liaise with CO and consider drafting a motion for consideration at Area's AGM on 25th January 2020.

c. Calendar 2020

SD reported that feedback from groups on preferences for location, date and times of AC meetings did not produce a clear consensus. Thus, Fimber and Wetwang will continue as venues. Frequency of meetings was discussed, SD proposing a reduction [by one] to four meetings per year on the last Tuesday of February, May, August and November, to be reviewed at the end of the year. Urgent matters could be dealt with by email consultation and sub groups.

AGREED: Change to be implemented - [Voting: 8 members voted for and 1 abstained].

d. Area AGM 2020

SD asked members to suggest questions and/or topics to be put to the Ramblers Trustees who will be guest speakers at the AGM.

An electronic mail shot inviting members to volunteer for AC committee roles resulted in two expressions of interest [for Chair and Webmaster]. Efforts to contact [email: text: phone] the two individuals to further discuss and progress their interest has been unsuccessful to date, no replies to messages being received.

ACTION – Members to raise issue of committee vacancies during walks

e. Paths and Trails

TC informed the meeting of two items of interest concerning paths: -

- i. As a consequence of DEFRA Stewardship agreement licences expiring and not being renewed, permissive paths are gradually closing with land owners legally removing signs. This may affect entrance to open access land.
- ii. Driffield Town Council is creating a 42 mile circular trail [plus inner circular walks] to be called The Yorkshire Wolds Rangers Trail. It will use existing rights of way plus green lanes. Ramblers being invited to assist, have walked the route to risk-assess it, submitting a schedule of findings with recommendations for signage, posts etc and in liaison with ERYC will install the necessary materials. It is hoped the route will be launched in spring/summer 2020.

AC 40/19 - Future Meeting Dates

Saturday 25th January 2020 - 2pm at Welburn Village Hall - EYDA Area Annual General Meeting

Area Council Meetings 2020. Provisional dates, all Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm: -

25th February: - Wetwang

26th May: - Fimber

25th August: - Fimber

24th November: - Wetwang