

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on 30th November 2021

Present: Roy Hunt, [Chair], Peter Ayling, Sam Borman, Tony Corrigan, Stephen Down, Tom Halstead, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Gary Malcolm, David Nunns, Richard Primmer, Geoff Richardson, Michelle Street, Vivienne Taylor, Marian Thomas.

Apologies: Roger Crowther, Penny Hudson, Joe Neal, Kate Plumb, Ian Reavill,



AC 37/21 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Chairman RH welcomed members including newcomer Michelle Street of GYBO to this on line AC meeting. Apologies were recorded.

AC 38/21 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [24th August 2021] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded MT/SB

a) Matters Arising

AC 31/21 *ii* - Joint Advisory Committee to the Howardian Hills AONB. PH reported that finding a volunteer to represent Ramblers on the committee had so far been unsuccessful.

AC 35/21 *i* - Archiving AC papers. TC pointed out this action still needed to be resolved, particularly what documents required retention and method of archiving. PA gave an update on his progress to date.

Action: MT and PA to liaise and suggest options.

AC 39/21 Planning for Area AGM 22nd January 2022

A. Venue - planned and hosted by York Group to be held at The Poppleton Tithe Barn, York. Members briefly discussed possible impact if further Covid restrictions are imposed. It was agreed at present the AGM should progress as a live meeting as arranged.

B. Guest Speakers - will be Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Manager, plus a Central Office or Board of Trustees representative. **Action:** MT to contact CO for details of nominated speaker.

C. Area Officer Vacancies: -

- i. **Webmaster** - TC is stepping down and no successor yet forthcoming. SD indicated he would take up the role on a temporary, short term basis, perhaps for a year as his existing commitments allowed him limited time only.
Action: SD to liaise with TC.
- ii. **Minutes Secretary** - TC is stepping down from the position. MT offered to absorb the task into her Secretary role.
- iii. **President** - PA is seeking to relinquish this post. A short discussion followed on possible candidates including existing AC officers.
Action: Details of possible nominees for the role should be forwarded to MT who will make an official approach.
- iv. **Walks Co-ordinator** - GR is retiring from the post. Discussion of a successor was included in minute AC 41/215. The likelihood of a return to co-ordination of group walks for a printed Area Walks booklets is improbable in the short to medium term. As groups were inputting their walks on to the

Walks Finder, tasks for the area co-ordinator have greatly reduced. It was also noted GWEM will be replaced with a new Walks Manager system in early 2022.

Action: It was agreed a replacement is not an immediate necessity. However, identifying a replacement should continue with the role being filled for introduction of the Walks Manager and possible return to printed booklets.

D. Annual Report - MT advised members 5th December is the submission deadline for items to be included in the Annual report. To date about half of the expected reports have been received. It was agreed to print 100 copies of the annual report for attendees at the AGM. It will be published on the area website and available for download.

E. Notification to Members - September's Area News informed members of the AGM date at York but not a venue location [at that time not arranged]. A copy of the Annual Report would be emailed to all members with an e-mail address.

AC 40/21 Reports from Officers and Groups

A. Chair's Report

RH having provided copies of his correspondence to Ramblers CO, NE Cluster Group, Area and Group Officers, summarised issues he believed to be of concern. These included: - Changes in role description, responsibilities and accountability of Area Chairs: Imposition of insurance risk assessment completion on walk leaders: Access, content and use of Ramblers CO portal 'Assemble'.

RH's correspondence and verbal summary were noted.

B. Finance

Area Treasurer's Report

SB presented reports for Ramblers financial year ending 30th September 2021, plus up to 4th November of the new financial year. No questions were asked.

1. New Budget Heading - He informed members there had been some restructuring by CO of budget categories. A specific heading for Don't Lose Your Way is now included and has an allocation of £100.

2. The 'Minster Way' Books - Ray Wallis, author of the book and administrator of sales on behalf of Area has advised a reprint may be necessary during this financial year. He is seeking expenditure approval to meet reprinting costs, estimated at £650.00. It is proposed to increase the book selling price to £6.

Proposed/Seconded: PA/AL - Members accepted SB's reports and **approved** the £650.00 request for reprinting Minster Way books.

NB: see additional finance item at C 2

C. Membership Report

1. AL updated her report, stating membership numbers being 1583 at 18th August 2021. This figure is greater than immediately prior to Covid outbreak and highest since April 2018.

ACTION: - Report noted

2. Driffeld Show 2022 - using sharing arrangements with National Trails as in 2021, AL explained costs have increased and exceed the original budget bid. To cover two days stand hire and tickets for 6 volunteers the cost will be £330.00. Discussed by members.

Proposed/Seconded: DN/PA - Members **approved** expenditure of £330.00.

D. Environment Report

PA's report was noted.

E. Footpaths Report Hull & East Riding

MH's report was noted.

TC added Huggate Parish Council is to construct a car park [not far from the Wolds Inn pub] for use by visitors and walkers. It is hoped an existing parish permissive path may be adjusted to connect with the car park. Anticipated opening is spring 2022.

F. Group Reports

Reports received from Groups were noted. Additionally:-

SL mentioned a Hull & Holderness member having an interest in footpaths was unsure on how to report a problem.

NB: There is information on Area website under Paths tab.

<https://www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/paths/reporting-footpath-problems.html>

AC 41/21 Printing an Area Walks Booklet

MT gave a summary of feedback from groups on printing of walk booklets, with a spectrum of opinion for retention and discontinuance. There was a high degree of recognition for the 'live' flexibility and usefulness of the on line programme used throughout the absence of a booklet. Conversely acknowledgement not everyone was comfortable in computer use thus a need for a booklet. This could preclude potential Walks Secretary.

Members fully discussed pros and cons for retention of a walks booklet and how to progress the decision. Although there has been a pleasing attendance on resumption of led walks, some groups are experiencing difficulties in developing a programme of walks for more than a few weeks in advance. Several factors contribute to this e.g. Covid, fewer volunteers and leaders unwilling to commit to long term dates. As a consequence it is impracticable at the present time to create the usual area six month programme of group walks as a booklet.

In conclusion it was recognised little progress could be made in the short term and the future of printing walks programme booklets be deferred until spring/summer 2022.

Proposed/Seconded: PA/GR - **AGREED**

AC 42/21 General Council – Birmingham 9th April 2022

This will be a one day live event. Two members of our Area can attend as delegates. Selection is by Area AGM, who may remit the process to the following AC meeting. There are no motions from EY&D Area.

Noted

AC 43/21 Yorkshire Wolds Way Anniversary

RH informed members the 40th anniversary of this national trail would be celebrated with all sections of it being walked in a single day. He has spoken with Martin Hill of Pocklington Group. RH suggests a series of walks and possibly subsidising the event to publicise Ramblers.

Clarification by TC. This is a National Trails event being organised by them, supported by VHEY and Pocklington Ramblers. The latter's invited involvement is because in recent years the group has fully organised YWW and other long distance trails on behalf of VHEY for public participation.

This event [2nd October 2022] will be in the same format i.e. booking [including Ramblers members] through VHEY, with Pocklington Group organising section leaders and back markers. Ramblers will get mentioned in publicity material.

Otherwise members are most welcome to join the event by booking a place on one of the seven sections when advertised.

Action: Groups are encouraged to contribute to the anniversary by including YWW walks in their programme.

AC 44/21 Correspondence

Members received copies of the below items in advance of the meeting. Correspondence comprised four items from RH associated with his report at **AC 40/21A**

13th Sept 2021 - Report 'Walks Programme pre and post Lockdown' resulting from a questionnaire to and liaison with groups.

Undated – Report 'Ramblers Constitution Democracy and Direction of Travel' to Ramblers NE Cluster Group.

16th October 2021 – Letter 'Risk Templates, Assemble and Constitution' to EYDA Group Chairs.

25th October 2021 – Letter concerning insurance risk assessments and Assemble to Ramblers CO

AC 45/21 Any Other Business

A. Bid for Geopark in East Yorkshire – a briefing report from Richard Myerscough of 'Towards a Geopark for East Yorkshire' outlining aspects of the bid had been circulated to members. It describes features of the county that combined justify consideration for Geopark status. The organisation is seeking interested parties to signify support for the project.

TH commented on the richness and variety of East Yorkshire's geology, archaeology and geographical elements, all attractive to visitors. Having been to a Geopark in another area, TH believed such a status would benefit the area and proposed Ramblers should signify support.

Proposed/Seconded: TH/MT - **AGREED**

Action: RH to send a letter of support

B. Road Closures - Notification from C Prince of Beverley Group advising of a road closures in several locations between Tickton and the East Yorkshire coast on 26/27 February 2022. This is due to a national car rally coming through the area. It will result in some rights of way crossing the rally route being closed off.

Action: Group Walk Secretaries to avoid planning walks in the identified area on the stated dates.

2:00pm Saturday 22nd January 2022

The Area AGM will be at The Poppleton Tithe Barn, Church Ln, Nether Poppleton, York YO26 6LF

Area Council Meetings - on Tuesdays commencing 7.30pm

22nd February 2022 via **Zoom**

24th May 2022 at Wetwang VH

23rd August 2022 at Wetwang VH

29th November 2022 via **Zoom**

2:00pm Saturday 21st January 2023

Area AGM - venue to be decided

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