

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on 25th May 2021

Present: Peter Ayling [Chair], Sam Borman, Tony Corrigan, Cathryn Ferris, Tom Halstead, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Gary Malcolm, Joe Neal, David Nunns, Kate Plumb, Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson, Marian Thomas.

Apologies: Richard Bramall, Matthew Harrison



AC 8/21 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

PA welcomed members to this second virtual AC meeting of 2021, adding there were only two further meetings before the AGM. Apologies were recorded.

AC 9/21 Terry Strickland

PH provided brief details on the recent short illness, sadly resulting in death, of Terry Strickland. He was an enthusiastic and ever willing volunteer, undertaking a variety of roles on Ryedale Group Committee. Terry also volunteered time for activities in his village of Terrington. He was much respected and held in high regard by the village, this being reflected by a large turnout of residents at his funeral.

The meeting had a minutes silence in remembrance of Terry.

AC 10/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [23rd February 2021] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: KP/PH.

AC 11/21 Matters Arising

AC 6/21a – Goodmanham railway line. TC reported the period for an appeal to the High Court expires on 3rd June. If no appeal ERYC will commence putting up waymark posts and getting the barricade fences removed.
AC 6/21c – Knapton FP 04. DN mentioned the public inquiry had been adjourned until 26th October 2021 because of Covid.

AC 12/21 Restart of Led Walks and Other Ramblers Activities

GR provided an overview of how groups are resuming their Led Walks, cautioning it was not yet viable to return to a normal full programme. He advised continuing with current ad hoc arrangements, that were working well, until a satisfactory level of certainty and normality prevails. Group representatives outlined their processes for scheduling walks on GWEM, procedures for booking and alerting members, including those without email. The advantages and flexibility of having an on-line programme were discussed.

Action: Groups to continue current arrangements until further notice.

AC 13/21 Key Vacancies on Area Council

PA outlined to members the background of being unable to fill vacancies of Chairman and Secretary at the last AGM. To avoid Area Council going into 'abeyance' he and MT volunteered to fill the positions as a temporary fix. PA stated he could not continue after the next AGM and ideally would like to hand over to someone as early as possible. MT volunteered to continue as Area Secretary and PA praised her for quickly absorbing herself into the role.

The problem of filling key positions and risk of 'abeyance' may occur at the next AGM unless volunteers are forthcoming. Recruitment to Area and Group committees was discussed, members agreeing a 'personal approach' on a led walk can produce best results.

Actions:

1. Groups to raise the issue at Committee Meetings.
2. Committee members to approach potential candidates on led walks.
3. Autumn Area News to contain a feature on AC Key Roles and abeyance risks.
4. Similar feature on Area website.

AC14/21 Reports from Officers and Groups

a. Finance

i Area Treasurer's Report

SB summarised his report advising Area's finances were in a healthy state, there being little movement of funds and sufficient to meet foreseeable expenditure. SB answered questions on specific items.

Proposed/Seconded: DN/TH - Members accepted the report.

ii Navigation Training Bid

SB informed members he has received an offer of assistance in delivering navigation training. It should enable recruitment of more potential Leaders and enable them to receive training. To facilitate this is a requirement for additional equipment i.e. Student text books and compasses, at an estimated a cost of £100 - £150

Proposed/Seconded: SB/GM

Agreed: Bid of £150 approved

b. Membership Report

AL updated her report with active membership numbers at 25th May 2021 being 1473, including 18 new members.

ACTION: - Report noted

c. Group Reports

Groups were thanked for their useful reports noted.

IR updated York information that YPT walks have now resumed with two per week.

JN thanked Area for funding support relating to Wansford canal permissive path sign post.

AC15/21 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

Open Access Report

I. England Coast Path Update

TH speaking to his report [attached as appendix A] briefed members on progress to date by Natural England in respect of Easington to Filey Brigg and their recently released report for the Humber Bridge to Easington. With a warning that documents are bulky, TH suggested members read NE's on line publications: -

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-the-humber-bridge-to-easington-comment-on-proposals> and
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-easington-to-filey-brigg-comment-on-proposals>

NE's proposals for Humber Bridge to Easington, now open for consultation, save for three sections are basically in sync with Area Ramblers suggestions. In respect of Easington to Filey Brigg work has started on physical implementation of proposals.

ii. Burdale

TH informed members of a 'permissive path' issue at Burdale [Route 7 North Yorkshire - Open Access Walks Booklet]. It is thought the authorisation period for permissive paths in Fairy Dale and Whay Dale may have expired. TH is going to contact the estate to resolve the matter.

AC16/21 Feedback from General Council

Having circulated a report, MT briefly related her first experience of attendance at a General Council. Notwithstanding taking place virtually, the structure, content, organisation, and interaction was smooth. Virtual confidential voting was necessary and worked efficiently. MT found the meeting very interesting and picked up a lot of useful information. She recommended others to volunteer as a delegate or visitor for future General Councils.

PA thanked MT for her report and feedback.

AC17/21 Area Camp

Organised by Donna and Wayne Dosdale of Scarborough Group, the camp is going ahead across the weekend of 11th – 14th June at Haltwhistle on Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland.

AC18/21 Driffield Show

AL informed members the show will take place on 21st & 22nd July. As in previous years Ramblers will share a stand with National Trails. Three volunteers will be required for each day. Use will be made of publicity materials from Countryfile 2019, supplemented by some fresh display boards.

Funding requested for shared stall hire and entrance tickets estimated at approximately £300.

Proposed/Seconded: SB/PH

PA thanked AL for organising Ramblers involvement.

AC19/21 Correspondence

A letter from Campaign to Protect Rural England, North Yorkshire, hoping to make a bid to establish Yorkshire Wolds as an AONB.

ACTION: Noted and no further action at this time

AC20/21 Any other business

- Slow Ways – IR stated the project has resumed, nothing useful to report as yet. MT mentioned some of the Slow Way routes in Howden area involved road walking with attendant risks.
- TC informed members that a new local trail 'Wold Rangers Way' will be launched by Driffield Town Council from the Market Place on 7th August 2021. It is a 43 mile circular route, taking in green lanes and villages in East and North Yorkshire. Pocklington Group has contributed to the project, preparing

route descriptions and will be putting up new waymark posts and trail badges during July. Promotional material will contain Ramblers logo.

AC 21/21 Future meeting dates

Area Council - all on Tuesdays commencing 7.30pm

24th August 2021: venue/format to be arranged after 21st June

30th November 2021: **via Zoom**

NB: 2020/2021 AGM will be at York on Saturday 22nd January 2022 at 2:00pm

Access Report

25 May 2021

Coastal Access

Easington to Filey Brigg

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has approved Easington to Filey Brigg in August 2020. It looks like there were some minor modifications as a result of one or two of the objections. The link to the relevant documents is:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-section-52-notice-for-easington-to-filey-brigg?utm_source=54515bd3-7e88-4303-b68f-ebbe8728dab5&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

The latest news is that work is underway to prepare the new stretch of coast path for public use. Owners and occupiers of the affected land are being contacted to discuss the design and location of any new infrastructure which is needed, such as signs and gates. When preparations are complete, new access rights will come into force along the route and adjoining spreading room. No date for completion has been announced.

Humber Bridge to Easington

On 12 May 2021, Natural England submitted a set of reports to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out the proposals for improved access to the coast between the Humber Bridge and Easington. Representations and objections must reach Natural England by midnight, Wednesday 7 July 2021.

Once the Secretary of State has approved one or more of the reports, NE will start work with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council on preparing the route for public use.

Preparations are expected to be complete in 2022, when new access rights will be brought into force along the route and adjoining spreading room.

I have compared NE's proposals with those laid out in our 2015 report, which can be viewed online at <https://tinyurl.com/yg99fmbq>. Except for the stretch from the Saltend roundabout to Green Port Hull, around the King George and Queen Alexandra docks (routes R02-02 to R2-04, in the Ramblers' report), there are only three other minor deviations from the route proposed by Ramblers:

1. At the Port of Hull, the route by-passes the Emigrants' statue (R2-07 and photo P 2-18).
2. At Outstray Farm /Partington Channel the route crosses the Winestead Drain at point 700 m further inland than the Ramblers proposed crossing (R1-07).
3. At Kilnsea, at the junction of North Marsh Rd and Spurn Rd, NE's route follows Easington Rd to Cliff Farm, whereas the Ramblers' route (R1-01) continues along Spurn Rd for 600m, around Triangle Fields, to join a footpath along the shore to Cliff

Farm. NE propose that Triangle Fields be designated as a long-term access exclusion, with no public access, on the grounds that it is a sensitive wild-life area. It is within Spurn National Nature Reserve.

Open Access

Walk 7 in our “Open Access Walks North Yorkshire” guide, which runs through Fairy Dale and Whay Dale near Burdale, is made feasible by the existence of two permissive paths. I think the permission may have lapsed, consequently I proposed to write to the Birdsall Estate to seek to have the period of permission extended. Previously, the Rights of Way Officer at NYCC made the application, but I have recently had no response to my suggestion that the current officer contact the Estate. Therefore I think the best course of action is for me to write to the Estate office.

Tom Halstead

23 May 2021