

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 26th January 2019 at Beverley Minster Parish Hall

Present: Stephen Down (Secretary and Acting Chair), Peter Ayling, Sue Bates, Thelma Brown, Tony Corrigan, Bob Dealey, Jenny Devonshire, Chris Ellis, Doreen Felton, C Gilchrist, Peter Godfrey, Alison Hales, Peter Harrison, Ann Harper, John Hill, Martin Hill, Karen Hood, Roy Hunt, John Jefferson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Gary Malcolm, George Malcolm, Colin Mullender, Joe Neal, David Nunns, Ginny Oates, Jane Preston, Christopher Prince, Elaine Prince, Andrew Prior, Ian Reavill, Diane Simcoe, Sean Sedman, Marilyn Skelton, J Small, Avis Strudwick, Elaine Tague, Phil Trafford, Karen Travis, Jim Tulloch. [41]

AGM 1/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Matthew Harrison, Ann Holt, Penny Hudson, Trevor Oates, David Rubinstein, Sheila Smith, Ray Wallis, and Harry Whitehouse

AGM 2/19 Chair's welcome

As Chair, Stephen Down welcomed members to the meeting and thanked Beverley Group for organising the venue, refreshments and leading the morning walk.

Stephen also introduced Diane Simcoe, Ramblers Regional Support Officer and guest speakers Kate Ashbrook, Ramblers Board of Trustees Chair and Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Manager for The Cleveland Way and Yorkshire Wolds Way.

He asked those present to remember deceased members Iris Anstice, Brian Billings, Reg Chalk, Judith Cope, Mr Corcoran, Jean Corrigan, Roy Crackles, Ian Fixter, Mr Gladwin, Philip Hamilton, Mr Hoare, Arthur Horne, Mike Hirst, Ralph Hurst, Mr Munro and Janet Murphy,

Area President Peter Ayling then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

AGM 3/19 Minutes of the 2018 AGM

Held at Newport Village Hall on Saturday 27th January 2018, the minutes were accepted without revision by the meeting as a true record.

Proposed: Roy Hunt

Seconded: Ann Laing

AGM 4/19 Matters arising

No matters were raised from the minutes but Colin Mullender asked a question concerning viewing of them. Members were reminded AGM minutes could be viewed on the Area website.

AGM 5/19 Annual report 2017 - 2018

President Peter Ayling thanked all Area and Group Committee members for their contributions to the annual report. Stephen Down was thanked for his hard work in producing it and congratulated on his use of attractive photographs promoting our area.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed: Marilyn Skelton

Seconded: Joe Neal

AGM 6/19 Financial statement

The Treasurer provided an overview of Area's finances that continue to be in healthy state. Sources of income were outlined, with sales of the books 'Minster Way' and 'Open Access', authored by members Ray Wallis and Tom Halstead respectively, being beneficial to funds. Encouraging members to opt for electronic communication of documents has started to produce savings and it is hoped this trend will continue.

Following a question and answer session the Treasurer's report was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed: Tony Corrigan

Seconded: Jane Preston

AGM 7/19 Election of officers

President: Peter Ayling –

Proposed: Ann Laing:

Seconded: Colin Mullender

For the following committee positions the only nomination received was from the current incumbent. They were therefore elected en block.

Secretary: Stephen Down

Footpaths Secretary [York & North Yorkshire]: David Nunns - adding it will be his final year

Footpaths Secretary [Hull & East Riding]: Matthew Harrison

Membership Secretary: Marilyn Skelton

Countryside Officer: Peter Ayling

Walks Programme Coordinator: Geoff Richardson

Area News Editor: Marian Thomas

Communications Officer: Ann Laing

Access Officer: Tom Halstead

Minutes Secretary: Tony Corrigan

Proposed: Alison Hales

Seconded: George Malcolm

Chair; Vice Chair; Webmaster; Publicity Officer; Treasurer; Access Officer – no nominations received.

Treasurer - George Malcolm offered to continue for 3 months to allow time for finding a replacement.

Access Officer – Tom Halstead, now residing outside the area, has said he will do access work when able to do so.

Peter Ayling asked members considering standing for one of the unfilled posts to contact Stephen Down as soon as possible. Diane Simcoe confirmed that support would be available for new officers.

Vice Presidents: Jack Bower, Roy Dresser, Ann Holt, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis

Proposed: Jim Tulloch

Seconded: Karen Travis

AGM 8/19 Appointment of Independent examiner

Emily Hunt had communicated that she was happy to continue in the role.

Proposed: Martin Hill

Seconded: David Nunns

AGM 9/19 2019 General Council at Manchester - Delegates

The Chair invited nominations to be delegates. Two members were nominated.

Stephen Down and Thelma Brown

Proposed: Ann Laing

Seconded: Martin Hill

The meeting was informed that two additional members can attend General Council as a visitor i.e. without voting rights. This could provide useful familiarisation to anyone considering being a future delegate. Members wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity were asked to contact the Area Secretary promptly as registration opens on 31st January 2019.

AGM 10/19 Motions for General Council

No motions have been put forward.

AGM 11/19 Any other business

There being no further items of business, Colin Mullender was invited to the floor. Peter Ayling informed the meeting that Colin, a long serving member and organiser of Area's Monday afternoon short walks programme for several years was standing down from the role. Colin was thanked for his organisation, positiveness and welfare of those attending short walks. During his tenure, popularity of the walks has seen increasing attendance.

As an expression of thanks from his Monday colleagues, Colin was presented with a gift voucher by Peter Harrison, his successor.

AGM 12/19 Guest Speakers

Malcolm Hodgson – National Trails Manager for the Cleveland Way and Yorkshire Wolds Way

Malcolm gave an overview of the background to the two national trails within our area, including current management, financing, maintenance and visitors. He said both routes were very popular to locals and tourists, with a television series on the Yorkshire Wolds Way being repeated several times. Being stile free, the Yorkshire Wolds Way in places, enables easier access for all walkers. Malcolm thanked Ramblers local volunteers for their continuous maintenance work. He also outlined how other organisations were contributing towards the trails. An update was given on progress of the English Coast path, the section from Easington to Filey Brigg being scheduled for implementation during 2020 and that between Easington and the Humber Bridge subject of site visits to determine options.

After answering questions Malcolm was thanked for an informative and interesting presentation.

Kate Ashbrook – Chair of Ramblers Board of Trustees

Kate provided a whistle stop overview of several campaigns and issues being dealt with from central office but equally important to all groups and areas. These included: -

- The Agriculture Bill – enabling finance to be directed on rights of way enjoyment. Landowners receiving grants should be held responsible for enabling public access.

- 'Don't Lose your way' 2026 project – is progressing at a fast pace in many areas. Publicity has been given to the cut-off date in several newspapers, including an article by project manager, Jack Cornish.
- Championing rights of way – by campaigning for access rights into locked access land.
- Urban Walking – promoted through Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Awards.
- Walking for Health – future management of this group, integral to the Ramblers is being considered. Ramblers are connecting people through a welcoming approach and Walking for Health is an important aspect of this.
- Transformation Programme – using technology to provide better information and support for members.
- Area Support Teams – are available to provide assistance and training to areas and groups across a variety of functions and roles.

Saying it was an exciting time for Ramblers, Kate thanked all members and volunteers for their support. She added that carrying history forward to the future, combined with all the work of volunteers would contribute to making GB a better place for walking.

Kate was thanked for her presentation.

The minutes were taken by Tony Corrigan