

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 11th December 2018 at Wetwang Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Tony Corrigan, Bob Dealey, Ann Laing, Joe Neal,
Apologies: Richard Bramhall, Matthew Harrison, Martin Hill, Penny Hudson, George Malcolm, Jane Preston,
Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson, Marilyn Skelton, Marian Thomas, Harry Whitehouse.

AC 31/18 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD welcomed members and apologies were recorded.

Due to apologies and absences the required quorum of 8 attendees could not be achieved. It was decided to discuss the Agenda items but without voting on any issue. Any suggestions or recommendations would be carried forward to the next AC meeting for further comment if necessary and ratification.

AC 32/18 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [16th October 2018] were accepted without amendment.

AC 33/18 Matters arising from Minutes of 16th October 2018

AC 26/18b (i) Long Lane Driffield Planning Application - Ref. No: 17/04066/STPLF – ***PA informed the meeting that Area [ERYC] Footpaths Committee agreed for referral to Central Office for consideration of further attention.***

AC 26/18b (ii) York Lane, Willerby – ***PA updated the meeting that ERYC Highways had sent a letter to residents about a possible reopening of the track. However, they have also asked Ramblers for comment on a possible 'stopping up order'. We have responded there would be an objection. It has been suggested to ERYC Highways to hold a meeting with Ramblers and the Definitive Map Team. As a possible way forward TC has prepared a Schedule 14 DMMO application for submission depending upon the outcome of the requested meeting.***

AC 26/18b (iii) Fracking applications - consultation with Ramblers CO Countryside Policy Officer for further information and advice. This relates to government proposals to relax fracking licence application procedures. Shale gas explorers will be able to drill test sites in England without applying for planning permission and fracking sites would be classed as nationally significant infrastructure, meaning approval would come at a national rather than local level. - ***PA has further liaised with CO. There is no policy on the issue and at present nothing is being considered.***

AC 34/18 Finalising Outstanding Items from Previous meetings

Examination of AC minutes for the previous two years identified some matters that had not been finalised.

AC 24/16: - Proposal for a 40s and 50s group

Recommendation: further discussion with GYBO committee and members indicates that there is insufficient evidence of demand for a new group at this time without damaging the viability of the existing group. This can remain an open option if a subsequent committee feels it is worth pursuing, but no further action is needed from Area Council.

AC 25/16: Walks programme modification re coach rambles

Recommendation: no further action required.

AC 7/17: Retention of first-year members

Recommendation: as Roy Hunt has stepped down without giving Area Council any detail on who he had written to, or any feedback he had received, we are unable to analyse the impact that the initiative had. Area Council to consider whether the initiative should be repeated, and if so then how to ensure that its effectiveness can be monitored.

AC 22/17(b) and AC 17/18: Communications Working Party

Recommendation: in the light of GDPR, some of the recommendations made by the working party no longer apply, and the agreed proposal should therefore be that new members who give permission for electronic communications will not receive paper copies as well unless specifically requested.

AC 18/18: EYD and NYSD area boundary

Recommendation: request update from the working party as to any further developments, or actions required by Area Council.

AC 35/18 Finance – Area Treasurer’s Report

Not available

AC 36/18 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

None

AC 37/18 Reports from Groups and Officers

a) Membership Report

MS’s report with table of membership numbers was noted. On 30th November 2018 total membership was 1564, being a slight increase of 6 on the previous month but a decrease of 46 over the full year since 30th November 2017.

b) Footpaths and Countryside - East Riding of Yorkshire & Hull

Discussed under item AC 33/18

c) Group Reports

Reports from Pocklington, Ryedale and York were noted.

AC 38/18 Correspondence

Nil

AC 39/18 Any Other Business

a) Annual Report

- The Area Annual Report prepared by SD had been circulated with the agenda for checking and feedback by contributors. Members commented upon the attractive style and use of photographs in the booklet, thanking SD for his work in producing the report.
- The report will be available to view and download on the Area website. An earlier decision by AC that hard copies of the report would be available at the AGM but only posted to members on request means the number of printed copies could be reduced. It was suggested 500 should be sufficient.

- TC outlined that many companies in lieu of a full annual report send shareholders an 'impact' statement highlighting salient issues. A similar method [example shown] has been adopted by a Ramblers Area who publish an A3 or A4 tri folded leaflet as a summary of their annual activities. The cost of producing such a leaflet to send to members as part of a mail shot and have available at events would be minimal. TC volunteered to create a draft for circulation and comment prior to the next AC meeting.

b) AGM - Vacancies

- To date only the Treasurer vacancy has a probable replacement
- ***The role of Chairman is still without a nominee***
- Footpaths Secretary [York & North Yorkshire Area] is also becoming vacant and Webmaster is still without an interested member.

c) Driffeld Show

Booking for this event will be necessary before the next AC meeting. All members supported continuation of having a stand, shared with National Trails. AL volunteered to deal with the arrangements.

d) Countryfile Live [15th – 18th August 2019]

BBC Countryfile Live is holding an event at Castle Howard on 15–18 August. In recent years at Blenheim Palace, Oxford Ramblers has had a stand and found it to be a valuable opportunity to engage with the public and promote the Ramblers brand and membership. They have suggested that we may want to run a similar stand and provided feedback of their learning experiences.

Members discussed this opportunity to have a presence at this national event including possible benefits, logistics and cost.

All thought Area should participate with inputs from all groups. AL volunteered to explore the organisational and logistical elements of participating in the event and report back.

e) Area Attendance at Group AGMs

SD attended Hull & Holderness: PA attended Howden & Goole and York: Al attended York: TC attended Beverley and MS attended Pocklington.

f) Legacy from estate of Dany Wlodarczyk

No responses were received on how to make use of this gift. TC suggested the money could be used in conjunction with c) and d) above. Area is without attractive, professionally designed promotional boards, marketing Ramblers, specifically activities of EYDA. Following discussion BD and TC said they would make enquiries.

g) Complaints – Resolution Process

SD showed a document produced by Central Office, outlining the process to be followed for dealing with complaints at a local level. Following a brief discussion it was thought useful for it to be copied to Group Chairs/Secretaries. SD will attach a copy to the minutes.

AC 40/18 - Future Meeting Dates

AGM: Saturday 26 January 2019 (Beverley)

Provisional: -

Tuesday 26 February (Wetwang)

Tuesday 14 May (Fimber)

Tuesday 23 July (Fimber)

Tuesday 16 October (Wetwang)

Tuesday 10 December (Wetwang)