

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 14th May 2019 at Fimber Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Tony Corrigan, Bob Dealey, Ann Laing, George Malcolm, Jane Preston, Marilyn Skelton, Marian Thomas, Adam Watkins.

Apologies: Richard Bramhall, Matthew Harrison, Martin Hill, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Joe Neal, Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson, Phil Trafford, Harry Whitehouse, Eric Wright.

AC 8/19 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for attending. Apologies were recorded.

AC 9/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [26th February 2019] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: AL/SD

AC 10/19 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

There were no matters arising.

AC 11/19 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

None

AC 12/19 Discussion Paper – Area Website

TC gave an overview of the creation, development and expectations of Area's website, highlighting that although receiving a high volume of views, input to it from groups was negligible. He explained a process for groups to manage their own cut down version web facility. Importantly, the required skills level would be within the capability of most computer users.

Members discussed the issues and although recognising a possible reluctance to volunteer for such tasks, believed it would enable groups to promote themselves.

ACTION: It was agreed that group committees should consider the discussion document and report back to the next AC meeting [23 July 2019].

AC 13/19 Reports from Groups and Officers

A. BBC Countryfile Live – 15th/18th August at Castle Howard

AL updated the meeting on progress for the event: -

- I. Malcolm Hodgson of National Trails, as the lead organisation is dealing with ground arrangements
- II. A budget allocation of £1500 has been transferred from Area to Ryedale Treasurer for managing expenditure
- III. Liaison is ongoing with Ramblers CO for publicity materials
- IV. A display banner and tri fold leaflets, customised to EYDA have been designed and produced. Promotional material including OS quiz sheets, countryside word search etc have been created
- V. Volunteers [6/7 per day on a rota] to represent Area Ramblers during the event is finalised

AL was thanked for the update

B. Finance – Area Treasurer’s Report

Speaking to his report GM provided an overview of income and expenditure, updating figures with recent receipts and outgoings. It was pointed out that provision for agreed future expenditure items had been included in the report to enable processing of payments until a new Treasurer was in post.

GM informed members that Sam Borman has volunteered to take over the role but is on holiday and unable to immediately do so. Bank mandate signatories will need amending and AC agreed that signatories should be SB, PA, SD and GM with Tom Halstead being removed once the new Treasurer is in post.

GM and SB will undertake a brief hand over period, with the Area Secretary being notified of SB’s official commencement date.

Proposed by GM and seconded by PA – ‘Sam Borman be appointed to fill the vacancy of Area Treasurer’.
AGREED: unanimously - EYDA Constitution Section 7 (iii) refers

PA in his capacity of Area President and on behalf of members thanked GM for his 10 years of effectively managing Area Ramblers finances. Also, for providing assistance to Group Treasurers and presenting financial information in a clearly understood format.

C. Membership Report

MS’s report with table of membership numbers was noted. The meeting discussed retention and recruitment issues. SD commented from his attendance at General Council that it was hoped Ramblers Data and Digital Transformation Programme when rolled out may assist.

D. Countryside Matters - East Riding of Yorkshire & Hull

PA provided a resume of his attendance on behalf of Area and Hull & Holderness Group at Highways England ‘Open Floor’ hearing, considering Hull’s A63 Castle Street scheme.

Although broadly supporting the scheme, Ramblers are strongly opposed to the omission of an important pedestrian bridge at Market Place

He also reminded members that Countryside issues were an Area wide function and he hoped all groups would be vigilant regarding planning applications in their areas, particularly within North Yorkshire as he endeavoured to monitor applications made to ERYC and Hull CC.

E. Walks Programme

GR’s report was noted. A brief discussion highlighted the possible benefits if Group Walks Secretaries made use of Ramblers GWEM [Group Walks and Events Manager]. They should be encouraged to give it a try [a guidance manual is available].

ACTION: Group Committees to discuss and provide feedback

F. Group Reports

Reports from Beverley, Pocklington, Scarborough and York were noted, Ryedale stating they had nothing to report.

AC 14/19 Correspondence

None

AC 15/19 Any Other Business

a. Vacant Posts

- SD stated there had been no interest in Chair and Webmaster vacancies. Diane Simcoe, Ramblers Area Support Officer was in the process of again advertising the webmaster vacancy.
- Although the role of Area Publicity Officer had been vacant for several years, members considered filling the position is still important, with possible benefits to promotion and recruitment.

b. Feedback from General Council of 13/14th April 2019 at Manchester

Thelma Brown of Beverley Group was congratulated on being elected as a Trustee. Reports from Thelma and SD who attended as delegates were noted. SD informed members that he found attendance very worthwhile, providing opportunities for networking, gaining an insight into Ramblers functioning at a national level and learning of issues, including best practice in other parts of the country.

PA, attending as a visitor pointed out that 'workshop hubs' a useful element of previous GCs were not included this year.

The 2020 GC will be at Bristol, hosted by Avon Area Ramblers

AC 16/19 - Future Meeting Dates

Provisional Area Council Meetings 2019, starting at 7:30pm: -

Tuesday 23 July (Fimber)
Tuesday 15 October (Wetwang)
Tuesday 10 December (Wetwang)

2020

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