

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 15th October 2019 at Wetwang Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Tony Corrigan, Bob Dealey, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Sean Sedman, Marilyn Skelton, Marian Thomas, Adam Watkins.

Apologies: Richard Bramall, Sam Borman, Matthew Harrison, Martin Hill, Joe Neal, David Nunns, Jane Preston, Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson

AC 25/19 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for attending. Apologies were recorded.

AC 26/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [23rd July 2019] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: MS / AL

AC 27/19 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

i. AC 19/19 ii - Hull Castle Street Major Development

PA updated the meeting on the lack of reply from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Ramblers objection to the omission of a pedestrian bridge at the Market Place. He has written letters to the Planning Inspector with an acknowledgement but no reply, and to the Planning Inspectorate's Customer Quality Control but to date has only received an acknowledgement.

ii. AC 19/19 iii & iv - Group Web Page and Group Walks Editors

TC advised that an invitation, published in Area News for volunteers to be trained for such roles had resulted in only one expression of interest – thus workshops will not take place.

NB: The position at present is our Area has a fully functioning website to service Area's needs. At Group level York's revamped site has only recently come on line and is still being populated with information. However, they do have volunteers for the role of Walks Editor: Scarborough has a website that meets local needs: Ryedale are in the beginning stages of a website and have set up Facebook: GYBO's is a modern website, attractive to members and the public. Hull and Beverley have Facebook sites.

iii. AC 21/19 E – Group Reports - Budget Allowance for Area Camping Weekend

SD advised he had discussed the matter with Area Treasurer and resolved the query.

AC 28/19 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

None.

AC 29/19 Reports from Officers and Groups

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

AL presented a comprehensive feedback report covering background, organisation, resourcing, volunteer arrangements and lessons learned from Area's participation in 'Countryfile Live'. In discussing the four day event, major points emerging included: -

- I. It proved an effective method of promoting Ramblers at a local, regional and national level

- II. Ramblers Central Office support for such a national platform was minimal
- III. Expenditure was within budget and for a four day event proved value for money
- IV. GYBO volunteers were instrumental in capturing the attention of their peer groups. If repeating the event they should, if possible be present each day.
- V. Review what 'freebies' will be offered
- VI. Consider involving Ramblers Worldwide Holidays at any future event

The meeting thanked AL for managing the project and all volunteers who contributed to making it a successful event for Ramblers.

AL advised that BBC were intending to repeat the event during 6th – 9th August 2020 and asked the meeting to consider whether Area wished to participate again. Following discussion, the meeting was supportive and TC proposed 'Area take part subject to partnership arrangements similar to 2019'.

AGREED - AL to liaise with National Parks and report back to next AC meeting

B. Finance – Area Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and proposed budget bid for financial year 2019/2020 were examined and discussed without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: TC/SD – AGREED

A small residue remains from the legacy of DW. PA suggested using it to replace 'Open Access' signs at Bunny Hill, South Cliffe. Supporting the suggestion, TC asked for the matter to be deferred to allow him to liaise with ERYC Countryside Access, who when last approached were hopeful of finding the template, necessary for recreating the signage.

AGREED

C. Membership Report

Membership numbers were noted and it was pleasing to see a steady flow of new members, although the total was 14 down on the previous year. SL commented that Hull & Holderness increases were a spin off from their City of Culture and local projects involvement. TC added that Pocklington has gained new members from leading public walks in the Visit Hull & East Yorkshire's Walking Festival.

D. Countryside Report

PA suggested as an Area we should consider greater attention and recognition of climate matters, specifically what contribution we as Ramblers could make. The topic was briefly discussed.

AGREED - members consider at Group level and produce ideas at the next AC meeting.

E. Access Report

A report from TH was discussed, noting information concerning a possible delayed opening of the Coastal Path in this area. Natural England advised this is due to a court ruling on habitat regulations assessments.

E. Group Reports

Reports from Howden & Goole, Pocklington, Ryedale, and York were noted.

AC 30/19 Correspondence

None

AC 31/19 Any Other Business

a. David Rubinstein

PA reported he had attended the Funeral Memorial Meeting at York Quaker Meeting House for David Rubinstein, former President, who sadly died during the late summer. David's immense contribution to Ramblers at all levels was acknowledged in fitting tributes. His last public engagement was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Cleveland Way.

b. Appointment of Members to General Council

A briefing sheet from TC was discussed by members. Generally, our area is compliant with proposals from Ramblers Board of Trustees for identifying delegates to General Council. Methods of informing members what General Council and delegate status involved were discussed. To ensure transparency in the appointment process it is essential to get across that the role of delegate is open to any member.

AGREED – For Area AGM [Jan 2020], information will appear on Area website. Group Committees to advertise General Council and encourage members to consider being a delegate. Members to be encouraged to attend first as an Area non-voting visitor for whom the Area pays expenses.

c. Area Support

SD outlined to the meeting his communications with CO concerning support to our area from an Area Support Officer. Requests for assistance in filling vacant posts of Chair, Webmaster and Publicity Officer has been minimal. CO's most recent response resulting in a general email to existing volunteers. Members discussed the role of Area Support and concluded the service provided was lacklustre.

AGREED - SD will continue to liaise with CO.

d. Calendar 2020

SD pointed out to members that attendance numbers at Area Council meetings were often quite low, often due to weather, distances attendees had to travel, plus day and time of meeting etc. He asked whether attendance could be improved by revisiting the arrangements for meetings. Briefly discussed by members it was agreed further thought would be given to the suggestion.

ACTION – Groups to consider at their next meetings and report back [e mail] for further discussion at Area meeting in December.

e. AGMs & Annual Report

SD reminded members that attendance by an Area Officer at Group AGMs would be welcome. PA reported he attended Hull & Holderness on Saturday 12th October and enjoyed an enthusiastic meeting.

- Reports for inclusion in Area's annual report should be sent to SD for receipt no later than 8th November
- Speakers for the Area AGM will be Trustees Richard May and Thelma Brown [Beverley Group]
- 250 hard copies of the annual report will be printed

f. Archiving

PA told the meeting that he has delivered what may be the final deposit of Ramblers documentation to ERYC Archives. In total, records dating back to 1938 have now been archived. PA was thanked for his tremendous dedication to a labour intensive task.

AC 32/19 - Future Meeting Dates

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

Tuesday 10 December (Wetwang)

2020

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