

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on 1st December 2020

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Sam Borman, Tony Corrigan, Tom Halstead, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Joe Neal, Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson, Marian Thomas, Anne Thornton, Phil Trafford, Adam Watkins.

Apologies: Matthew Harrison, Richard Primmer.



AC 33/20 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for joining this virtual AC meeting, replacing the planned meeting at Wetwang Village Hall, due to Coronavirus restrictions. Apologies were recorded.

AC 34/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [25th August 2020] were accepted without amendment.
Proposed/Seconded: **SD/PH**

AC 35/20 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

AC 30/20 - Condition of Wilf Turner's memorial bench at Wharram Percy - AL advised enquiries with English Heritage revealed vandalism at the site during the first lockdown was the cause. The bench was removed, it being beyond repair. Consideration of a replacement by family and friends who organised the original siting many years ago was not an option as they are no longer available.

ACTION: - No further action: AL will inform M Jackson of the result.

AC 31/20 ii - Donation of Yorkshire Wolds Way 1982 banner - PA informed the meeting ERYC Archives Department has agreed to receive the banner and Ann Holt was delighted with the outcome.

ACTION: - Noted

AC 25/20 - General Council Motion - TH informed members that Area's 'Climate Change' motion, one of nine postponed from April's General Council, was informally discussed at on line meeting on 19th November 2020. Introduced by TH the motion received strong support from other areas and has been endorsed by The Board of Trustees to whom it will now be remitted.

TH and colleagues were thanked for their work in constructing and proposing the motion.

AC 36/20 Planning for 2021

i. AGM - As arranged, will be via Zoom on Saturday 23rd January 2021 at 2pm. Malcolm McDonnell, Ramblers Trustee will be guest speaker. Possible topics for him to address were discussed. SL suggested 'recovering membership and returning to normality'.

ACTION: - Any further suggestions to SD

ii. Notification of AGM to Members - will be via an electronic mail shot, including an Area News publication to those members with e mail.

Members for whom there is no email address will receive notification in the Area News by post. AGM details will be published on the Area website and the Annual Report will be available to read on line or download.

Members wanting a hard copy will be asked to contact the Area Membership Secretary.

AGREED ACTION: -

- Items for inclusion in Area News must be submitted to the editor by 14th December 2020.
- A print run of 250 copies of Area News (2 sheets of A4) for posting to members without an e-mail address.
- Area News front page will publish AGM details including instructions for requesting a hard copy of the Annual Report. In view of last year's minimal demand for hard copy, resulting in wastage, it was agreed only 50 copies would be printed.

iii. Conduct of AGM business – the running order of business will follow that of previous years, i.e. welcome and opening by SD [Chair] handing over to PA [President] for the remainder of agenda items. In the unlikely event of voting being necessary, Zoom's secure 'chat' facility will be used.

iv. Area Officer Vacancies – SD reported he was unaware of any volunteers for current and impending Area Council vacant posts, meaning the statutory positions of Chair and Secretary being unfilled. He had alerted Diane Simcoe, Ramblers Area Support Officer of this situation and was awaiting a reply. PA added he had approached six members but all had other commitments.

Acknowledging all posts are subject of election, intimations from present incumbents to continue in their role identifies a need to fill the vacancies of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Publicity Officer and Webmaster.

SD confirmed he was prepared to continue as Secretary for one more year **but only if** the Chairperson vacancy is filled.

ACTIONS: - Include an item in Area News: Group Chairpersons to canvass their membership for a volunteer.

v. Area Council Meetings 2021 – moving to virtual meetings during Coronavirus restrictions has enabled members to become comfortable with technology. The meeting discussed benefits of continuing with such a system, particularly in winter months when weather conditions may disrupt travel. All agreed to winter meetings being on-line, with those in summer using a village hall. Ideally, identify a venue with efficient communications thereby enabling members unable to physically attend to join on line.

ACTION: 2021 AC meeting dates agreed as: - Tuesdays 23rd February: 25th May: 24th August: 30th November. **NB:** 2020/2021 Area AGM is York 22nd January 2022

AC 37/20 Urgent Footpath, Access and Countryside Issues

DN [by report] raised an issue concerning permanent closure of a footpath running the length of Hull City's Guildhall.

ACTION: - The matter was already known to Area's Environment Team covering East Yorkshire. Hull CC has installed gates across Hanover Square to prevent vehicular access. The gates when closed also preclude pedestrian usage. Although not a Definitive Map recorded right of way, Ramblers has made an objection.

AC 38/20 Reports from Officers and Groups

A. Finance – Area Treasurer's Report

i. SB presented his financial report for the period ending 18th November 2020. Explaining inactivity during recent months means little expenditure has been incurred, leaving ample finances available for future demands.

ii. DW's restricted fund - PA reported he had been in discussion with the executor of DW's estate concerning disbursement of the remaining £97.00. They were happy for half to be donated to Ramblers DLYW campaign and the residue divided and donated to Millington and Great Givendale parish churches. Proposed/Seconded: **PA/JN**

iii. Ramblers DLYW Campaign fund – PA proposed that Area make a donation of £200 from reserves towards Ramblers DLYW campaign to signal support for the project.

ACTIONS:

i. Noted

ii. Agreed - payee details to Area Treasurer for sending donations.

iii. Following discussion the proposal was withdrawn

B. Membership Report

Membership had decreased by 71 for the year ending 30th September. AL explained anomalies between group and area figures was attributable to counting methods featured on Ramblers Membership Insight Hub. Whereas Area uses 'active members' i.e. those fully paid up, some groups are including members who are 'payment pending'. The latter, although receiving Ramblers communications are not counted as members.

ACTION: - Groups to note and use 'active members' as their counting method.

C. Environment Report

Previously circulated and noted.

D. Group Reports

A report from Pocklington was noted and that from Scarborough not previously circulated is attached to these minutes.

AC 39/20 Correspondence

i. PA raised an issue of how to effectively deal with letters of complaint from members of the public, considered to be an allegation against walkers, whether Ramblers members or others. Following discussion it was believed the most appropriate course of action would in the first instance be to refer the complaint to the relevant Group Secretary.

ACTION: Group Committees to note.

ii. SD had received correspondence from a former Cranswick resident seeking to retrieve copies of User Evidence Forms for a lost bridleways claim © 1980/90. Copies had been made by G Eastwood Footpath Secretary [now deceased] but the enquirer was hopeful Ramblers may still have the documents. Meeting members were unaware of the documents or if still existing where they may be.

ACTION: SD to notify the enquirer accordingly.

AC 40/20 Any Other Business

i. Restarting Walks

Members discussed Ramblers CO guidance for resumption of led walks commencing 2nd December 2020. Group representatives outlined their arrangements, many containing a common approach including: -

1. Little appetite for group led walks involving up to 30 persons. Numbers ranging from 6 to 15 appear to be a general preference.
2. To control numbers, a booking system should be used with controls to prevent 'block booking', thereby ensuring fairness of opportunity for members to attend a walk.
3. Groups and Walk Leaders should consider attitude and perceptions of village residents where a walk commences at or, goes through a locality.
4. Outside of the Led Walks Programme several 'social bubble' groups are continuing under 'the rule of 6', following HM Gov's guidelines on outdoor gatherings.

ii. Walks Programme – Adjustment of Led Walks Programme Calendar

AC minute 8/20/iv of 25th February 2020 discussed this matter:-

- IR on behalf of York Walks Secretary asked if distribution of the Area Walks Programme booklet and News Letter could be advanced a month i.e. to May and November. This was because of problems in getting people in January to commit to lead summer walks, when they had not fixed their summer holidays.
- Members discussed the pros and cons of the suggestion that would result in the Area Walks Programme running May - Oct and Nov – April and supported seeking views from all Walks Secretaries and Area Walks Programme Co-ordinator.

Update: Excepting one, all responding groups supported the proposed adjustment. Originally planned for implementation in May, 2020 suspension of Ramblers Led Walks Programme due to Coronavirus prevented commencement of the revised programme.

Members briefly revisited IR's proposal, took cognisance of the majority group support for it and agreed implementation on resumption of the next programme booklet, possibly May 2021.

ACTION: Area Walks Co-ordinator and Group Walk Secretaries to note.

AC 41/20 Future Meeting Dates

Area AGM - Saturday 23rd January 2021 at 2:00pm **via Zoom**

Area Council - all on a Tuesday commencing 7.30pm

23rd February 2021: **via Zoom**

25th May 2021: Location to be arranged

24th August 2021: Location to be arranged

30th November 2021: **via Zoom**

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

Scarborough Group Report. For AC Meeting Tuesday 1st December

Our led walks programme was in full swing, albeit limited to 10 members on each ramble, as we felt up to 30 was a bit conspicuous as everyone else had to obey the “rule of 6”.

Our volunteer working parties in the National Park were also up and running but limited to 5 members plus Bernie the ranger. All members were allocated their own bag of tools, which were not to be shared.

Currently, all is on hold again until the 3rd of December, when we hope to get going again, although that now seems unlikely as covid numbers have shot up in the area.

Our “zoom” AGM is to be held on Thursday 14th January.

Phil Trafford