

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 25th February 2020 at Wetwang Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Richard Bramall, Tony Corrigan, Martin Hill, Joe Neal, David Nunns, Jane Preston, Ian Reavill, Ulla Vaeretha, Adam Watkins.

Apologies: Sam Borman, Matthew Harrison, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Sean Sedman, Marian Thomas, Phil Trafford

AC 1/20 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for attending and welcomed Ulla Vaeretha of York Group. Apologies were recorded.

AC 2/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. **Minutes of the previous meeting** [10th December 2019] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: PA/DN

b. **Draft minutes of Area AGM** [25th January 2020] were noted.

AC 3/20 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

i. AC 39/19 A - Archiving

SD updated the meeting that he had contacted Richard Sharp, Ramblers Area Support Officer for CO advice or guidelines concerning archiving policy. It appears there is no policy, although Richard considers it a matter worth flagging up to CO. He will make further enquiries and contact SD in due course.

ii. AC 39/19 B - General Council 2020 - EYDA's Motion on Climate Crisis

SD informed members the motion was accepted by GC's Motions Review Committee but they had slightly edited the content to improve wording it [which is within their powers]. The motion now reads:

"This General Council recognises the urgency of the situation presented by climate change, with particular reference to its possible effects on the British countryside and wildlife.

Council supports the general position put forward in the Ramblers December 2019 Election Manifesto that we are facing a climate emergency, and now urges the Board of Trustees to work to identify likely changes in the countryside in the short and longer term, and, where practicable, to develop strategies to mitigate these changes in the context of the Ramblers' charitable object of protection and enhancement of the beauty of the countryside. Council asks the board to meet this challenge by considering the following:

- 1) Continuing to be vocal in the climate change debate and work with bodies such as the Wildlife and Countryside Link coalition and like-minded charities, and where appropriate with governmental agencies, to develop a strategy reflecting Ramblers approach to climate change issues;***
- 2) Creating a tool kit of guidance and suggestions as a bolt-on to Area and Group local initiatives;***
- 3) Setting up a small working party drawn from trustees, staff, and outside experts or volunteers from our membership with relevant expertise;***
- 4) Updating Council on Ramblers' contributions to mitigating climate change problems."***

The MRC is also empowered to submit amendments to motions going beyond clarifying the wording. They felt that for the board to identify likely changes in the countryside would require a greater level of knowledge and expertise than could reasonably be expected, and that the development of strategies is adequately covered in our numbered list. They have, therefore, tabled the following amendment, which they believe will have the effect of making the motion simpler, and therefore easier to understand i.e.

In the second paragraph delete from "work to identify" to "asks the board to", so that the paragraph reads:
"Council supports the general position put forward in the Ramblers December 2019 Election Manifesto that we are facing a climate emergency, and now urges the Board of Trustees to meet this challenge by considering the following:"

Following a brief discussion on whether such alterations strengthen or weakened the motion.

AGREED: - SD and TH being proposer and seconder of the motion to GC, in liaison with PA should consider the editing and on behalf of our Area to communicate their response to the Motion Review Committee.

iii. AC 37/19 D - Group Reports - Wolds Walking Festival Week

MH expanded on the benefits of Group walks on the Yorkshire Wolds appearing in the festival programme. Ideally, a paragraph describing a walk could attract the public to participate.

ACTION: - MH will liaise with Walks Secretaries.

iv. AC 38/19 ii - 2026 Don't Lose Your Way

TC updated the meeting of Ramblers public campaign to identify lost rights of way and the process involved. An important question not yet answered is CO's Project Team response to submissions of suggested claims for identified lost paths. TC had already volunteered to co-ordinate with CO in respect of enquiries for ERYC and Hull CC areas. There is no volunteer co – ordinator as yet for NYCC and York CC areas.

ACTION: - TC will have a 2026 entry published in the next Area News

v. BBC Countryfile Live - 2020

The event will not be returning to Castle Howard in 2020 due to sponsorship difficulties. EYDA Ramblers will continue to share a stand at Driffeld Show with National Trails.

AC 4/20 Appointment to Vacant Posts

Ann Laing has volunteered as Area Membership Secretary
Proposed/Seconded: **SD/PA**

Ulla Vaereth has volunteered as Area Webmaster
Proposed/Seconded: **IR/JP**

No nominations have yet been received for Area Chairman or Publicity Officer

AC 5/20 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

i. DN informed the meeting of an impending public inquiry concerning an objection to creation of an order for a Restricted Byway by York Unitary Authority. The path [Knapton No 4] is from Grange Lane to Rufforth Airfield. DN asked the meeting for permission to represent Area Ramblers at the public enquiry.

ii. TC informed the meeting of a public inquiry scheduled for 4 days commencing 13th October 2020 at Market Weighton Town Hall, concerning objections to an order by ERYC for a restricted byway at Goodmanham [disused rail line to Driffeld]. He had been asked to represent Area Ramblers and requested AC's permission to do so.

AGREED

AC 6/20 Reports from Officers and Groups

A. Finance – Area Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report and budget position statement were discussed and accepted without amendment. It was noted a small balance remained in DW’s restricted fund. Members were asked to consider and report back on ways this amount could be applied.

B. Membership Report

The report was noted and it was pleasing to see an increase in new members. Groups with Facebook accounts were attracting greater interest and a challenge would be to persuade Facebook members to join Ramblers.

C. Group Reports

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

IR added York Group was hoping to have a Ramblers CO course on Navigation to be held in York.

NB: Ramblers are also putting on a course at South Cave on 11th July 2020

AC 7/20 Correspondence

Nil

AC 8/20 Any Other Business

i. River Hull – Skerne Wetlands

JN adding to his report outlined the background to join the link between two existing cul de sac rights of way near Skerne Wetlands Nature Reserve. Importantly, it would enable the entire length of the River Hull to be walked. Members discussed the various avenues that could be explored.

AGREED: - JN to approach Skerne Wetlands Reserve manager informally initially. If this is encouraging to write to the Y.W.T. Area Reserves Manager, seeking approval for walkers to access the southern border of the reserve. If approval is obtained would to approach the Environment Agency, and ERYC Countryside Access Team.

ii. Review of AGM - Format of Business Section

PA asked members whether the structure and format of AGM business needed reviewing, being unchanged for a decade. Following discussion the general opinion was for the status quo to prevail, subject to any suggestions from group committees.

ACTION: - Group Chairs to raise at their committee meetings and report back to AC

iii. Area Sub Committees – Publicising Membership

PA commented that the business of Area Sub Committees i.e. Footpaths, Environment and Access is carried out by only a few individuals, whose names are not recorded in any Area papers, with new volunteers being negligible.

He believed members could be unaware of such committees and their remit as a consequence of their work not being publicised.

The meeting discussed a general difficulty of recruiting volunteers for committees.

ACTION: - TC will do an item for Area News and Chairs to raise at Group meetings

iv. Walks Programme – Adjustment of Schedule

IR on behalf of York Walks Secretary asked if the distribution of the Area Walks Programme and News Letter could be advanced a month i.e. in April and October. This is because of the problem they have of getting people to commit to lead summer walks, when asked in January, as they haven't fixed their summer holidays. It needs all groups to agree and would mean a one off walks booklet covering seven months in order to change it for the summer 2021 programme.

Members discussed the pros and cons of the suggestion that would ultimately result in the Area Walks Programme running May – Oct and Nov – April, and supported seeking views from all Walks Secretaries.

ACTIONS: -

- a) Group Chairs to consult with all their Walks Organisers [appendix 'A' in Walks Programme booklet] and report back to next AC meeting.
- b) Area Walks Programme Co-ordinator, Communications Officer and Area News Editor to comment on the proposal for the next AC meeting.

v. Use of ND [no dogs] Abbreviation in Ramblers Literature

The Area Walks Co-ordinator has pointed out that if using the abbreviation ND to indicate dogs are not allowed on a walk it should also be clearly clarified that it does not apply to Registered Assistance Dogs.

NB: Further information is contained in the Walks Programme booklet.

ACTION: - Groups Committees to note

vi. Definitive Map Modification Orders - Schedule 14 Applications

TC outlined the process for members submitting applications, including certification, upon completion of which an Order Making Authority can commence investigation. However, by the time investigations do begin [it can take several years] the applicant may no longer be available to deal with enquiries with a risk of the application not being pursued.

He suggested applications by members should be in their name 'on behalf of East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers', thereby enabling liaison continuity if necessary.

AGREED

AC 9/20 - Future Meeting Dates

Area Council Meetings 2020. Provisional dates, all Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm: -

26th May: - Fimber

25th August: - Fimber

24th November: - Wetwang