

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held on 26th February 2019 at Wetwang Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Richard Bramhall, Tony Corrigan, Martin Hill, Penny Hudson, Ann Laing, George Malcolm, David Nunns, Jane Preston, Ian Reavill, Sean Sedman, Marilyn Skelton, Marian Thomas, Adam Watkins.

Apologies: Matthew Harrison, Steve Lack, Gary Malcolm, Joe Neal, Geoff Richardson, Phil Trafford, Harry Whitehouse.

AC 1/19 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD in thanking members for their attendance, extended a welcome to those attending their first Area Council meeting. Apologies were recorded.

AC 2/19 Minutes

a. Previous Meetings

i. The meeting of 11th December 2018 had an insufficient attendance [6] to make a quorum. Although discussing the minutes of the previous meeting [16th October 2018] it was unable to formally accept them as a true record, deferring the process to this meeting.

Proposed/Seconded: MH/TC - 'Minutes of 16th October 2018 be accepted'. **AGREED**

ii. Minutes of the 11th December 2018 meeting had been circulated. As the meeting was not quorate, formal decisions could not be made. Courses of action were discussed and proposed for ratification and approval by the next AC.

Proposed/Seconded: TC/SD - 'Minutes of 11th December 2018 be accepted'. **AGREED**

b. Matters arising from Minutes of 11th December 2018

AC 39/18 a) Annual Report 3rd para - creation of Impact Statement. TC produced an A4 tri fold example, explaining it could be included in a March mailshot in lieu of the annual report, only one person this year having requested the Annual Report by post. After discussing the rationale and merits for such a document the meeting voted on its introduction.

Decision: **NOT ACCEPTED**

AC 39/18 f) Use of Legacy from estate of Dany Wlodarczyk - Dealt with under Finance

c. Area AGM Draft Minutes

These had been circulated for information and are available on the area website.

Remitted from the AGM to this AC meeting was finalisation of attendees at Ramblers General Council in Manchester on 13/14th April 2019. Following AGM's election of two nominees [SD and Thelma Brown] as delegates, two further members can attend as non-voting visitors, expenses being met by Area.

The only member expressing an interest in attending was PA. **AGREED** for PA to attend

AC 3/19 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

DN briefed members on a Definitive Map Modification Order made by City of York Council concerning extinguishment in part of a public footpath No 9 at Askham Bryan. He stated there were sufficient reasons for Ramblers to make an objection and requested approval from the meeting to do so. Pros and cons of the order were discussed.

AGREED: DN to object on behalf of Area Ramblers

AC 4/19 Reports from Groups and Officers

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

Speaking to her report, AL provided background information for the event including Oxford Ramblers experiences from their participation in previous years at Blenheim Palace. Having explored the organisational, logistical and cost elements for having a Ramblers stand at the event AL reported: -

- I. It would be cost prohibitive for Ramblers to have their own plot as no discounts were available.
- II. National Trails have suggested sharing a stand with Ramblers, North York Moors National Park and Howardian Hills AONB, whereby individual cost savings would be achieved.
- III. A marquee will be provided by The National Park or HH AONB, again to reduce hiring costs.
- IV. This sharing approach would result in Ramblers contributing £810 to having a stand.
- V. Additional set up expenses would be needed for printing, volunteer expenses etc.

Members discussed this opportunity to have a presence at a national event including possible benefits,

Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED**

- Area should participate in the event sharing facilities and cost with National Trails and others.
- To allocate a budget of £1500 to cover all Ramblers expenditure
- Form a Working Party, with AL as Project Leader to progress arrangements and organisation
- Working party members will be GM, MS, MH, MT and TS
- AL to provide a progress report to the next AC meeting.

B. Finance – Area Treasurer’s Report

Speaking to his report GM provided an overview of income and expenditure to date.

Ref AC 39/18 f) Use of Legacy from estate of Dany Wlodarczyk - TC advised members of quotes received for publicity display boards suitable for use at events.

Purchase of two boards **APPROVED**

C. Membership Report

MS's report with table of membership numbers was noted. MS advised there had been a slight increase to 1552 since compilation of the table.

In answer to a question concerning membership of Group identification ER96 it was explained this was Area membership, an option for joiners who didn't wish to be a member of a specific group.

D. Footpaths and Countryside - East Riding of Yorkshire & Hull

PA informed the meeting of a planning application by The Ministry of Justice for a new category C prison at Full Sutton. It has received a high volume of objections. Area Footpaths and Countryside Committees have submitted a combined objection.

PA also mentioned the disappearance/removal of Open Access Land signs at South Cliff and wondered if replacements were something Ramblers could fund.

ACTION: TC will discuss with ERYC Countryside Manager to determine responsibility for upkeep.

Update re York Lane, Willerby [see minutes AC 26/18b (ii) and AC 33/18]. Following a meeting on 8th February 2019 attended by PA & TC with parish councillors, ERYC Officers and residents, TC on behalf of Ramblers has submitted a Schedule 14 DMMO application.

E. Group Reports

The only reports submitted in time for circulation of agenda items were from Pocklington, Ryedale and York, whose authors enlarged upon the content of their reports. An item from Ryedale concerning co-ordination of coach ramble dates and destinations was subject of further discussion. It was acknowledged such events attracted members from other groups and ideally duplication of dates and destinations should be avoided.

AGREED: Group Walk Secretaries/Coach Ramble Organisers to liaise at an early stage in determining their events programme.

AC 5/19 Correspondence

SD had received correspondence from Wayne and Donna Dosdale who are organising the Area's camping – walking week. It will be at Kettlewell, during the weekend of 7th – 10th June 2019. [Information on the Area website].

AC 6/19 Any Other Business

a. Vacant Posts

- SD reported that Diane Simcoe, Ramblers Area Support Officer advertised the webmaster vacancy in January but no enquiries have been made.
- GM stated there had been no firm enquiries for the role of Treasurer. Management of financial matters will become critical after March if a successor is not in place.

ACTION: Group Committees to continue to identify and approach possible candidates.

b. Attracting New Members

- The meeting discussed possible initiatives for attracting new members. With members of GYBO in attendance it was useful to have views from a younger walking group. GYBO's use of social media is seen by them as a positive method of recruitment, together with personal contact. Electronic communication is the norm for their group.
- Pocklington Group is contacting HR departments of large employers, promoting walking [and Ramblers] as a health, leisure and social activity. It is directed towards both current employees and those approaching retirement.
- Ryedale will be participating in the autumn 'Children in Need' ramble.

SD produced examples from the National Walks Finder of how led walks are described, comparing content from our area with others around Yorkshire. Whereas the latter provide some useful, brief salient information about their walk, those from our area contain little or nothing. SD believed such a position wouldn't attract enquirers doing a search on the National Walks Finder to join us.

Updating the National Database with a description of each walk [600+] is possible. However, this would need to be done at group level as route planning and variations by the leader may not be completed until a few weeks prior to the actual walk. Ideally, Group Walk Secretaries should have a facility to edit their walks on the national database and this would enable input of route descriptions.

ACTION: Area Walks Programme Co-ordinator to consider and provide advice.

AC 7/19 - Future Meeting Dates

7.00pm - Thursday 21st March 2019 at Welburn Village Hall - Mail Shot Evening

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

Tuesday 14 May (Fimber)

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