

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held virtually via MS Team at 7.30 pm on 26th May 2020

Present: Stephen Down [Acting Chair], Peter Ayling, Sam Borman, Richard Bramall, Tony Corrigan, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Gary Malcolm, David Nunns, Ian Reavill, Geoff Richardson, Sean Sedman, Marian Thomas, Phil Trafford,

Apologies: Matthew Harrison, Martin Hill, Joe Neal, Jane Preston, Ulla Vaereth, Eric Wright

AC 10/20 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

SD thanked members for joining this virtual AC meeting, replacing the planned meeting at Fimber Village Hall that could not occur due to Coronavirus restrictions. It was pleasing to see fourteen members signing on for the session. Apologies were recorded.

With Ramblers activities being suspended since mid-March 2020 it was recognised that some actions from the previous meeting may not have progressed.

AC 11/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting [25th February 2020] were accepted without amendment.

Proposed/Seconded: **DN/SD**

AC 12/20 Matters arising from Minutes [not covered elsewhere]

i. AC 3/20ii - General Council 2020 - EYDA's Motion on Climate Crisis

PA reported that as a consequence of General Council being cancelled Ramblers Central Office are exploring ways of dealing with the motions that had been put forward. Ramblers Board of Trustees are also considering how to progress items that would have been dealt with at General Council.

ACTION: - Noted.

ii. AC 3/20 iv - 2026 Don't Lose Your Way

The initial stage of Ramblers campaign inviting members and public to compare old and current OS maps for potential lost rights of way has been completed. There is now a programme of data cleansing before proceeding to stage two - yet to be revealed by the Project Team.

ACTION: - Noted

iii. AC 5/20 i - Public Inquiry Knapton Footpath No 04

DN advised that the Inquiry opened and adjourned as an objector's barrister had to self-isolate due to COVID-19 on returning to the UK from France – no new date yet.

ACTION: - Noted

iv. AC 8/20 ii - Review of AGM - Format of Business Section

v. AC/8/20 iii - Area Sub Committees – Publicising Membership

No feedback from groups on either topic. Area subcommittee information was published in Area News.

ACTION: - Noted

vi. AC 8/20 iv - Walks Programme – Adjustment of Schedule

A proposal from York Group for scheduling and distribution of the Area Walks Programme and News Letter to be advanced by one month i.e. publication in May and November had been considered by some groups. Ryedale, Hull & Holderness and Howden & Goole supported the request. Response awaited from Beverley, Pocklington and Scarborough.

ACTION: In light of the current suspension of Ramblers activities it is questionable whether a winter programme will be organised. York's proposal can be fully discussed and finalised at the next AC after all groups have commented.

AC 13/20 Appointment to Vacant Posts

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

AC 14/20 Ramblers response to Coronavirus

SD provided feedback from his participation in Ramblers Area Support on line meeting of 21st May. Government guidelines and compliance therewith will determine the nature of Ramblers activities being resumed.

The five key principles to consider before resuming any activity are:

- Social distancing – can the activity be carried out maintaining a 2m distance?
- Can the activity be done alone, with members of your household, or in pairs? (Based on current guidance, in England)
- Can the activity be done safely whilst protecting the health of individuals?
- Can the activity be carried out without using public transport or car-sharing (or crossing borders)?
- Can the activity be carried out in a responsible and ethical way? (eg not risking pressure on Mountain Rescue, local facilities)

CO have considered the different strands of Ramblers activity against these 5 principles:

Activity						Overall
Path monitoring incl. path adoption	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Signage / waymarking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Light vegetation clearance	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	
Ramblers Route checking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Heavy path repairs	✗	?	✗	✓	✗	
Led walks	?	✗	?	?	✗	

Members discussed the above and some of the issues to be considered when Ramblers CO publish guidance for resuming activities: -

- Reviewing the Led walks programme, acknowledging it is unlikely a winter/spring six month will follow the usual format.
- Develop programme flexibility

- Increasing the number of Led walks but with a restriction on numbers, possibly using booking system technology for managing numbers.
- Reviewing the criteria for Walk Leaders in light of definition and guidance for 'vulnerable', 'social distancing' and 'group size' elements.
- Establish methods for promptly communicating to members probable and possible changes to activities.
- Consider doing a 'mail shot'.
- Respond to the upsurge in public walking by promoting Ramblers on Facebook and other social media platforms.

Group Committees are asked to consider the above and feed-back to SD any thoughts or suggestions. Of course progressing the above is conditional upon Ramblers CO issuing advice or guidelines.

SD was thanked for his very helpful report.

AC 15/20 Urgent Countryside, Footpath and Access Issues

Nil

AC 16/20 Reports from Officers and Groups

A. Finance – Area Treasurer’s Report

In presenting his report, SB highlighted items from the position statement, concluding expenditure was minimal resulting in reserves increasing.

SB advised

- a) Area could forego their Quarter 4 finance allocation from CO without any impact on Area funds.
- b) If expenditure continues in the same vein the budget bid for 2021/22 could be reduced without problem.

After discussing details members agreed SB’s advised courses of action.

Proposed/Seconded: **TC/SD**

Reminder: - DW’s restricted fund. Members are asked to consider and report back on ways the remaining balance could be applied.

B. Membership Report

AL’s membership report was noted. Also information that a stockpile of 1000 envelopes and 950 second class postage stamps were held over following suspension of led walks and consequential cancellation of the last mail shot.

ACTION: - Noted

C. Footpaths Report [York and North Yorkshire Area]

DN informed the meeting: -

- I. City of York Council published the first 2 of their outstanding DMMOs, adding 2 in and around Hagg Wood, Kexby; sending the objected orders to The Planning Inspectorate, with a copy to Ramblers.
- II. Work on the Knapton (York) Bridleway 10 creation has been completed, formalising use of a former farmer’s underpass under the A1237, 45 years after the Outer Ring Road was built. It was being well used by family groups, walking, cycling and an electric wheelchair on Spring Bank Holiday. We await signage after the COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

- III. North Yorkshire County Council's Public Rights Of Way User Group meeting this month was cancelled due to COVID-19, but they sent out their usual Reports for commenting on – copies are available from DN.

D. Group Reports

Reports from Ryedale, Scarborough and affiliated group Hull CHA Rambling Club were noted.

AC 17/20 Correspondence

Nil

AC 18/20 Any Other Business

Minster Way – 40th Anniversary

PA informed the meeting that 2020 is the 40th anniversary of The Minster Way, being inaugurated in 1980 and two years ahead of the Yorkshire Wolds Way. Ray Wallis, creator of the route, has sold many thousands of copies of the guide (which has given a good profit to Area funds), and keeps a file of inspiring letters from walkers. He must be directly responsible for recruiting a large number of members for the Ramblers.

In discussion all members agreed some publicity should be given to the trail anniversary and Ray's commendable achievement.

- I. PA volunteered to compile a one-page press release to media outlets operating in our area.
- II. TC will do a feature for the Area website front page [Pocklington Group organised and completed the trail with the public as part of VHEY's Walks Festival 2019].

All AGREED

AC 19/20 - Future Meeting Dates

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

25th August: - Fimber

24th November: - Wetwang