

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on 28th February 2023

Present: Roy Hunt (Chair), Peter Ayling, Sam Borman, Stephen Down, Tom Halstead, Penny Hudson, Steve Lack, Ann Laing, Tony Malt, Mike Norman, Kate Plumb, Paul Shepherd, Jackie Small, Marian Thomas

Apologies: Joe Neal, Gary Malcolm, Norman Barclay, Peter Harrison, Ian Reavill, Vivienne Taylor.



AC 01/23 Chairman's Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Chairman RH welcomed members to the on-line meeting; apologies were recorded.

AC 02/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of the previous Area Council meeting of 29th November 2022 were accepted without amendment, there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere.

AC 03/23 Reports from Area Officers and Groups

a) Chair's verbal Report (RH)

RH said that the Area AGM appeared to be well received, in particular the presentation from the ERYC Countryside Access team on the coastal path; there was also positive comment about having the presentation from outside speakers before the business meeting, instead of after it. RH had raised the issue with the visiting trustee of the long delays in the development of the various software programmes, but was disappointed with her response.

RH stated that the advertisement for the two Area Rights of Way officers was not scheduled to be sent out until some time in March. He proposed that he would take over the lead role of acting as a liaison between the local authorities and the local groups, as an interim measure. RH said that he would need training material and help with North Yorkshire footpaths, especially historic issues. He would be in touch with DN.

b) Treasurer's Report : SB had presented the accounts from Oct 2022 to Feb 2023 and said there was a healthy balance of over £8,000. PH asked what would happen if a group ran out of money due to walk leaders claiming mileage after reccing walks. SB replied that he had asked & received from CO an additional £1,000 to cover this problem.

SB asked for Area Council's approval for two issues. Pocklington had received £750 of additional funding (pre-Covid price) to run a St John's Ambulance first aid course; this consisted of one day's training with separate morning and afternoon sessions for 24-28 people each session; it was not a qualification just training, also it was unlikely there would be any spare spaces to offer to other groups. The cost had now risen to £1,250 and SB asked for Area Council's approval to top up Pocklington Group's funding to cover the balance.

Vote: approved unanimously.

Navigation Courses; SB said that he needed at least 4 interested people to run a course- places were free to Ramblers but sometimes a non-Ramblers member wished to join his course, in which case he asked for a donation. SB asked approval from Area Council to run a course for 4 non-members. This was discussed and the best way forward was considered to be asking for a donation, which covered at least all SB expenses.

Proposed MN/ Seconded SD

c) Membership Officer. AL said that Area membership was 1517, our Area had 44 new members to date in 2023, roughly similar to this time last year.

d) Ex. Footpath officer for NY & Y-David Nunns gave a verbal report. Some footpath issues going back to the 1960s had recently been successfully resolved. Kexby/Dunnington at Hagg Wood, also the restricted footpath between Acomb and Rufforth.

e) Access Officer Tom Halstead gave a verbal report. TH said there had been no further development regarding the possible designation of the Yorkshire Wolds as an AONB, he was not expecting anything more until later on this year.

Fairy Dale Walk 7 in "Open Access Walks North Yorkshire" - this walk has two permissive paths on the Birdsall Estate, formal permission ran out after 3 years and TB has been making enquires about it's renewal. In July 2022 Lord Middleton wrote that he was happy to extend permissive access for a further period, provided that it was done in conjunction with NYCC. TB tried to move this forward with NYCC but recently he had an e-mail from them saying the matter was still in progress and they needed to consult about insurance.

f) Group Reports

Written from most the groups had been circulated;

Pocklington Group: KP said that arrangements for their 20th anniversary events over the weekend of 4th & 5th March were almost complete, with a high number of attendees. The committee had organised a significant amount of publicity in the local press. KP also stated that the group planned to walk the Cleveland Way in stages over the summer and the coach was now fully booked.

GYBO: SD said that the group was very popular with young people and their record of attendees on a walk was 49. He commented that at present they are walking the East Riding Heritage Way in stages, also in the summer the group will be hosting the National Young Ramblers weekend in York.

AC 04/23 Request to discuss possible Re-instatement of 6 monthly walks booklet

SL said that at the Hull & Holderness AGM in November he had been asked to raise the issue of the reinstatement of the 6 monthly Area walks programme booklet at Area Council, because a number of H&H members were in favour of this. However virtually all the other groups greatly preferred the current arrangements of having a flexible on-line rolling programme of walks, which could be printed from the Area website. Several groups, especially Howden & Goole & the Monday Area Group reported that they did not have enough walk leaders to plan 6 months in advance. Other groups did have a 6 monthly programme but preferred the flexibility to make changes, only possible with the on-line system.

SL said that one issue of concern was that due to the absence of an Area walks co-ordinator, there was no one overseeing the list of walks to avoid duplication i.e. 2 walks setting off from same starting point at the same time. This has occurred and it had to be sorted out on the day.

AC 05/23 Campaign for extension of open access to woodlands, grasslands & water

A bill to extend open access to include woodlands, waters and more grassland is currently going through Parliament. The Ramblers are conducting a "Freedom to Roam" campaign and are asking members to write to their MPs. RH said he was concerned about the Ramblers approach, that the information they give is based on biased statistics; for instance they have been measuring how close people live to any woodland no matter how small, whether accessible or if it is a good place to walk. Rather than focussing on access to all woodland, RH said the campaign should focus on pieces of privately owned woodland where there would be a real benefit to have some open access. The same for rivers and lakes, the local Ramblers Groups and Areas could easily identify the most beneficial places.

AC 06/23 General Council- Birmingham NEC 1st April 2023

At the Area AGM RH asked for two volunteers to attend and represent our Area, RH said would not be going. TH volunteered especially as he lives close to Birmingham NEC, but no 2nd delegate has come forward. Unfortunately a train strike is planned for 1st April.

RH said it was important for our Area to send a delegate, especially as one of the motions was “one member, one vote”, which would be prohibitively expensive to carry out.

07/23 Driffield Show 19th July 2023

As in previous years, Area has booked a Trade Stand at the Driffield Show on 19th July, and will be sharing the pitch with the National Trails (Malcolm Hodgeson). Peter Ayling thanked AL for the many years she had organised the Ramblers stand. She is now standing down and MT will take over this role.

AC 08/23 Any Other Business

A) Area's Zoom Pro Account: SD (the registered licensee of the account) said that Zoom had recently added new security features and validation checks; when those who don't use the account regularly attempt to log-in, they need to be authenticated by a code, which is sent to SD's phone. Therefore infrequent users need to let SD know in advance when they wish to log-in.

B) JS told the meeting that there were still some spare places on the Beverley group coach outing to Osmotherley on 4th June at the cost of £15 pp and she asked members to advertise this to their groups.

C) Walking East Yorkshire Festival -Saturday 9th September to Friday 22nd September
Martin Hill is again co-ordinating the led walks programme and would like contributions of walks (anywhere in East Yorkshire) by 30th April.

AC 09/23 Future meeting dates

Area Council Meetings- on Tuesdays commencing 7.30pm

23rd May 2023, Middleton-on-the-Wolds Village Hall, Station Rd, YO25 9UQ

22nd August 2023, Middleton-on-the-Wolds Village Hall, Station Rd, YO25 9UQ

28th November 2023 via **Zoom**

Area AGM 2pm Saturday 27th January 2024- hosted by Scarborough Group,
Venue: Friends Meeting House, Scarborough