

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Area Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on 28th July 2026

Present: Sam Borman (SB temporary acting chair & treasurer), Tony Corrigan (TC), Rosie Dyball (RD), Peter Godfrey (PG), Tom Halstead (TH), Ged Leach (GL), Gary Malcolm (GM), John Motley (JM), Joe Neal (JN), Ian Reavill (IR), Stephen Down (SD), Marian Thomas (MT secretary).

Apologies: Karen Van Eck (KVE), Steve Lack, Cathryn Ferris, Rachel Carlin.



AC 17/26 Deputy Acting Chair's Welcome and Apologies

Temporary acting Chair SB welcomed members to the on-line meeting; apologies were recorded.

AC 18/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous Area Council meeting of 5th May 2026 were unanimously accepted as a true record; there were no amendments or matters arising not dealt with elsewhere.

Proposed: Ian Reavill, seconded: John Motley

AC 19/26 Budget Bid for 2026/27

The Area/Groups budget bid for Oct.2026 to Sept.2027 had previously been circulated to AC members. SB talked through the assumptions he had made on Area expenditure based on previous costs, which was likely to be just under £2,000.

Group expenditure: SB said that of the 8 formal groups, 4 were taking their basic allocation, but 4 groups- Beverley, Pocklington, Ryedale and Scarborough had submitted a request for additional funding, giving a total estimated group expenditure of around £7,000.

SB stated that the surplus for this financial year assuming that groups claim all their allocated funds is £3,500. Since Area expenditure for 2026/27 is only £2,000, no additional funds for Area are needed. However, to cover £7,000 group expenditure, SB is proposing to request a **budget of £7,500 from Central Office**. This should leave an estimated reserve of around £2,000 by the end of financial year 2026/27. Proposed: Stephen Down, seconded: Ian Reavill; **Action- SB**

RD asked a question about the possibility of EY&D Area helping to fund deposits for GYBO weekends away, since this is a lot of money for a group member to pay out of their personal bank account. SB reminded the meeting that group social activities had to be self-funding but Area may be prepared to loan money to groups depending on the circumstances, amount & when it would be paid back.

AC 20/26 Other Reports from officers & Groups

The membership report and group reports had been previously circulated, SB asked if there were any further comments and updates.

Monday Area Group- PG reported that the group had a full walking programme to the end of September. He asked treasurer SB how Monday Area Group walk leaders could claim petrol expenses since it was not a formal group with a budget, although no walk leaders have previously made a claim. SB said that petrol expenses claims could be made directly to Area.

Ryedale group update: JM stated that a major issue will be to find a new walks co-ordinator to replace Ian Gibbs who resigns in November after many years of service.

Area Camp 26th-29th June was a great success in spite of being in the middle of a heat wave; 37 took part, there were 5 walk leaders, responsible for 8 walks over 4 days. The organising team are keen to do it again next year and are considering locations and dates.

JM said that the former Area Camp leaders Donna & Wayne Dosdale had enquired about running the camp again, they wanted to organise it rather than act as helpers to the current team. It has been suggested that possibly there could be two Area Camps next year. GM asked if there were two Area Camps in 2027, would there be sufficient funding for both? SB replied that this was a decision for Area Council, but he would personally support funding for both. SB said he would add another £100 to the budget bid for this, if everyone was in favour.

GYBO update: RD said the group has a really busy summer with lots of walks, new walk leaders and plenty of new members.

York Group Update: IR said they had a very successful coach ramble at Edale at the end of May, with 52 people attending and a choice of three different walks.

Footpath Maintenance Team update: JN said that Colin Van Eck had taken over as leader of the Beverley Footpath Maintenance Team. CVE was very upset about the Ramblers new Safety Guidance for Path Maintenance Teams (an 80-page document) and had raised questions with Central Office but had received no answers.

GL said that unfortunately Pocklington Group are currently without a footpath team due to health issues, but are hoping to resurrect the team in the future with some younger volunteers, some footpaths are getting really overgrown this year.

SD stated that Midlife Hikers have adopted a section of the Cleveland Way (from Sea Life Centre to Hayburn Wyke), they intend to patrol this section 4 times a year, no heavy-duty maintenance involved, just secateurs and litter picking.

IR said that York Group have a system where all 68 parishes in their area are covered members who do an annual survey and report back to the group co-ordinator and North Yorkshire Council and City of York.

AC 21/26 Succession Planning- Replacement Area Treasurer

SB said that at the last AC meeting he announced that he would be stepping down as acting chair and area Treasurer from the end of May 2027. He commented that the role of acting as chair, is easy and only requires chairing meetings nothing further, however the treasurer's role is more demanding. SB stated that he has already approached all the current group treasurers but none are prepared to take on the role. However, SB said the role is not really onerous, as everything is well documented, he would do a good handover, it is a rewarding job for someone good at numbers, no accountancy experience necessary. The job involves preparing the budget bid once a year with a worksheet, keeping the accounts up to date and paying expenses.

MT asked if a replacement Area Treasurer could not be found, would EY&D Area have to go into abeyance. SB was unsure about this and would need to ask Central Office.

SB said everyone should make enquires within their groups; TC requested that all potential area vacancies should be advertised in the next edition of Area Newsletter in October. SD suggested advertising the post on the front of the Area website, also TH said he would add something to the York Group website. However IR stated that posts like this are only filled by personally speaking to individuals, although it will do no harm to advertise the vacancy. MT asked if we should advertise the vacancy via the regional convenor Diane Simcoe, but it was agreed that this would not yield any results. **Action: all**

AC 22/26 Group 96 (members not attached to any group) to be retained or not?

At General Council in April, the motion was passed giving Areas the option to disband their so called “Group 96” (unallocated members who have chosen not to be attached to a particular group). EY&D Area currently has 102 members not attached to any group. After discussion, it was agreed that Area Membership Officer KVE would need to contact all unallocated EY&D area members who live in our area and tell them that they have 3 months to inform her which group they wish to be allocated to, if there is no response by that time they will be allocated to the group closest to where they live. **Action: KVE, MT**

AC 23/26 Millage Allowance updated from 45p per mile to 55p per mile

Central Office have increased the mileage allowance from 45p to 55p per mile. After discussion it was agreed that our EY&D Area recommend adopting an allowance of 55p per mile for a walk leaders’ first-time recce of a walk, with a maximum of 50 miles per round trip.

AC 24/26 Sending Newsletters to members who have not consented to e-mail Marketing

GM said he had phoned head office to ask if a newsletter was classified as e-mail marketing and was told that it was not. He then wrote to head office with the same question and was told that newsletters were regarded as e-mail marketing. GM stated that about 20 members who have signed to say they don’t wish to receive e-mail marketing have contacted him to say they do wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail. However since most contacted him by phone, he has no written record of their decision.

GL said that the GDPR commissioners’ office would not be interested if members have given their permission and proposed that GM should go ahead and e-mail newsletters to these members, SB seconded this. TC said that he had a data consent form that he could send to GM. **Action: GM, TC**

AC 25/26 GYBO wish to Change the name of their Group on Rambler’s website

RD explained that on the Ramblers website “Get Your Boots On” group are called “East Yorks Get Your Boots On”, this leads to confusion for new members trying to sign up via the Ramblers website. Everywhere else such as Facebook, Instagram etc. the group is called “Get Your Boots On”.

SD explained that the Ramblers website page was set up several years ago but is now causing problems because it is not what the group is known as. SB said EY&D Area give their full backing for the name of the group being changed to “Get Your Boots On”; all were in favour.

SD said the best way forward would be for RD to contact Diane Simcoe to get this changed. **Action: RD**

AC 26/26 Any Other Business

A) Remembering Ivor Jones

MT said Ivor Jones was a member of Beverley Group, an area treasurer around 2000s, and founder member of the Footpath Working Group; he died on the 21st June, aged 90. TH said he was disappointed by the negative response he had received from AC members when he suggested that an obituary could be added to the area website. MT proposed that an obituary be written for the area newsletter for the autumn edition.

B) Walking East Yorkshire Festival 12th-20th September

MT said the programme for the East Yorkshire Walking Festival was now available on-line. Events can now be booked, although there is no need for Ramblers to book a place on Ramblers’ walks. There will be no printed booklet this year. SD said he will post information about this on the area website. **Action: SD**

C) Update on Governance Review

MT said she had recently received an update from Lucy Robinson, Chair of Board of Trustees- they have made a number of amendments to the proposed governance changes, taking on board comments made by

members to make the changes more democratic and transparent. The number of elected trustees at the AGM would be increased from 6 to 7, giving a B of T of 13 members. B of T have tried to clarify how member forums will operate, with clearer outcomes and are asking for any comments from groups and areas by 31st August. MT will circulate the papers for AC members views. **Action: MT**

D) Area AGM January 2027- GYBO to host

RD said that Get Your Boots on Group were happy to host the Area AGM. She has e-mailed a few village halls and is waiting for a response. SB said he had allowed £300 for the cost of the AGM; all expenses must be claimed directly through area; SB said he was not available until after 18th January. MT said she was happy to give any help needed. **Action: RD**

E) Walk Leaders Training- Review 3 Years after Completing Initial Training

RD said she is taking part in a pilot scheme to develop some training update for walk leaders, 3 years on from the initial completion of the walk leaders training modules. This is likely to take the form of a quiz or questionnaire, rather than requiring walk leaders to re-take the training modules again.

Future Meetings

Area Council Meetings- on Tuesdays commencing at 7.30pm, all via Zoom

24th November 2026

Area AGM- date and venue TBA, hosted by Get Your Boots On