

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RAMBLERS'
ASSOCIATION GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP ON SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2016
AT 1400 IN LOWDHAM VILLAGE HALL**

<u>PRESENT:</u> Jonathan Ankers	Mick Rawdin	Malcolm Costello
Graham Ware	Alan Johnston	Pat Shaw
Alex McGowan	Peter Dawson	Barbara Shillito
George Wood	Dianne Maloney	John Crofts
Val Disney	Brian Torr	Pat Hilliard
Colleen Pilgrim	Derek Baker	John Crofts
Polly Johnson	Felicity Crofts	Chris Large
David Branston	Jim Norris	Liz Pritchett
Kath Ford	June Goddard	Graham Dicker
Barry Warner	Diane Smith	Jacky Knight
Brian O'Neill	Heather Darwent	Linda Ward
Cliff Hamilton	Stella Hamilton	Barbara Horton
Janet Revill	Maureen McGowan	Neil Radford
Denise Widdowson	Brenda Draper	Bryan Goddard

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The chairman welcomed everyone and stressed that this was the opportunity to express their opinion on how the Group is run.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Aubrey Gamble, Nick & Carol Hill, Gay Wood, Pat Rogers, Margaret Moore and Ann Staples.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 6th November 2015 were available to read.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were passed as a true record subject to one amendment.

Proposed: Kath Ford

Seconded: George Wood

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Ann Staples was not present as her sister had recently passed away. Ann had organized 48 coach trips in the past 18 years. There was due to be a presentation at the December fuddle, however she was due to have a hip operation a few days prior. The chairman felt that the presentation should proceed, with Brian Staples receiving on Ann's behalf, as this occasion would ensure the maximum attendance. **It was agreed** to allow the Committee to make the final decision.
- Regarding the Dukeries transfer: Members from the area covered could stay with the Gedling Group. However, four of those members wish the name to also stay. Brian O'Neill said that no walks were submitted by these members. They do not come on walks. It was **unanimously agreed** to transfer the name to Mansfield Group. The change would be considered by the Area Council in January 2017.

5 ANNUAL REPORTS

5.1 Chairman

Can I first thank all the committee members of the group for their attendance at the committee meetings over the past 12 months and for their input that has helped to maintain the running of the group.

At this year's AGM, Ann Staples will stand down as Coach Secretary after serving in this role for many years. I cannot thank Ann enough for the amount of work and energy she has put in to ensure the group's coach outings have been able to run smoothly. The membership as a whole should give her a big thank you for her tireless work. I am hopeful that a replacement for the Coach Secretary will be voted in at this year's AGM.

Another committee place; that of Publicity Officer, has remained vacant for two years.

I would like to think that there is a member of the group who would like to take on this role. Would someone please fill this important vacancy?

Can I now thank all the walk leaders for their continuing support in submitting walks for our twice yearly walks programme and, thanks to the group's website, walkers from other local groups often turn up on our walks.

Many of you would have been aware of the recent damage to one of the two trig points that the group maintains (by Brian Torr); this being the trig point at Dorkett Head. With thanks to Brian Torr, Derek Baker, Malcolm Costello, David Branston & Alex McGowan the trig point is now upright again and hopefully in rude health for many years to come. Thank you to you all for your hard work on the day.

Finally, this is your chance to have your say as to how the group is run over the next 12 months.

Is there any point you wish to raise? Today is the day to put across your views. Please read & comment on the members reports attached if you so wish.

5.2 Treasurer

The accounts have been returned to the Area Treasurer but there has been no response to date. I assume he has now sent them to Head Office. The balance at 30th September 2016 was £857.88 (£669.51 2015). This amount has been bolstered by a £250 donation. The coach trips were fully supported and, although prices had risen, made a small profit of £142. The trips at £12 per seat made a profit provided there were over 45 passengers. The annual dinner also made a profit of £88.

I wish to thank all the walk leaders for their efforts scouting the walks at their own cost. There is a nominal £10 allowance for this work.

The Area grant had been £81.11 quarterly.

The Chairman thanked Brian Torr for his service, now over 20 years.

5.3 Footpaths

This year has seen footpaths overgrown and stiles covered in foliage. This was due to the weather we have seen this year. Thanks to all the walk leaders, who have cleared footpaths and hedgerows, making the walks successful.

It has become increasingly difficult to get the local authority to address our reports. This is due to the lack of officers in post. We have a system in place where members report problems to their group footpath secretary, who in turn reports to the district coordinator. The coordinator and footpath secretary both visit the location and decide whether it can be dealt with within the group. If not, then it is reported to the local authority. This discourages members from going direct to the authority where their concern will carry less weight than that of the coordinator and probably be shelved.

5.4 **Membership**

Membership for the group at 31st August 2016 was 236. This is down by 5 for the same period last year, when the number was 241.

29	new members - 1 which has transferred in from another group
2	members reinstated
23	members no longer in the group
12	notified Central Office of their resignation
1	of which has moved away
11	memberships lapsed without notification or response to correspondence
8	payments are pending

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTACHED TO THE GROUP

30th September 2016

Total	236
Annual Individual	130
Annual Joint	99
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	8
Members no longer in the group	2
New Members	0
Members Reinstated	0

New Members – Questionnaires

Sending questionnaires to new members discontinued at the end of November 2015. This was due to poor response despite a stamped addressed envelope being provided.

Membership Fees

Membership fees increased from 1st May 2016 as follows

Individual Annual	£ 34.50
Individual Monthly	£ 3.25
Joint Annual	£ 45.50
Joint Monthly	£ 4.25
Individual Concession Annual*	£ 20.50
Individual Concession Monthly*	£ 2.25
Joint Concession Annual*	£ 27.50
Joint Concession Monthly*	£ 2.75

These rates are valid until 30th September 2017

*Concessionary rates are available for people on means tested benefits, people solely reliant on state pension or full time students **only**.

Membership renewal payments online and monthly direct debits are becoming more popular.

Proposed Dukeries Group Transfer to Mansfield Group

In January 2016 letters were sent to 11 members that are likely to be affected should Dukeries Group be transferred to Mansfield Group. The 11 members are those whose postcode falls within the area once covered by the Dukeries Group prior to becoming part of the Gedling Group and currently covered by Gedling & Dukeries Group.

2 questions have been asked:-

- 1) Would you wish to transfer your membership to Mansfield Group and become part of that group **or** stay as part of the Gedling Group?
 - 2) Do you think the 'DUKERIES' name should be transferred to the Mansfield Group **or** remain the same GEDLING & DUKERIES'?
- A pre-paid envelope was enclosed for a reply.
 - 7 of the 11 members contacted replied.

RESPONSE RESULTS

Members	Question 1	Question 2
3	want to stay with Gedling Group	want the name to remain
1	(answered unclear) ticked question	want the name to remain
1	(answered unclear) answered YES	no answer
1	transfer	transfer
1	happy to do either	happy to do either

5.5 **Area**

The role of the Liaison Officer is to ensure that the views and interests of Gedling and Dukeries are taken into account in the Area Council deliberations. The Area Council is a democratic body so I have a vote on any decision which is put to the vote and, in effect, place my vote on behalf of Gedling and Dukeries. I also have the opportunity of finding out what other Local Groups are doing and passing them on – similarly I pass on the happenings of Gedling and Dukeries. This means for example that the Area Council is kept up to date about our coach trips, our fuddles and our efforts to maintain the Dorkett Head Trig Point.

The Ramblers Association is a large organisation with many of the structures common to large organisations. It is also a Charity so the top of the structure is a Board of Trustees. The Area Council is an intermediate body between "Head Office" and Local Groups. The Officers of the Area Council are elected in effect by the Local Groups at the AGM. I attend that meeting and vote on your behalf for the Officials.

This structure was of particular interest during the current year on two counts. Firstly, that there had been a proposal at HQ level or a change in the governance arrangements for the Ramblers which would have had an impact on the relationship between HQ, Areas and Local Groups. This proposal was regarded as somewhat controversial at Area Council level. In fact it was rejected at the General Council meeting.

The second thing that happened was that the Nottingham Area Meeting voted for a change in Chairman. This is now Keith Wallace who some of you may have met since he attends local group walks on occasion. One of the changes he has implemented has been to streamline the running of the Area Council Meetings.

Amongst the issues discussed on the Area Council during the course of the year have been:

The introduction of a new Code of Conduct for Members. This establishes the principles on which members should cooperate with each other in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. Members may like to note that the Ramblers Association is committed to a common value of "looking to have fun and create enjoyment".

The relationship between cyclists and walkers

The establishment of a "Membership and Recruitment Sub-Committee" to address issues relating to declining membership, and what to do about this.

The integration of the Robins Hood Way Association into the Ramblers Association.

The impact of local government changes on rights of way.

Processes for training walks leaders

Once again Gedling and Dukeries members are reminded that if they have any issue they wish raised directly with the Area Council or any views on the policies of the Ramblers Association they are more than welcome to contact me at any time.

5.6 **Coach**

No further report.

5.7 **Web**

During the last year two significant changes were made. The map reference of each walk in the programme now links directly to a map page that shows the exact position of the map reference and therefore (provided that the map reference is correct) the starting point of the walk. Also, all the recorded GPS tracks are now grouped together in an alphabetical list rather than linked from the Programme pages. This makes it easy to click on and compare the various routes.

5.8 **Social**

Our last Christmas get together was a great success. A short walk followed by a fuddle at Papplewick Village Hall was well attended. The food, as usual, was wonderful. Everyone was very generous bringing raffle prizes and enough money was made to pay for the hire of the hall.

Our charity collection, instead of sending each other Christmas Cards, made £43. This was sent to the Alzheimers Society.

In May we held our annual dinner at The Ramsdale Golf Club. This was attended by 47 people. After a lovely meal we were entertained by a barbershop quartet.

A raffle was drawn on the Bridlington bus trip and made £24.50.

5.9 **Walks Programme**

Brian O'Neill thanked Brian Torr for his help in producing the last programme. The Chairman thanked Brian O'Neill for his work during the year.

5.10 **B Walks**

I have had a good response from of our walks leaders, which has enabled the group to fill the Sept 2016 – Feb 2017 programme, which is now in print.

The new walk dates for March 2017 to August 2017 are now available.

I also wish to thank all our leaders for their efforts.

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The following were elected unanimously: Brian Torr (Treasurer and Footpath), Graham Dicker (Web), George Wood, Jim Norris (Area), Mick Rawdin (Chairman), Jonathan Ankers (Secretary), Brian O'Neill (Walks programme), Val Disney (Membership), Pat Rogers (Social), Heather Darwent (Coach), Malcolm Costello (Publicity), Alex McGowan and Liz Pritchett.

7 CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

There were no motions proposed.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mick Rawdin would lead the walk on the coach trip to Skegness on 23rd July 2017.

There being no other business the meeting closed at **1502**.