

**MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH JULY 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COMMITTEE ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Mick Rawdin            Pat Rogers            Jonathan Ankers  
                 Brian Torr                 Jim Norris            Ann Staples  
                 Alex McGowan         George Wood         Graham Dicker  
                 Peter Dawson           Val Disney            Brian O'Neill

**1. APOLOGIES**

Liz Pritchett, Chris Large.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Brian Torr , seconded Val Disney and passed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS  
MEETING**

None.

**4. MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Chairman's Report

Annual dinner was a success tied into the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration .We need to discuss if future annual dinner's are to be held later in the year, I visited John Marshall on 29<sup>th</sup>. May 2014 following his heart operation . He was recovering but still undergoing physio. I took a bunch of flowers for Dorothy.

Leaflets available from Gedling Borough Council regarding World War 1 Commemoration.If anyone is considering attending any Poppy Walk then pre-booking is required .

I attended the Public Consultation event regarding the Gedling Access Road Project a week last Friday. Decision process will start next year . Traffic will still arrive on Mapperley Plains but by a different route. 900 homes still planned on the former colliery site plus a further 830 units on Teal Close at Netherfield .

I have received booklets on volunteering work for the Ramblers and a manifesto for a Walking Britain. This includes inviting our local MP on one of our local walks during the summer recess.

Secretary's Report

From RA central:

- We've lobbied on the High Speed Rail Bill, raising our concerns about the new line's impacts on both the landscape (particularly in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where we believe the line should be fully tunnelled) and on public rights of way. Current proposals here for phase one will badly affect 22 paths, with permanent diversions on unsuitable alignments, or long-term temporary ones on dangerous roads.
- We're also campaigning strongly on the Deregulation Bill, which is shortly to pass from the House of Commons to the House of Lords. It is vital that the full package of agreed measures is voted through as they stand and that Ministers successfully resist any new amendments which would allow for the diversion and closure of popular footpaths without reference to long-established checks and balances.
- The Infrastructure Bill offers an opportunity to make new developments more walking-friendly. As it moves through parliament we'll try to ensure the provisions outlined in the Bill are designed with walkers in mind and enable more people to enjoy the benefits of walking.
- We also note the introduction of a Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill which includes measures to strengthen legal protections for people who have acted for the benefit of others. With over 25,000 volunteers we welcome the additional protection the bill will provide for negligence claims against volunteers, and we hope these measures will reassure those people who are currently put off volunteering for fear of legal claims being made against them.
- The Draft Governance of National Parks and the Broads Bill is also of interest to us, providing as it does for direct elections to key positions in England's 10 National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority. We will be looking carefully at the draft bill to make sure that it does not erode representation of the national interest on National Park Authorities.
- Finally, and somewhat surprisingly, the Queen's speech didn't contain the much anticipated Forestry Bill, not even in draft form. Any bill will now have to wait until after the General Election, causing further delay to the creation of a new public forest management body for England, a key recommendation of the Independent Panel on Forestry.
- We're calling for a review of the legislation around bulls being kept in fields with footpaths passing through them following the recent trial over the death of walker Roger Freeman.
- The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has reiterated that English farmers must maintain public rights of way or face losing EU subsidies.
- There was an accident on one of our walks in Dovedale on 11<sup>th</sup> May. A report has been submitted by Brenda Draper. There has been no further news.
- Broxtowe Ramblers advertised places on a coach on 13<sup>th</sup> July. I took no action as it clashes with one of our walks. Does the meeting agree, or should I pass on such invitations to our members by e-mail?

- [Bob Rotheram has signed up for the local regional volunteer training days.](#)

### Treasurer's Report

Balance £953.94. No outstanding bills. The third quarterly grant of £82.75 had been received.

### Walks Programme Editor

There are still gaps in the programme for February 2015. An electronic version would be sent to the secretary for distribution to any member who submits an e-mail address for the purpose. **It was agreed** to print 350 paper copies.

### Footpaths Secretary's Report

It was reported that the Cavendish Public House was to be replaced by 38 houses. The site also has a footpath. Brian Torr had submitted comments and was awaiting a response.

The trig point at Dorkett Head had been spruced up with a coat of paint.

Generally, footpaths are becoming overgrown due to the cuts in financial support to the department.

### Membership Secretary's Report

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Total	264
Annual Individual	138
Annual Joint	119
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	4
Members no longer in the group	0
New Members	1
Reinstated	0

The issue of the walk leader who had not paid a subscription and would therefore not be covered by the insurance had been resolved.

### *Concessionary Membership*

I am often asked by members if they are entitled to Concessionary Membership now that they are 60 -65? I explain that Concessionary Rates are available to: full time students, people on means tested benefits or solely reliant on state pension.

I recently contacted Central Office regarding a situation that had arisen over 2 peoples membership and gave the following examples:

- 1) Joint Membership Concession – 1 member works full time and partner on means tested benefit. Both get membership concession. Assuming that the person on benefit is the fee payer.
  - 2) Joint Membership Concession - 1 member solely reliant on state pension and partner on state pension and company pension/other income. Both get membership concession. Once again assuming that the one solely reliant on state pension is the fee payer.
- This is a sensitive area.
  - Proof of circumstances are never asked for. Reliant on Trust.
  - Cannot delve in to persons financial circumstances.
  - People do not read small print and think concession is age related 60/65.

Central Office are aware there are issues and are constantly receiving telephone calls. It is something that is being looked into and is ongoing.

### **Subscriptions**

Individual	£33.00
Joint	£44.00
Joint Concession	£26.50
Individual Concession	£20.00
One Con + One Indv	£53.00

There is no provision on renewal forms paper and online, for individuals circumstances. On new application forms there is provision for 2 members and appropriate boxes should be ticked.

- If there is no provision people cannot fill informs correctly anyway.
- I feel that forms should be produced to take in to account individuals circumstances and small print to be larger and bolder.

### Social Sub Committee Report

£17 profit had been made on the Pickering trip raffle. Prize donations would be welcome for the coach trip to Pateley Bridge.

The Tree Tops pub on Mapperley Plains had been booked for the Christmas walk on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### Coach Secretary's Report

The Pickering trip had been very enjoyable. Generally, any coach seat cancellations had been rapidly re-filled.

### Publicity Officer's Report

Our walks are very popular still and numbers are good. There is only a slow trickle of new members due to the formation of many new groups. Central Office has been put into the following libraries: Arnold, Burton Joyce, Carlton, Calverton, Gedling, Lowdham, Mapperley Plains and Woodthorpe. More leaflets will be distributed before the school holidays. On June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Jenny and Rod Fillingham ran a stall at the Arnold Carnival. The Group walking programme was given to those who showed particular interest. Jenny has placed a large poster in the "Box" at Arnold Library, giving information on all local rambling groups. Area had decided to run a stall because the Group had historically shown no interest. Posters are still to be seen in Sainsburys Arnold. "Big Boxes" in the remaining libraries have not yet been checked. The Group is also promoted by members talking to friends and neighbours.

#### Area Liaison Officer's Report

There had been no Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting since the last committee meeting.

Nottinghamshire County Council has disbanded the Footpath Committee. Chris Thompson has queried on whom we serve legal notices. The reply identified the Chief Executive as the Council are not fulfilling their statutory responsibilities.

The Deregulation Bill will not allow land-owners to close footpaths at will. It merely formalizes current practises.

There is a national campaign to improve safety at level crossings. This is likely to result in the closure of many crossings and provision of alternative crossing methods only when likely to be heavily used.

#### Map Secretary's Report

No change.

#### Web Officer

**It was agreed** to publish committee minutes on the website.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Walking Weeks

The monthly internet newsletter was arriving too late to be of use. Val Disney had found templates on the RA website that could be useful in the future to advertise walks.

Brian O'Neill will investigate the "Find a Walk" lists on the website to see if we should submit our walks. Jonathan Ankers suggested that it was only duplication of the information on our own website.

#### Advertsing

Prices in the bi-monthly NG3 magazine, with a circulation of 8,000, were £30 for a quarter page, £50 half page and £90 for a full page, plus vat. **It was agreed** to try a half page ad as a "one-off." The secretary to provide the chairman with headed notepaper to prove charitable status and avoid the vat.

### Future Meetings

**It was agreed** to re-book the same room for the coming year.

### Walks Mileage

There was a discussion about the accuracy of stated length.

### Annual Reports

These would be requested at, not for, the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 2100.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014.