

**MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Liz Pritchett, Brian O'Neill, Val Disney.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

Proposed Ann Staples , seconded Pat Rogers and passed.

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

The NG3 magazine was shown to the meeting. It had cost £60 for half a page.

**J.Fillingham had given out 26 copies of the walks programme at a recent fair**

**4. MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Chairman's Report

Brian O'Neill had undergone a hip operation. The chairman would send a card.

The Gedling Country Park opening was now planned for April 2015.

The July Area minutes revealed that £200 had been given to the Broxtowe Group for their anniversary celebrations. This had been queried by our chairman and a response from Jack Prust was awaited.

Secretary's Report

From RA central:

- Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Ramblers working party, led by Basil Merry, have reconstructed a boggy part of the Hagg Wood walk and installed steps in Holymoorside and Walton.
- We're celebrating the government's announcement to create a path along the entire Isle of Wight coastline.
- New Group Walks and Events Manager:

- Monday 1 September - All walks input by 31 August will be transferred over to the new system. Thursday 4 September - You will be able to input walks for October onwards into the new system. You will also be able to check and edit walks that have been transferred from the old group walks finder. Monday 15 September - The new walks search and area and group pages are scheduled to go live.
- New Area and Group Webpages:
  - The system to manage the new area and group webpages on the Ramblers site will be launched in early August. You will then have several weeks to add and edit content for your area and group, until the pages go live to the public around the 15th September.
- [First Aid Training. RA advise searching for providers on Google. Red Cross and St.John are apparently expensive.](#)

#### Treasurer's Report

Balance £742.14.

#### Walks Programme Editor

Not present.

#### Footpaths Secretary's Report

The footpaths on the Gedling Country Park have, reportedly, already been determined. Footpaths generally are overgrown.

#### Membership Secretary's Report

As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

Total	264
Annual Individual	104
Annual Individual Concession	32
Annual Joint	69
Annual Joint Concession	52
Life Individual	1
Life Individual Concession	4
Life Joint Concession	2
Payments Pending	5
Members no longer in the group	1
New Members	2
Reinstated	0

#### Social Sub Committee Report

**It was agreed** that the annual dinner would be in May 2015. There would be a fuddle and walk in December with a collection for the Childrens' Brain Charity. Brian Torr had not yet paid for Oxton Village Hall and would phone John Marshall, who normally made the arrangements.

#### Coach Secretary's Report

The Pateley Bridge coach was full. The next programme included a trip to Stow on the Wold for a six mile walk to Bourton on the Water on 19/7/2015. Chairman to inform Pam Footitt. Polly was trying to arrange Church Stretton, for which a date was to be decided.

### Publicity Officer's Report

None

### Area Liaison Officer's Report

This is a report incorporating the Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Probably the most important issue facing the Area is the rundown of the Rights of Way Processes by Local Authorities, including the decision by Nottinghamshire County Council to abolish it's Rights of Way Committee. It is becoming apparent that there is a developing failure to perform statutory duties with regards to footpath maintenance. The Area sent a formal letter to the County Council CEO asking the name of the Officer on whom Section 556 Notices should be served (it is the CEO). David Hunt has visited senior officers of the County and explained the seriousness of the situation. The Corporate Director indicated that he wished to discuss all the Ramblers HA80 Section 56 Claims "in a transparent way". This is encouraging.

The Area Chair has taken up the issue of communicating with the 70% of Ramblers Association Members who have no contact with Groups. He intends to find out what keeps them in membership. This is important because without them the Ramblers association would cease to exist.. He is meeting with the Ramblers CEO on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The Area has splashed out £100 on a new Gazebo which will be available to support any events etc. If anyone needs it they should contact Alex Staniforth.

The Area Membership Secretary attended a workshop on attracting and recruiting members. She is circulating the paper from that meeting to Group Membership Secretaries in preparation for discussion at October's Area Council.

We are writing to all the Companies who hold Petroleum Extraction Licences for Nottinghamshire to ask them to take account of Countryside and Rights of Way issues when they move to applying for planning permission to start fracking.

If anyone is interested in first aid training, Karen Inster at Ramblers HQ has recommended the following web site - [www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/advice-for-walkers/safety/introduction-to-first-aid.aspx](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/advice-for-walkers/safety/introduction-to-first-aid.aspx)

A sub group is being set up to address the issue of "Walking with MPs".

Re-accreditation for "Walking for Health" is coming in December and further guidance is available. The contacts are Keith Wallace and Judith Anson.

### Map Secretary's Report

None issued.

### Web Officer

Graham considered that the website needed refreshing. Suggestions would be welcome, especially for the front page. Many of the functions are not well understood so Graham would consider a demonstration at the AGM.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Brian Torr volunteered to lead a five-mile walk before the AGM.

AGM reports were required by 30<sup>th</sup> September. The secretary would assemble all the parts and forward to the chairman by 23<sup>rd</sup> October with the agenda and minutes. Nomination forms would be prepared at the next meeting.

Reg Simpson has software that measures the length of walks. The problem is a lack of proper reconnaissance. It was suggested that every walk leader must carry a map.

**It was agreed** to publish the minutes as approved.

Alex McGowan queried why some other groups asked for membership fees? It was emphasized that payment would be entirely voluntary for RA members.

The meeting closed at 2050.

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

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014.