

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT: Mick Rawdin Liz Pritchett Jonathan Ankers
Brian Torr Pat Rogers Ann Staples
Alex McGowan Peter Dawson Graham Dicker
Brian O'Neill

1. APOLOGIES

Jim Norris, George Wood, Val Disney.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed B Torr , seconded P Dawson and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A reply had been received from J Prust regarding the award of £200 to Broxtowe Group. He inferred that the Group were short of money.

Over one hundred copies of Notts Walker had been given by hand. The Spring 2015 issue would be published only in pdf format.

The proposed digester plant in Gedling Country Park had been put on hold.

The consultation period on the Shelford gravel pit had ended.

Only three groups had signed up for the first aid course.

4. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

A thank you to everyone who attended the groups recent AGM and to you who have stood again as committee members. A thank you to Chris Large is included in my article for the next programme.

As you can see from the agenda, we discuss the proposal put forward at the AGM for a possible 2 month rolling programme later under AOB.

I have spoken to Jim Norris following his recent operation. He was in hospital for 5 days -2 days longer than expected due to low oxygen level. The operation appears to have been a success at this early stage. However, the emergency services were called out twice as the wound started to bleed and now he has visits from the District Nurse to check all is well. His first meeting with the physio is planned for this week to establish when he can start his physiotherapy.

Jim is being positive about the outcome and I have sent him a card from the group.

I will attend the Area meeting on the 20th January so the group has representation. I will also attend the Area AGM and report back at the next committee meeting. Jim hopes to attend the Area AGM.

Notts County Council and the Ramblers are looking at a joint project to have a walking week in 2015. No date set but a pity if it clashes with our walking programme.

Up date on Linda who fell on the New Years Day walk. She was taken to the QMC for a check -stayed with her son in Clifton who gave her a meal. She went home later and told to stay in the next day. She is fine.

Secretary's Report

From RA central:

1. Recognise a volunteer or team of volunteers who have done something special. The President's Volunteer Awards are an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the successes of our volunteers. Anyone is able to nominate somebody for an award. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news.aspx#sthash.KUJMI1v5.dpuf>
1. 04 December 2014. Today we're celebrating the Government's announcement that more than £5.3 million has been committed to ensure the England Coast Path will be completed and open for all to enjoy by 2020, ten years earlier than was originally planned. See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news.aspx#sthash.KUJMI1v5.dpuf>
2. We're celebrating the government's announcement that more than £200 million of transport funding will be invested in improving conditions for both walkers and cyclists in Britain. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news.aspx#sthash.KUJMI1v5.dpuf>
3. We're excited to hear we've been shortlisted for the Public Affairs Awards 2014 for our 'One Coast for All' campaign. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news.aspx#sthash.KUJMI1v5.dpuf>
4. A new Strategic Highways Company to replace to the Highways Agency.
This new government owned company would be responsible for a new Road Investment Strategy. We have been reminding Ministers and Peers that a highway is not just about roads and cars it's also public rights of way cycling and walking. Result: A new government amendment has been added to the Bill to make it clear that users of highways also include cyclists and pedestrians.
5. New powers for the transfer of public land to The Homes and Communities Agency. These powers are being put forward so that surplus public land can be used for development such as new homes, but we have concerns that the provisions could be used for the transfer of land designated as open access land or held in trust for the benefit of the public (by such bodies such as the Forestry Commission or National Parks). Result: Ministers have promised to amend the Bill to exempt the public forest estate and that these powers will not be used to transfer land from National Parks.

6. Greater powers to allow fracking. The Bill has proposal to change trespass laws to allow energy firms to drill for shale oil and gas and geothermal energy without the landowner's consent. Although this won't affect public rights of way and access above ground, we did have concerns about the precedent this could set for similar above ground activities like quarrying. Result: We have been told that there is no question of changing the existing regime governing access to surface land and that these powers will only apply to land below 300 metres.
7. Community Energy. The Bill will allow communities to buy a stake in local renewable electricity schemes via 'community energy right'. Result: As a member of the Community Energy Coalition we support these moves but feel the community stake needs to be raised from 5% to at least 20% to allow a more meaningful level of shared ownership.
8. There is newly revived interest in providing a foot-cycle bridge over the Trent between Trent Lane (next to the major Waterside- Trent Basin brownfield redevelopment site on which work is due to start in the new year) and The Hook open space by Lady Bay. This is a bit further west than the site proposed about 20 years ago for such a bridge between the Colwick Park and Holme Pierrepont major recreational areas but would still be of great benefit in encouraging active and sustainable travel between them, as well as being a much better site for commuters, especially if linked to further sections of the riverside paths on the north and south banks and upgrades of the existing paths and other access routes. It would therefore be very helpful please if possible to have a message from the Gedling and Dukeries Ramblers supporting in principle the proposed Trent Lane - The Hook bridge.
9. Our arrangement with HF Holidays finished at the end of September. That contract returned over £200,000 of income and we are grateful to the staff and members of HF Holidays for their continued support. As a national affiliate from our founding days, our mutual bond will remain strong. The new contract with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays aims to increase donations and encourages their clients to become members of the Ramblers. It started in October and runs for three years. It focusses mainly on digital communications on both websites and by email. You can expect to see promotion of RWH on our website and in our email communications with members. In return, you will see the Ramblers on their website and in their emails.
10. Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 20th January 2015. Could you please forward your reports for this meeting by Thursday 15th January 2015.

the planning application for the proposed Digester plant at Gedling Colliery site has been suspended pending further investigation into environmental impacts. This effectively means that the decision of the planning application is suspended until such time that this supplementary information is received. The Council are required to formally re-advertise the planning application upon receipt of the applicants response and this will trigger another round of planning consultation.

Current balance £591.82. The Area grant had been increased by £2.99 per quarter. The Christmas fuddle raffle had raised £77 plus £10 from Sue Davey. The hall cost £75.

Deposits for the coach trips had been paid.

Walks Programme Editor

The next programme had been started. There were, so far, 15 "A" walks and 17 Thursday walks. The print run was agreed at 300. 200 stamps would be required.

There was a discussion about the proposed two month rolling walks programme. **It was agreed** not to implement the change at present.

The secretary would supply a list of those who would accept electronic programmes, together with e-mail addresses.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Some path clearing had been carried out. The December footpath meeting had been cancelled.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st December 2014

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Total | 260 |
| Annual Individual | 136 |
| Annual Joint | 117 |
| Life Individual | 5 |
| Life Joint | 2 |
| Payments Pending | 2 |
| Members no longer in the group | 0 |
| New Members | 0 |
| Members Reinstated | 0 |

New Members Questionnaires

At the last meeting I suggested sending a questionnaire along with the welcome letter to new members, enclosing a S.A.E. for reply. This is with a view to finding out how people come to find out about Gedling Ramblers.

Since the last meeting we have had one new member. I have had a returned questionnaire.

Response: Recommended to the group.

Comment/Suggestion: That Ramblers be promoted though the U3A.

[I have checked this with an Arnold U3A Committee Member and it has been confirmed that the U3A cannot promote other companies or organisations.](#)

Social Sub Committee Report

£50.50 had been raised for the Children's Brain Cancer Charity. The annual dinner ticket price had been set at £14.45 to include a tip. It was agreed to book the local historian, Margaret at £75. The Christmas Dinner had been successful.

It was agreed to send George a card for his 101st birthday.

Coach Secretary's Report

14 people had booked on each of the two trips.

Publicity Officer's Report

None

Area Liaison Officer's Report

None.

Map Secretary's Report

Unwanted maps would be sent to Oxfam.

Web Officer

The Walks Finder on the RA website could be updated from a csv file. The secretary would upload our walks csv file after resolving any compatibility issues.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The secretary would update committee e-mail addresses on the contact list

There was a desire to avoid using Lambley Village Hall for the AGM. The kitchen and car parking were poor. B Torr would get alternative prices.

The official opening of Gedling Country Park would be on 23rd March. It would be open to the public on 28th March.

The meeting closed at 2115.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 5th March 2015.