

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT:

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

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

After two amendments, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Ann Staples, seconded George Wood, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Gedling Country Park is now owned by the Council . Gedling Borough Council paid £1 to purchase the site from Haworth Estates. The crematorium on Catfoot Lane has been given the go ahead. The planning committee of the council voted 10 / 6 in favour. The report in the Nottingham Post suggested the vote went along party lines – Labour for / Conservative against.

A reminder for when we meet again in September: I shall be reminding members who submit reports of the time scale to send them to Jonathan. There is no need to go away from this meeting thinking you have got to prepare straight away. It's just at the next meeting we will decide the time scale to get all reports in on time. The process will follow last year's AGM – reports / agenda available on the day .

I was walking through Epperstone a few weeks ago. The Cross Keys is about to re-open. I spoke to the landlady. The pub was undergoing a complete re-fit. If food becomes available, the pub could re-appear on a Thursday morning walk.

Secretary's Report

1. There has been a change in the way path problems need to be reported. The new system is: Problems should be reported to the Rights of Way Coordinators in the area the problem occurs or the Group Footpath Secretary who should then pass it on.
2. We will be launching the Big Pathwatch on 13 July, but giving people a chance to pre-register from June. Keep an eye out for your summer edition of Walk magazine, arriving shortly, and you'll see the three-page spread which will explain the project to every member. From the 13 July participants will be able to:
 1. Download the mobile app, or sign up online.
 2. Pick one or more 1km x 1km grid squares to survey (printable guidance, maps and survey questions available).
 3. Go out and walk every right of way in their square(s).
 4. Upload their responses using the app as they walk, or on the website when they get home.
 5. Upload pictures, and share on social media, as they wish. The survey will run until every path has

been walked and we'll publish our findings in 2016. Your group could: i. Walk up to 60 grid squares as part of your regular walks programme ii. Organise a special Big Pathwatch walk or event. iii. Use the Big Pathwatch app to report and share any features you find in the squares.

3. The Friends of Gedling Country Park would like to provide a Memorial Garden to commemorate the 128 miners who died working in Gedling Colliery and have forwarded this project to the One Family Foundation for funding. To obtain £25,000.00 of funding we have to achieve over 5,000 votes. Could you please vote for this project and forward this email to as many people as you can. There is a link from: www.gedlingcountrypark.org.uk/memorial-gardens.html

4. We will continue to seek reassurances that the coast path will be finished by 2020 as planned and continue to champion this green infrastructure project.

5. Ramblers are celebrating the Court of Appeal's ruling in the Andrews case, which was heard earlier this month. In a judgment delivered on 1 July, the three Court of Appeal judges, Lord Dyson (Master of the Rolls—the second most senior judge in England and Wales), Lady Justice Gloster and Lord Justice Sales, gave a clear ruling that the judgment in the original Andrews case, back in 1993, was wrong, and that section 10 of the 1801 Inclosure Act did authorise Inclosure commissioners to set out and award public footpaths and bridleways when making inclosure awards. This new judgment vindicates the long-held view of the Ramblers and other experts that the 1993 case was wrongly decided and is a tribute to the tenacity of John Andrews. John was Ramblers Area Footpath Secretary in Suffolk for many years, and was responsible for many successful claims to add paths to the definitive map in that county. John, working closely with historical map expert Dr Yolande Hodson led the Ramblers' research project which studied many inclosure awards to find evidence to help back this appeal. It has taken nearly 15 years of research and legal debate to get this result.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £807.22 after the coach cheque, which had two signatures this time. Existing cheque books must be destroyed after the end of the month following the change in bank. No new cheque, or paying in, books had yet been received.

Jack Prust had said that budget forms were not required, unless we wanted the proposed new grant of £324. **It was agreed** that we did indeed want the grant.

Walks Programme Editor

Walks received included 20 Thursday, 18 "A" Saturday and some from Chris Thompson.

Ann needs a contact for Papplewick Village Hall for the Christmas Fuddle. JRA to provide.

There was still room in the programme for any further contributions.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Ethel Avenue

The planning meeting at Arnot Hill park was attended on 17th June. The meeting was adjourned because Notts County Council had not had time to take over the footpath. Notices of intent to take over responsibility for this 130 year old historic, well documented and continuously used path have been posted.

Cavendish Public House

There has been a revised plan put forward by the developer, which I have inspected at the Civic Centre. It does not infringe upon the footpath, therefore I have written to the Planning Officer that we have no objection.

Trig Points

Both have enjoyed their annual repainting.

Membership Secretary's Report

30th June 2015

Total	247
Annual Individual	135
Annual Joint	105
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	9
Members no longer in the group	2
New Members	1
Members Reinstated	0

Response to New Starter Questionnaire

New member for June - recommended to Gedling Group by a friend.

Social Sub Committee Report

Raffle prizes were being collected.

Coach Secretary's Report

Next week's trip was full. There were no firm proposals for any trips next year. Ann would be attending a walk in Grassington, Yorkshire. The disadvantage of this walk was the many stone wall stiles.

Publicity

Jenny would need some programmes and fliers for the Newark ploughing competition. **It was agreed** that the print run would be maintained at 300.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

This is a report incorporating the Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting held on 21st April (nb this means there have been no meetings of the Council since the last meeting of the Gedling and Dukeries Committee).

The first active application for "Fracking" in Nottinghamshire is in the process of being initiated by I Gas at Misson. At present a scoping exercise has been carried out and the next stage will be a full planning application. The main issues at Misson are that it is a "brown field" site with no footpaths and a lack of habitations. It is however right next door to the Wildlife Trust Misson Carr Site, an important site for moths, which has a water shortage. The development of Fracking Sites is not subject to normal planning regulations since it is covered by separate legislation. It is therefore not in the Notts Mineral Extraction Plan.

The Area Council has discussed about its role in "The Big Pathwatch". The general idea behind this scheme is similar to the concept of "birdwatch" for birds. There are 150000 grid

squares and the RA wants to check a sample of 30000 randomly selected grid squares to ensure that the survey is robust. This can be done if each Group walked 60 grids. "Every square is useful".

There has been discussion about "what is countryside?" in the light of the publication of the Ramblers "Renewable Energy Policy" This policy sets out the grounds on which we would object to any particular planning proposal for renewables. It is interesting to note that since the Ramblers Charity does not have charitable purposes relating to wildlife or heritage, these issues alone would be outside of our terms of reference. We do have an interest in obstructing views or despoiling the Green Belt whether or not rights of way are affected.

The change in emphasis in planning regulations will continue to result in permissions being given to go ahead which appear irrational – the bias is towards acceptance. Placing what appear to be valid objections may well not prevent developments such as those at Bulcote Farm or the proposed limestone quarries and 38 year infill sites at Gorse Lane on the Viking Way

There are continuing difficulties using footpaths affected by the still relatively new A46 and Chris Thompson has proposed including the new alignments on the Area Website if approval can be obtained from the Web Officer

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. A walker maintained that the bus company had told her she was allowed on the bus with a dog. The rule that dogs are not allowed on coach trips was re-stated. This was to be highlighted in the Walks Programme.
2. Meeting dates for 2016 were agreed: 7/1, 3/3, 12/5, 14/7, 8/9, 3/11.
3. Peter Dawson reported that a walker with the Broxtowe Group had recently collapsed on a hot Wednesday.
4. Reference to maps being available to borrow, on the website to be removed by Graham.
5. A walk in memory of June and John Lord was desired. The Thursday walk in Linby in Spring 2016 was proposed. The Lord family would be involved.

The meeting closed at 2045.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd September 2015.