

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

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

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Ann Staples, seconded Graham Dicker, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The chairman reported that the food at the Cross Keys Epperstone was considerably more expensive than before the re-fit.

The reference on the website to borrowing maps has been removed.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

You will have noticed by now one of the discussion points tonight will be the possible merger of the Dukeries members with the Mansfield & Sherwood Group. I will say no more now only that the initial enquiry regarding the possible merger came from Alex Staniforth from the Mansfield & Sherwood group. I will give the details of the events over the last two weeks when we come to that item of business on tonight's agenda.

A thank you to Brian for producing the walks programme; now underway. A further thanks to the walks co-ordinators, here tonight, for their contribution in gathering the walks. The postage costs were again reduced by either members picking up their own copies on walks or hand delivering copies. Only 70 copies were actually posted. I did get a quote from Minuteman Press, a company close to where I live – 300 programmes in the same format priced at £235.00. This is considerably more than the outlet we currently use, who charge £95.

Finally, I have a copy of the Nottinghamshire Area Income & Expenditure for the period 01/10/2014 – 30/06/2015. This balance sheet again shows that not only groups are struggling with their cash flow but also Area – over this period the Area balance has reduced by £434.47.

Secretary's Report

1. Notts. County Council has made available definitive maps of the area around the A46 improvements. There is a link at the top of the area website home page.
2. There had been an enquiry from a Julie Najuk. She had been referred to Walking for Health.

3. Area Council deliberations: There is interest in revamping communication strategy at Area level in an attempt to attract younger members. The Area website will be completely overhauled and the new one will be based on the central Ramblers template. Nottinghamshire Walker is to be replaced by a regular newsletter which will go out electronically. We would also like to help Groups to modernise their presence on the web - various things that Groups might consider are: a new website linked to the central Ramblers site, a newsletter, a Facebook page, or a blog.
4. Since last month's launch of the Big Pathwatch, more than 19,500 km of footpath have been surveyed, and a staggering 19,800 problems reported - 5,100 of which are stopping people in their tracks.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer had written and texted to Jack Prust to secure our allocation of £324.44 grant for the 2015/16 year.

The meeting room at the Richard Herrod Centre had been booked up to 3rd November 2016.

The fuddle on 13th December 2015 has been booked and paid for; £72.

New cheque books from Unity Bank will not now be issued until September.

Walks Programme Editor

Not present. No report.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

There is a meeting Tuesday 8th September at Stoke Bardolph Village Hall, 1000, concerning the footpath from Nottingham Road across the railway line and on to the path by the sewerage farm. This leads onto another footpath to the River Trent by the Ferryboat Pub. We have documentation back to 2006, when John Lord gathered 300 user evidence forms. I will take copies to the meeting, where there will be an appointed inspector of state for the environment, food and rural affairs. Chris Thompson will represent the Ramblers Association but anyone can attend. I will be calling on those who completed the forms to invite them to attend. The cost of photocopying the forms was £40.

During the past year many footpaths have become overgrown. Sometimes the Group has had to clear a way to allow walks to proceed.

I attended a meeting Wednesday 2nd September regarding Ethel Avenue, Carlton. This was a planning meeting as the building plan had been amended showing two, not three, houses. The plan did not infringe the byway. Notts. County Council have not committed to buying the byway. The plans were rejected due to the sudden change. It was considered a precursor to an attempt to gain permission for the third house at a later date.

A member of Friends of Ethel Avenue had moved a solar panel off the path. This was recorded on CCTV. The landowner called the police, alleging criminal damage and the case is going to court.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st August 2015

Total	241
Annual Individual	133
Annual Joint	101
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	8
Members no longer in the group	0
New Members	1
Members Reinstated	1

New member for August – transferred from Derbyshire Dales Group

Administrative Errors at Central Office

Recently there have been quite a few administrative errors at Central Office in relation to renewal payments and amendments. Some members have gone into a lapsed or payments pending situation. When I have contacted them or spoken to them they have been unaware that there has been a problem as they pay by direct debit.

Two people have contacted Central Office to notify of amendments but these have not been processed. One notified Central Office of address and payments changes before Christmas but I didn't receive details until July. In April the membership expired I wasn't able to contact the lady as I didn't have new address details. This meant that between April and August no payment was taken. The membership has now been reinstated. The other person notified of changes for May these too were not processed. The payment commenced in August. Once again, there was a gap in payments from May to July.

One person didn't have payments taken for two months and didn't know why. Central Office say that because of a delay in them setting her payments up and if they claimed the two months she would have overpaid. The membership didn't go into payments pending or lapsed.

One membership went into payments pending but the member didn't know why as he paid by direct debit and didn't know there was a problem.

Three others have not gone into payments pending or lapsed but I have not been notified of payments. One has paid online by using a credit card and I have not been given a response regarding the other two. Apparently, payments online are recorded differently to cheques and direct debits.

I have contacted Central Office about my concerns. Also I have sent a copy of my email to Judith Hanson. Area Membership Secretary. I am awaiting a reply.

Social Sub Committee Report

The annual dinner needed to be booked. Pat would book for 14th May 2016 if possible.

Two walks had been organized for the annual fuddle, one of which will be four miles around Papplewick, led by Reg Simpson and include stops for talks.

Coach Secretary's Report

The last trip had been a great success, with 54 sales of 53 seats even though only 50 travelled!

Malcolm Costello wants to organize a coach trip on 17th July 2016. Details awaited.

Publicity

Twenty programmes and thirty fliers had been given to Jenny for the Gedling shows.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

This is a report incorporating the Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting held on 21st July 2015

The most significant development has been the adoption of the Area Communication Policy. This was developed and presented by a small working group. The proposal was quite complex but the key elements are:-

1. Area would send out e-mails to members every two months using the centrally held e-mail addresses. When this was done in April there was a 60.7% "Open Rate" which apparently is quite high. There were 66 bounces – presumably caused by people changing their e-mail addresses without notifying Ramblers.
2. Groups could submit items for inclusion in the e-mail.
3. It would become easier to send out Annual Reports and Area AGM Papers.
4. Groups would be asked to include notice of AGMs in their walks programmes.
5. From 2017 there would only be electronic communications. Members could send in a SAE if they wanted hard copy.
6. The website would be redeveloped. There would be two parts. The first part would be to encourage visitors to join the RA and would direct them to Group Sites. The second part would be for news.
7. James McGill, the Groups Liaison Officer and a member of the Communications Working Party is to visit groups to discuss communications

Because there cannot be two Area Websites and in order to release of the JOOMLA CMS, the Webmaster – who had not been a member of the Communications Working Party – resigned after the meeting

The A46 routes are now on the web site

It was agreed at the Council that the Robin Hood Way Association should be integrated into a Ramblers Special Interest Group.

There is some discussion going on about the appropriate approach towards renewable energy developments – solar panels and wind farms. The Ramblers Association itself has a clear view and policy. We are opposed to such developments if they impede Rights of Way or are in National Parks. We "support measures to reduce harmful emissions of carbon dioxide" as long as they do not damage landscapes, wildlife or historic places. Because issues relating to historic sites or wildlife are not at the heart of our charitable purposes concerns on such issues "will generally not be enough to justify an objection from the Ramblers."

Webmaster's Report

By default, only future events are shown, but the history can be called up.

Maps can now "pop up." All walks are now uploaded to Walks Finder.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The AGM would be on 25th October. Brian Torr had agreed to lead the walk.
2. Val would produce a list of those members we might lose if the Dukeries Group is transferred to Mansfield & Sherwood. The Area meeting on 20th October would discuss the matter.
3. Thursday walks were being collected by Pat Rogers. The Lord memorial walk was likely to be at Radcliffe on Trent.

The meeting closed at 2055.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 12th November 2015.