

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

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

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Ann Staples, seconded Val Disney, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The walks "Pop-up" on the website had not yet been completed.

The Area secretary had not experienced membership errors in any other group.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

The chairman thanked everybody for volunteering for another year. There had been no volunteers for two committee positions and Jim Norris would be stepping down as Area Footpath Secretary shortly.

The Area AGM would be on 7th February 2016. Jim Norris would submit an annual report for the Group.

It was reported that the County would no longer repair footpath signs unless they were situated on a lane or road.

Secretary's Report

1. Ramblers' Volunteer Day to be held at Nottinghamshire CVS on Saturday 23rd April 2016.
2. Notts Walker now on a quarterly e-mail only format. If anyone is not receiving these they need to submit their e-mail address. An area database is being built up for this purpose.
3. There was no Group engagement with the Pathwatch initiative.

Treasurer's Report

The final balance for the 2014/15 year was £669.51 and the current balance £428.26 following payments for: AGM room hire, printing and committee room hire.

The £100 deposit for the annual dinner had been paid.

Walks Programme Editor

Not present. No report.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

There were no major problems. Some footpaths were overgrown and were often cleared by walk leaders. Our representations regarding the Zulu rail crossing had been unsuccessful. Chris Thompson intends to discuss an appeal with Central Office.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st October 2015

Total	246
Annual Individual	132
Annual Joint	107
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	10
Members no longer in the group	1
New Members	4
Members Reinstated	0

3 new members for October – 1 transferred from Newark Group and 2 from Broxtowe Group

1 new member – questionnaire not return

Previous month – 9 new members 2 recommendation and 2 from Gedling Show. 5 others have not returned questionnaires.

Questionnaires

The majority of new starters have been sent a questionnaire. I have been able to ask some new starters whilst on a walk.

I have been sending out questionnaires since December – shall I continue this exercise?

Agreed To be discontinued.

Proposed Dukeries Group Transfer to Mansfield Group

12 members from the Mansfield area some of these may wish to remain with Gedling Group.

Administrative Errors at Central Office

There have been no further errors over the past 2 months.

Val would draft a letter to be sent to the existing Dukeries members for the next meeting.

Social Sub Committee Report

Raffle prizes had been gathered for the annual dinner. **It was agreed** to donate the proceeds in support of Alzheimers this year.

Coach Secretary's Report

There was no firm news about 2016 coach trips.

Publicity

No comments.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

This is a report incorporating the Nottinghamshire Area Council Meeting held on 20th October 2015.

Following the formal adoption of the Area Communication Strategy it has also been agreed that a Communication Sub-Group be set up to take developments forward.

Since the establishment of the new area system for dealing with rights of way, there has been an absence of a District Coordinator for the district that includes Gedling and the Dukeries. This role has now been filled by Alex Staniforth.

The Area Countryside Officer has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election next year so there is a vacancy in this key role.

One forthcoming change in local government arrangements may well have an impact on how rights of way and countryside access issues are conducted in Notts. A publicly owned organisation called CORMAC (which I think is based in Cornwall) is set to take over the running of Notts County Council services. Exactly what the impact will be is not known at this stage but we are working with and through the Local Access Forum to find out.

As further evidence that we are apparently all getting older, the Notts and Derby Group are dropping "your local 20s and 30s RA Group" from their title to reflect a change in demography. They will still tend to concentrate on the younger age groups.

The death was reported of Joan Page, a member of the Retford Group 43 years. For some years she was the Editor of The Notts Walker.

It was reported that even if you buy the very latest OS maps you will still not be able to see the change to footpaths resulting from the new A46.

There continuing discussion going on about the appropriate approach towards renewable energy developments – solar panels and wind farms. Currently a lot of the developments that impact on footpaths are caused by such developments and there are differing views about the approach to be taken. This is in addition to the issues associated with renewable energy developments that impact on the countryside without interfering with rights of way.

The Area Council has decided not to move its meetings to the White Post – this is because: it is more expensive; the car parking is worse and there is risk of being moved unilaterally into the bar if the White Post double books.

The Area Council discussed the considered transfer of the Dukeries Area from Gedling to Mansfield. Reference was made to the imminent AGMs of the two affected Groups. It was decided that the Council itself had no problems with the proposal.

Webmaster's Report

No further comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ann had attended the memorial for Geoff Richards in the wind and rain. There is a dedicated seat at Robin Hood Hill after four years work to obtain the necessary permissions.

2. Ideas were needed for the 2016 AGM by the next meeting.
3. A letter was to be sent to Pete Dawson thanking him for his work on the committee
4. A letter had been sent to the Walk magazine about George Orgill.

The meeting closed at 2030.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 7th January 2016.