

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Brian Torr, seconded Graham Dicker, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The secretary was asked to print page numbers on the minutes.

On the website, the map pop-up doesn't work as originally intended but does work.

Val tabled a letter to be sent to the existing Dukeries members. **It was agreed** that the letter be sent.

A letter of thanks had been sent to Peter Dawson for his service on the committee.

A letter about George Orgill had been sent to the Notts Walker, but had not been published. The letter would be re-submitted for the next issue.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

A thank you to everyone here who attended the Walk / Fuddle at Papplewick Village Hall on 13th. December 2015. The raffle prizes donated helped to encourage members to buy raffle tickets and the amount taken more than covered the cost of the hire of the hall.

I have sent a card to Pam Footitt following the passing of her mother the weekend before Christmas. This is not usual practice but Pam served on this committee for many years and is still actively involved as Pam collates the A walks for the walks programmes.

The Right of Way claim from Burton Road to Stoke Bardolph may be subject to a possible Judicial Review of the Inspectors Decision- led by Mr. George Lawrence QC.

Gedling Access Road construction starts in Spring 2017. Estimated cost £40 million. Reply from Gedling Borough Council does not confirm how much the council will contribute.

The Ramblers have entered a partnership with The Post Code Lottery with an award of £200,000. GB wide festival to celebrate the partnership will take place between 3rd and 11th. September 2016- do we as a group want to be involved -say a walking week?

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Nottingham Branch meeting on 20th. January 2016 to be held at Ponds Hills Community Centre - 18.00 for 18.30 start .

Robin Hood Way Association have become a Ramblers Special Interest / Flexi Group. This was agreed at the RHW AGM held on 2nd December 2015 . Possible new members to the group?

I will attend the Area AGM to be held on Sunday 7th. February 2016 at Norwell and report back with any items of interest at the next meeting in March.

Secretary's Report

1. We're asking for your views to help us improve walk magazine, the magazine of the Ramblers. Complete our short reader survey and you could win winter walking gear from leading outdoors brand Jack Wolfskin worth over £500 – it's the perfect way to get kitted out for the colder months. It's your chance to tell us what you think of walk and your Ramblers membership, what you'd like to see in future issues and how we can improve the magazine for all members.
2. November 2015 PDGLA newsletter. The main item of news this month is the outcome of the Public Inquiry on the status of Brushfield (a route that is heavily used by recreational motor vehicle users.) The Inspector decided that the route should be a bridleway (which means that off-roaders would not be able to use it). A decision that we welcome but which may be subject to challenge.
3. Following a lengthy and wide-ranging debate the Board of Trustees have agreed the following timetable to address the Ramblers governance changes. The next two and a half years will see a phased approach with the major milestones being these proposals to General Council:
 - GC 2016: Minor but important addition to introduce measures by which members may have benefits of the charity withdrawn under exceptional circumstances
 - GC 2017: Constitutional changes to the Areas and Groups
 - GC 2018: Constitutional changes to General Council and the Board

To help guide us over the next two and a half years we wish to establish the views of our areas, groups, individual members, vice presidents and General Council members. We have extensive experience of how the Ramblers currently operates, previous General Council debates, knowledge of how similar organisations govern themselves and the data and opinions from last year's extensive consultation - a revised document (<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/aboutus/ourfuture/governance-consultation>) was published in January 2015. We have asked Areas to examine and continue to provide feedback before the end of January 2016.

4. Annual General Meeting – hosted by Newark Ramblers: The 2016 Annual General Meeting of Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers will be held on Sunday 7th February at Norwell Village Hall at 2pm. Google map of the village and hall (grid reference SK 773 618). All details on the Area website.

We announce a new and fantastic long-term partnership with the players of the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL). Through the partnership, the Ramblers have been awarded £200,000. More details will follow in the New Year, and in time we'll be

providing all the resources you need in a new and improved festivals toolkit. For now please just make a note of 3-11 September and take them into account when planning your programmes for summer 2016. If you are planning a local festival next year and haven't yet set your dates, why not coincide it with this GB festival? You'll benefit from all the national press and publicity going on at the same time. And the more activities we have to offer, the better.

Treasurer's Report

The final current balance is £521.37. The fuddle produced £89, covering the cost of the hall.

The Area grant was £81.11, slightly down on £85 last year. The chairman would raise this at the Area AGM. The difficulty was that we cannot find out what the formula is for the calculation.

Walks Programme Editor

Chris Thompson has submitted all his walks and there was now only one space in the programme. **It was agreed** to print 300 copies. Events included were one coach trip and the annual dinner.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Alex Staniforth would coordinate all footpath problems for Gedling and Mansfield.

We had not paid anything to the PDGLA since 2012.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st December 2015

Total	244
Annual Individual	131
Annual Joint	106
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	9
Members no longer in the group	0
New Members	0
Members Reinstated	0

Social Sub Committee Report

The raffle took £103. £43 was sent to Alzheimers. The annual dinner was on the website. The cost is £14.45 including a tip, as last year. Ideas for entertainment were being sought.

Coach Secretary's Report

The Bridlington trip tickets would cost £12. The walk would be 6.5 miles. The cost of the coach is £490.

Publicity

No comments.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

The Robin Hood Way Association has now voted to become a Ramblers Association Special Interest Group.

The new Area Web Site is now up and running. Comments and/or proposals are sought from members about the Site and all such comments or proposals will be taken into account.

The papers associated with the AGM used to be included in the Notts Walker and mailed to members. This is now only available on the Area Website. The cost of printing and sending it to the 615 members without e.mail addresses would be prohibitive. Additional copies will be available at the AGM on 7th February at Norwell Village Hall.

Three Area Officials are standing down at this years AGM: the Area Chair; the Area Countryside Officer and the Area Press and Publicity Officer. The Ramblers Association has redefined the role of Countryside Officer by replacing the national job description with two new roles – Area Access Officer and Area Walking Environment Officer,

In order to fully integrate the District Co-Ordinators with the Local Group Footpath Officers it is intended to establish an annual meeting to share and develop a common approach.

We have been notified that the Board of Trustees have agreed a timetable to implement the Ramblers governance changes. The changes are fairly complex. Of particular interest is the proposed approach towards local groups. The proposal includes the following:

“Groups, made up of Ramblers members, are at the heart of what we do. Our success is founded upon hundreds of Ramblers groups around the country.”

“Groups are part of the democracy of the Ramblers”

Groups would sign an agreement with the Ramblers nationally.

Anyone who wants to comment on the proposals can complete a survey available through the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y99JK5T>.

The proposals are available via the national website.

Webmaster's Report

The Walks page map reference produces a pop=up to show where the reference is.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The A.G.M. date **was agreed** as 6th November 2016 in Lowdham Village Hall. The secretary would book the hall.
2. The chairman had written as an individual regarding the Woodborough Foxwood wind turbine, which goes back to planning Wednesday 13th January because it was built too high.
3. A Catfoot Lane crematorium application has been re-submitted.

The meeting closed at 2045.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd March 2016.