

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT: Mick Rawdin Val Disney Jonathan Ankers
Pat Rogers George Wood Alex McGowan
Brian Torr Liz Pritchett Jim Norris

APOLOGIES: Brian O'Neill, Graham Dicker, Ann Staples.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Brian Torr, seconded Val Disney, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was stated that Heather Darwent did not take part in many walks but was still intending to take on the role of coach secretary at the AGM.

Jonathan confirmed that the walks programme had been uploaded to the Walks Finder.

The Grassington coach trip had been booked.

The new Area Chairman had been unable to attend the AGM because he had only been made aware of the vacancy three days before the meeting. Broxtowe Group would host the next AGM.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

As reported at the last meeting, Keith Wallace, the newly elected Chair of Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers attended the Group's Thursday walk on 10th March. I, along with a few of the members attending the walk, had chance to have a talk with him. Perhaps too soon to gain an insight as to how his period in office will be received, but he has arranged 3 members days over the coming months; one which took place last weekend when I was away.

I did contact Gedling Borough Council regarding the extended housing development on Spring Lane and the loss of hedgerow. The council stated that the developers do not work on behalf of the council, so the council do not have any jurisdiction over the hedge removal and therefore declined to comment.

I have received a memo from Chris Thompson in which he has asked me to read out at tonight's meeting regarding the Stoke Bardolph – Burton Joyce rail crossing .

Secretary's Report

1. Thanks have been received from the PDGLA for our contribution: Thank you for your subscription and donation it is greatly appreciated, we don't spend much money we are all unpaid volunteers. Any cash we receive goes into our fighting fund, or for maintaining our website and PO Box. Actually we do not ask for subscriptions but, have decided we will only request cash donations as and when we require cash for a

specific cause. These now (at the moment) tend to be few and far between, any success we have had has been gained by lobbying and persuasion. Thank you and your group for your support.

2. General Council points from Jenny Fillingham: Governance Review: This has now been stopped in its present form. The information already received will not be wasted. There will be much more consultation between the Areas and Groups and it will be much less prescriptive. I am sure we will hear more about how this will be done in the future. Communication – Steps will be taken to form forums of like-minded members i.e. Area Chairs; Area Secretaries; Footpath Officers; Membership Officers, etc. and to make communications much easier.
3. Peak District National Park Authority has started the public consultation for a Traffic Regulation Order on Derby Lane, Monyash, Derbyshire. It is significant that this is the first pre-emptive TRO proposed by PDNPA to protect a route before significant damage occurs. The consultation closes at 5 pm on 10 June 2016. Please make time to respond to this consultation. The other news in this newsletter is about some successes in preventing routes becoming BOATs (byways open to all traffic). Some PDGLA members (often in conjunction with Peak Horsepower) put a lot of time into this work and we are very grateful for their efforts. We will be having our AGM on Monday 13 June 2016 at 7.30 pm in the large function room at The Crispin, Great Longstone.
4. Today we're celebrating the opening of the next stretch of the England Coast Path between Brean Down and Minehead in Somerset. From today, people can enjoy a continuous walking route along the 58 miles of new and improved path, which includes foreshore, beaches, cliffs and areas where everyone can rest, relax and admire the view, including new views that have been opened up across the Bristol Channel.
5. Every 5 years, thousands of Ramblers from across Europe come together for Eurorando, a huge gathering of ramblers from dozens of different countries. The next Eurorando is taking place in September this year, in Skane in southern Sweden. The event runs from 10-17th September, based around the town of Helsingborg, and Ramblers members in Great Britain are invited to take part.
6. Each year, Groups request an amount to run their activities or accept a sum based upon capitation or decide not to ask for funding. Budgets and request for finance are consolidated into an Area bid for funds.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £932.86, which includes coach deposits of £456. £50 has been paid to PDGLA.

Walks Programme Editor

No report.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

A path blockage had been reported at Fiskerton cum Morton to Alex Staniforth. A farmer had repaired the fence, blocking off the path, fitted an electrical guard wire and indicated a path diversion.

Another problem had been reported at Eakring where new kissing gates had been erected but the old stiles left in place. The removal could possibly be the responsibility of different contractors.

There will be a judicial review of the right of way claim over the railway near Stoke Bardolph. The decision made by the Planning Inspector will be reviewed by the High Court sometime in the future.

Membership Secretary's Report

30th April 2016

Total	237
Annual Individual	134
Annual Joint	96
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	2
Members no longer in the group	4
New Members	2
Members Reinstated	0

New Members - Welcome

Could walk leaders welcome new members and introduce them to the group at the beginning of walks?

- Perhaps ask if there is anyone that has not walked with us before – and welcome them. Particularly if they have only come along to give us a try before joining.

Membership Forms

The new membership forms are now available.

- Could walk leaders carry spare forms?

Proposed Dukeries Group Transfer to Mansfield Group

Action from last meeting – report provided for Mick and Jonathan.

On January 13th letters were sent to 11 members that are likely to be affected should Dukeries Group be transferred to Mansfield Group. To date (May) only 6 replies have been received.

Two questions have been asked:-

- 1) Would you wish to transfer your membership to the Mansfield Group and become part of that Group or stay as part of the Gedling Group?
- 2) Do you think the 'DUKERIES' name should be transferred to the Mansfield Group or remain the same 'GEDLING & DUKERIES'?

A pre-paid envelope was enclosed for the reply.

A request was made for the replies to be return by 1st March 2016. To date only 6 replies have been received.

3 people have asked to remain in the Gedling Group

1 person would like to transfer to Mansfield Group

1 person has answered 'yes' to question 1 and no answers for question 2?

1 person ticked question 1. Question 2 – assume name to remain the same Gedling & Dukeries, as first part ruled out.

Of the outstanding replies I only have contact details (email) for 1 person apart from postal address. I emailed this person but still have not had a response.

Social Sub Committee Report

47 people would attend the annual dinner.

Coach Secretary's Report

The Bridlington trip was full but not all the money had been received as yet. Indications are that the Grassington trip would also be very popular.

Margaret Meadows had offered her Lambley Historical Walks for the Group if there was interest. Ann had attended two such walks and found them very good.

Publicity

Shows

Ramblers will not be having a stand this year at the Arnold Carnival. At the Gedling Show and Southwell Ploughing Match there will be a stand. Volunteers were needed to run the Group stand at the Arnold Carnival.

Cotswold Outdoors

I have spoken to Staff in the Cotswold Store on Castle Boulevard regarding having a space for a day instore. Contact details for Alan Walker alan.walker@cotswoldoutdoor.com and Ass. Manager to be copied in lmr.nottingham@cotswoldoutdoor.com – Tel 0115 – 9576890

They will provide a table (wallpaper pasting table), if we could provide a cloth. We would be positioned to the right of the entrance door, when entering the store.

(they will supply us with tea/coffee)

Walks flyer with sample of walks from the programme attached to the notice board.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

Jim was asked for more information on the new Notts. Wold Way.

This Report incorporates the Area Council Meeting on 19th April 2016.

The new Chair has issued a “Manifesto for Change” in which he has set out his priorities for the year ahead. This is available on the Area Website.

The process for Area Council Meetings has been amended. We now deal with “Topics for Discussion”, followed by Group Reports. There is then a social break followed by a section for “decisions” where any votes are taken where required. We then have the Area Reports tabled without verbal support. The stated purpose of this is to ensure there is a concentration on discussing ideas rather than reporting what has happened.

A new Walking Environment Officer has been appointed, Peter Revill.

A new Membership and Recruitment Sub-Committee is being set up, initially chaired by Keith Wallace. Its purpose is to look at membership retention and recruitment across the county and will include working with Walking for Health and oversight of the Get Walking Week to

be held in September 2016. Group Membership Secretaries will be invited to play an active role in developing the work done by this committee.

The District Coordinator subcommittee is being merged with the Rights of Way subcommittee and renamed the Rights of Way subcommittee (sic).

Attention was drawn to the new Notts Wold Way which winds an intriguing route around South Notts.

Area Council has agreed to set up some walk leaders training and to introduce a walks leaders register for those leaders who are willing to help struggling Groups by leading the occasional walk. It is NOT a general register of walks leaders, only for those who are prepared to lead walks for other Groups. At its simplest walks leaders could offer to lead a walk they have already done for any Group that wants it.

The Area Council is considering the pros and cons of forming volunteer groups who would be trained to work direct with landowners on maintaining the rights of way network. Notts County Council has consistently refused to discuss the Ramblers getting involved in volunteering.

Webmaster's Report

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cotswold was running a free beginners map reading and compass talk. Details are on our website.
2. A reminder was needed in the Walks Programme about the code of conduct on walks. Some people had not been keeping dogs on leads. Pat mentioned that even the long, extendable, leads could trip up others.
3. Mick confirmed that the Chief Executive, Benedict Southworth was to leave the RA.
4. FREE - 'Map Reading & Compass Workshop '

Cotswold Outdoors are holding a beginners map reading & compass workshop on Tuesday 16th July - 6.30pm to 8.00pm - at Cotswold Outdoors, Castle Boulevard - anyone interested contact Cotswold 0115 - 9576890 . (this has been entered on Gedling Group's website)

5. U3A - Long Walks Group - Arnold & Burton Joyce

I was asked by 2 people for application forms. 6 out of 13 on the walk are Gedling Group members.

6. Code of Conduct on Walks

An updated version of 'code of conduct on a walk', is being introduced. Could this be included in the walks programmes? Brassington Walk - Sunday 9th May - I needed to provide proof that 'dogs should be on a lead', on a walk, but no code of conduct in the walks programme. No good if people don't use the internet.

The meeting closed at 2040.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 14th July 2016.