

**MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE**

**PRESENT:**

Mick Rawdin	Val Disney	Jonathan Ankers
Brian Torr	Alex McGowan	
Malcolm Costello	George Wood	Pat Rogers
Heather Darwent	Jim Norris	

**APOLOGIES:** Graham Dicker, Liz Pritchett.

**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**

Lowdham and Woodborough Village Halls had been booked.

Only two people had booked on the history walk. Val will ask Graham to put it on the website.

Alex and Brian Torr said that the item posted on the website regarding Sunday walks had upset many walks leaders. This was discussed at length.

**3. MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Chairman's Report

As most of you here tonight are aware that Graham Ware was taken ill on the A walk from Ashford -in -the - Water on Sunday 8th. April 2017. I managed to get Graham home that evening and contacted him on the 12<sup>th</sup>. April, when he told me by text that he was now with Deborah in Sowerby, who was looking after him. I thought no more about his well being until I received a text from Deborah on 22nd. April telling me that Graham had been in the HD Unit of Middlesborough Hospital with kidney, liver & pancreas problems since 12th. April. The latest update I received was on Saturday 29th. April when Graham texted me to say he was now out of the HD Unit but now in the Renal Unit on Dialysis. The possible cause was a loose gall stone going round his system. He has been seriously ill and until I can talk to him the outlook is unclear.

I recently walked part of the Wolds Way and found the signage excellent with little chance of straying off the route. Update from Ramblers regarding safeguarding children on walks .

The path crossing at Stoke Bardolph that John Lord put so much work into has been lost. The worry is that BR will use this as a test case and close other crossing points. Remember it is not only the Ramblers who use these crossings -the general public are the main user -ie dog walking.

Secretary's Report

1. Walking for Health will not be sponsored solely by MacMillan after March 2018. RA will take over and look for other partnerships.
2. Minor accident reported by Barbara Wadd on an A walk.

3. Network Rail has won its case to close a rail crossing near Burton Joyce. This is likely to be the outcome with many other pedestrian crossings nationally.
4. Elizabeth Dalton has contacted Alex McGowan to offer a Sunday B walk in the autumn.
5. Stuart Maconie named as our new president.
6. RA is aware of a small number of cases where our supporters have been contacted by an individual pretending to be from the Ramblers asking for sensitive personal information.
7. Clare Wadd, chair of Inner London Ramblers said "we're delighted with the Mayor's decision. This (Garden) Bridge would have been a huge waste of taxpayers' money. There are far more cost effective ways to get people walking, such as investing in existing parks and urban green spaces and completing the Thames Path through London."
8. The first ever Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) for England, published recently by the Department for Transport, has an ambition of: 'making walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey'. This means there is a shared agenda for creating cities and towns that encourage walking, and in so doing improve public health, boost local economies and create happier, more cohesive communities.

#### Treasurer's Report

Balance £955.97, which has been swelled by the coach deposits. Payment has been made for forty people at the annual dinner. Pat Rogers has the £50 for the entertainer and £20 tip.

A cheque for £20 has been sent to Lowdham Village Hall with the balance payable on the day. The fuddle cheque for £70 has been sent to Pam Footitt along with a £50 surety cheque.

#### Walks Programme Editor

Not present.

#### Footpaths Secretary's Report

A byway has been created at Church Warsop on the former railway. The landowner has been paid £6000; up from an estimated £4000 two years ago. The advantage is that a diversion of Warsop FP14 around the flooded woodland can be done, creating a better line, avoiding the deepest cutting, which is often flooded. It has been rumoured that Steve Parkhouse paid £4000 and Chris Thompson £2000.

#### Membership Secretary's Report

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Total	224
Annual Individual	125
Annual Joint	93
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	11
Members no longer in the group	0
New Members	0
Members Reinstated	0

## Area Membership

I have received from Judith (Area Membership Secretary) figures for 1.1.17 to 1.4.17. 11 Groups have recruited new members. National figures have shown an increase.

### APPENDIX V

#### AREA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT –APRIL 2017

GROUP/AREA	NEW AND REINSTATED JAN - MARCH	1.4.17	1.1.17
<b>Area Total Members</b>		2197	2186
Newark	5	127	121
Nottingham	10	315	314
Retford	3	90	85
Ravenshead & Hucknall	5	103	101
Worksop	0	67	67
Rushcliffe	10	319	312
Broxtowe	4	206	208
Gedling & Dukeries	0	219	225
Mansfield & Sherwood	4	110	111
Southwell	1	68	69
Collingham	0	51	51
Vale of Belvoir	5	99	98
Notts & Derbys	8	217	220
One Step Walkers	11	146	146
Robin Hood Way	0	3	3
Not in Group	6	56	54

National total 105,428 at 1.4.17, 105,234 at 1.1.17, 105,990 at 1.10.16

It has been a mixed quarter for Groups but 11 have recruited new members. National figures have shown a welcome increase.

Please note that the new/reinstated figures cannot be matched back as they do not show numbers leaving. These figures may also reflect a change of members between Groups, so one Group's loss is another's gain. The new Robin Hood Way Group is a Flexi-Group and members can join while remaining in their existing Group.

Judith Anson, Area Membership Secretary  
April 2017

Mansfield

#### Group - Dukeries Postcodes

24th January 2017 - Before Jenny stood down as Area Secretary she requested that Central Office transfer the postcodes relating to Dukeries area be transferred from Gedling & Dukeries to Mansfield Group. I have had an email from Judith Hanson, Area Membership Secretary saying that she has been in touch with Central Office to find out why there is a delay. To date this has not been done. I have emailed Central Office myself and am still awaiting a reply.

#### Social Sub Committee Report

40 people had booked for the annual dinner.

#### Coach Secretary's Report

Forty-seven places out of fifty-three places on the Skegness coach on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July had been filled. Costs would therefore be covered.

#### Publicity

Ultimate Outdoors, Castle Meadows Retail Park: Val said that she was unable to commit further time to this.

Copying is now done at Minuteman on Mapperley Top as the Stationery Cupboard has closed.

### Area Liaison Officer's Report

This Report incorporates the Area Council Meeting on 18th April 2017.

This was the first Area Council under the revised Committee. This included a new Area Countryside Officer and a new Vice Chair, who in the absence of the new Chair actually chaired this area Council meeting. An arrangement was made to cover the role of Secretary by appointing Steve Parkhouse as Minutes Secretary and by agreeing that he share the role of Secretary with Judith Anson. However, the position of Secretary remains advertised as vacant.

The most significant event was the loss of the High Court case relating to the path claim from Burton Road to Stoke Bardolph. The claim was lost on all counts and the view of Network Rail prevailed. The Ramblers are giving consideration to an appeal. The Ramblers regard this case as of great important in view of the threat to all rights of way crossing railway lines. The cost so far is about £120000, a figure which could rise to £200000 if costs are awarded to Network Rail.

We are informed that the new CEO is actively involved in discussion with Network Rail about the situation relating to railway crossings. Network Rail appear to be insensitive to the extent of the inconvenience caused to walkers by detours. A local example of the degree of inconvenience is access to the Attenborough Wildlife site. The reason why the crossing are there is that the rights of way were there before the railways were built!

The Report back from the General Council was very positive. In particular the new CEO, Vanessa Griffiths, made a very good impression. She expressed enthusiasm for getting a better deal for members, including offering a variety of experiences to attract a wide range of walker

Interestingly a motion was carried to oppose any proposal for cycling to be allowed on footpaths.

A close watch is to be maintained on the impact of Brexit.

All candidates in the forthcoming Notts. County Council elections have been written to asking for their views on matters of specific interest to Ramblers.

Included in the feedback from other Local Groups was a report from the Newark Group about what appears to have been a surprisingly interesting visit to Veolia Recycling Plant.

### Webmaster's Report

Nothing further to report.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The closure of the entrance to Gedling Country Park from Lambley Lane would be addressed at the next meeting when we know the new councillors.

The meeting closed at 2100.

## **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017.