

**MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE**

**PRESENT:**

|               |                  |               |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Graham Dicker | Heather Darwent  | Pat Rogers    |
| Brian Torr    | Alex McGowan     | Liz Pritchett |
| George Wood   | Jonathan Ankers  |               |
| Jim Norris    | Malcolm Costello |               |

**APOLOGIES:** Brian O'Neill.

**1. CHAIRMAN**

Brian Torr was elected chairman for the meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

Proposed Graham Dicker, seconded Pat Rogers, and passed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Area agm would be on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 at Linby & Papplewick Hall, which had been booked for £75. Hours booked are 9.00 to 4.30. Detailed planning was carried forward.

Gedling Group agm on 4<sup>th</sup> November and the Christmas fuddle on 9<sup>th</sup> December were both booked at Woodborough Village Hall.

Graham had been able to eliminate the adverts from the website.

**4. MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Secretary's Report

1. I am delighted to be able to let you know that we will be joined next month by Rachael Bayley as our Interim Director of Delivery and Development. Rachael is a highly experienced leader who has made a significant positive impact in six major charities including heading volunteering development at Save the Children, the Samaritans and the Children's Society. She is also a Director of the Association of Volunteer Managers – the professional membership body for volunteering. Rachael joins us on 6 April until the end of December 2018.

2. **It was agreed** not to update to website to stress that all walks start at the appointed time.

3. Area AGM: Jim has confirmed that all that is required of the host is the provision of a Location, with appropriate seating arrangements and refreshments. ALL costs are reimbursed by Area. It is normal for there to be a walk provided prior to the meeting. At the next Area Council Meeting (next week), which Jim chaired, he asked other Groups who have hosted to be available for us to contact them for advice.

4. Post Brexit the government will be bringing in new policies for the future of food, farming and the environment. A government consultation is underway which will shape the upcoming agriculture bill and have a significant impact on the future of access to the countryside. We have an opportunity to protect and improve rights of way for years to come, by making sure that financial payments to landowners from the public purse are tied to provision and care of the rights of way network. Working together makes sense. In response to the consultation The Ramblers have teamed

up with Cycling UK, The British Horse Society, the British Mountaineering Council and the Open Spaces Society to put the case for protecting the future of countryside access. Politicians are greatly swayed when there are lots of votes at stake. One response to the consultation is a petition drawing on the combined membership of over 350,000. Can we post on the website?

5. RA have appointed Laura Scarlett as our new digital and data director, to lead our data transformation programme for the next two years (with a third year TBC, subject to future funding). And we will also soon be joined by Tompion Platt, as our new director of advocacy and engagement. Tompion is currently heading up the Policy and Communications functions at Living Streets, where he has worked for the past eight years. Tompion is a passionate walker and a board member of the International Federation of Pedestrians.

6. Jim Norris had been impressed by the new Ramblers team at General Council.

7. General Data Protection: No adverts would be included in the walks programme on advice from RA. JRA would send the RA form to walks leaders. Extensive guidance was on the RA website

#### Treasurer's Report

Balance £539.50 having paid for the agm and Christmas fuddle at Woodborough and the Area agm. The Area grant is overdue, however the Area treasurer has been unwell.

Brian announced his intention to stand down as Treasurer and Footpath Secretary at the agm. John Crofts was willing to stand as Treasurer.

Martin Smalley had expressed an interest in becoming Chairman.

#### Walks Programme Editor

Due to some reported errors it was stressed that the programme must be thoroughly proof read before going to the printers. Graham suggested posting the draft walks on the website so that all the walks leaders could check their own. JRA would e-mail Brian to explain.

#### Footpaths Secretary's Report

No problems reported. Brian considered that, because footpath problems are reported direct to the Council on-line, the role was redundant. In addition, there was a maximum of one responsible person only in the County Council and the difficulty of not being on the internet.

Liz suggested that local footpaths, for which the Group was responsible, should be the focus of walks to ensure they were kept open.

#### Membership Secretary's Report

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Total                          | 212 |
| Annual Individual              | 120 |
| Annual Joint                   | 85  |
| Life Individual                | 5   |
| Life Joint                     | 2   |
| Payments Pending               | 2   |
| Members no longer in the group | 0   |
| New Members                    | 3   |
| Members Reinstated             | 0   |

#### Social Sub Committee Report

The Annual Dinner would be attended by forty members. The entertainment would be a quiz. £19.50 had been made on the coach raffle, however this was marginal so a decision was made to increase the ticket price to £1.

### Coach Secretary's Report

The Hunstanton walk had to be reversed due to lengthy delays on the trip resulting in the driver reaching his maximum permitted driving time.

The Whitby trip had sold 43 seats on the 53-seater coach.

### Publicity

Heather remarked that the Nottingham Group arranges bus walks on Sundays that attract a number of students.

### Area Liaison Officer's Report

Incorporating the Area Council on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

It is pleasing to note that Jack Prust, Area Treasurer, was able to attend the Area Council and is starting to resume his normal duties following his very serious illness. The suddenness of his illness had left the Area without the means or processes to fulfil some of its normal key financial functions, and apologies were proffered to local groups for any inconvenience caused.

There were two new legislative developments that the Area is looking at which are likely to have an impact on local groups. Both are at the consultative stage and comments have been passed on to the respective government departments.

The first is called "Health and Harmony, the future for food farming and the environment in a green brexit." This is in fact the proposed replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy. From the ramblers point of view it contains some interesting features such as:

- Looking at how to support remote wild and beautiful parts of England
- Looking at how the benefits of the natural environment for people are properly valued
- Reference to the maintenance of public rights of way; improving access to the countryside and improving public health through clean air and exercise.

The second is called "The National Planning Policy Framework." This establishes the principle of a presumption in favour of sustainable development unless "adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits."

Two other matters of importance are being covered at a meeting in Hucknall on the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> May attended by Felix Wilkey (Ramblers Data Controller.) I will be attending and will report verbally. The subjects are: GDPR and Walking for Health.

Jim also advised that he was finding it difficult to be both our Area Representative and Area Vice Chairman. He therefore wished to stand down as Area Rep in November.

### Webmaster's Report

The website had been brought down by the hosting company for a couple of days. The problem had now been fixed.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The meeting closed at 2101.