

Ramblers Sheffield 40's Walking Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

The Fat Cat, Sheffield
November 15th 2018
7.30pm

Present – Committee - Wayne Grounsell, Chairman. Emma Myers, Group & Membership Secretary. Jill Brogden, Treasurer. Jez Kenyon, Website Editor. Tracey Lyne, Socials Co-ordinator. Julie Sweeting, Walks Co-ordinator.

Eighteen Group Members Present

Apologies: Gill Green, James Scott, Deb Cox, Tony Smith, Godfrey Francis, Peter Buxton.

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Minutes of last year's AGM of October 18th 2017

Proposed by Jim Conibear as a true record of the meeting and seconded by Bev Kenyon.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

None

3. Chairman's Report

Wayne began by recalling the 10th Anniversary celebrations at the start of the year and the Christmas meal where Kevin Dolby's calendar and Mike Dibb's grid reference finders were presented.

He commented on another successful year for the Group with three walks being hosted most weekends and a summer programme of evening walks. Finances are healthy with funding having been received from Area for First Aid and Navigation training and GDPR has been implemented.

Wayne also summarised some key points from the Area meetings this year.

- the appointment of Lord Blunkett as President at the Area AGM in January.
- a donation of £10,000 to the Great Ridge Project
- the Bradfield to Worrall Footpath project which is now underway
- the reprint of the Clarion Rambler

Wayne finished by thanking all the committee members for their hard work during the year and expressed particular thanks to retiring committee members Emma and Jill.

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year 2016-2017, having not been available last year because of the date of the AGM, were ratified – proposed by Jim Conibear and seconded by Mick Barnes.

See attached report and statement of accounts for the year 2017-2018.

Jim Conibear asked if we had applied to Area for our budget for next year. Jill confirmed we had applied for our basic allocation only as we have nothing extra we need to spend any money on. If we do require any extra funds for anything we can request it at the time.

Wayne advised the meeting that we need a new Independent Auditor for our accounts and asked if anyone is aware of an individual who could carry out this role to please advise a committee member as soon as possible.

The Accounts for 2017/18 were agreed.

5. Secretary's Report

Emma advised that our current membership stands at 255, a significant increase on last year. We are the third largest group in the Area and the fastest growing at a time when most other Groups are struggling to recruit new members and maintain their numbers. Thanks are extended to everyone who contributes to the success of our Group, the committee members, the Walk Leaders and everyone who makes new members welcome on walks and on social events.

6. Walk Co-ordinator's Report

Julie began by thanking Martin for his help in handing over the role last year and also all our walk leaders for their help and support in putting on a regular and varied programme. Particular thanks were extended to Keef, Paul Thorneycroft and James Scott for their regular contribution to the programme and also to five new leaders who have come forward and led walks this year.

48 active Walk Leaders have offered around 180 walks this past year from a total of 199 possible. The evening walks have been exceptionally popular with about twenty throughout the spring and summer months. We continue to encourage new leaders to come forward whilst existing leaders offer longer and shorter walks to ensure the calendar remains healthy. For new leaders the option of buddying is encouraged as well as existing leaders providing support both on the day and when planning a walk. We have a Navigation Training course in January which has been opened up to all members of the Group in the hope that this may encourage new leaders to come forward. A First Aid training course was held in March this year for ten of our Walk Leaders. For both training courses the funding is being covered primarily from Area funds.

At the start of the year Walk Leader meetings were held on a regular basis, however, in the latter six months the frequency of meetings has reduced mainly due to lack of attendance as well as lack of agenda items.

7. Social Co-ordinator's Report

Tracey thanked the Social Committee for their hard work and confirmed that several events had been held over the year, the majority of which had been well attended and enjoyed by all. There had been a cutback on the New Members' Nights as these had proved less popular. A Christmas Meal is being hosted at the White Lion in Great Longstone on December 9th with two walks during the day, a long one and a short one and our Christmas party is at Crookes Social Club on December 14th. Details are on the website. If anyone wishes to join the Committee please let Tracey know and any ideas for future events would be very welcome.

8. Weekend's Away Co-ordinator's Report

Four weekends away were held this year, all member organised and all very successful – Keswick, Skye, Hawes and Dent.

We have one weekend away, Jersey, already organised for next year and are looking for more if anyone would like to put one on.

9. Web Editor's Report

Jez confirmed that the website continues to fulfil its purpose – advertising walks, socials and weekends away and getting messages out to the membership. We changed our web host this year which caused a few problems, all of which have now been resolved.

Jez also highlighted the Bradfield to Worrall Footpath project which is being implemented using part of a legacy recently received by Area. The route is very difficult to walk because of the number of stiles and gates etc along it which are in a state of disrepair and the funds are to be used to improve these. The work is being done by both volunteers and contractors and the aim is to complete it by Christmas 2018.

Jez also commented that we are becoming the main Ramblers Group in the Sheffield Area and as such we need to think more about assisting with and promoting the aims of the Ramblers.

Jim Conibear and Lyn Gore raised an issue where they were experiencing problems uploading photographs to the website. Jez acknowledged this but said unfortunately there is nothing that can be done to solve the problem. It is caused by the fact that photographs are now a lot bigger than they used to be and take much longer to upload.

10. Items From Area Not Already Covered

Jim asked what progress Peter Robinson was making on his Sheffield Round Walk project. Wayne advised that the project is still ongoing.

11. Elections

Wayne put forward the following nominations.

Chairman – Wayne Grounsell

Secretary - Bev Kenyon

Walks Co-Ordinator – Julie Sweeting

Socials and Weekends Away Co-Ordinator – Tracey Lyne

Web Editor – Jez Kenyon

All were ratified.

There was still a vacancy for the position of Treasurer and Wayne asked if anyone present wished to volunteer. As no-one did, Wayne advised that Peter Robinson had indicated that in the absence of any other volunteer he would be willing to step forward.

Jill proposed a motion that this be accepted which was seconded by Bev and unanimously agreed by all present. Peter was thus elected as Treasurer.

12. Items for Discussion

Mick Barnes asked if there was any charity work we as a Group could get involved with. Wayne advised that we are approached by email from time to time with requests. If anyone wants to get involved or wants the Group to get involved let the committee know and we will consider the request.

Ze Nobrega asked about a 'Volunteers email' which everyone had recently received from Ramblers. Jez advised that Ramblers are trying to build a database of volunteers.

Wayne reminded everyone to use the Pathwatch app where necessary.

14. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.