

Ramblers Sheffield 40's Walking Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

The Fat Cat, Sheffield
October 19th 2016
7.30pm

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

Present – Members – Jim Conibear, Liz Allsop, Colin Percival, Jane Percival, Gill Green, Richard Shelton, Lyn Gore, Jean Billingham, Ellen Wilson, Kevin Poulton, Julie Sweeting, Sue Killeen, Mike Dibb, Godfrey Francis, Russell Matthews, Debra Bushby.

Apologies: Debbie Martin, James Scott, Deb Conibear, Bob Ingram, Michael Hunt, Jane Livingstone, Richard Bruce.

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

1. Minutes of last year's AGM of October 7th 2015

Proposed by Mike as a true record of the meeting and seconded by Richard.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

Jean had not received a copy of last year's AGM minutes. They are on the website but a motion was proposed that the minutes of this year's meeting are emailed to all members individually as well as being placed on the website. Proposed by Jim and seconded by Julie.

Jim asked that that this year's minutes correctly record all attendees at the meeting and that all relevant paperwork is attached to the minutes when they are sent out.

3. Chairman's Report

Wayne confirmed the Group had enjoyed another successful year and thanked each member of the committee individually for his or her hard work. He confirmed that all current committee members would be standing again for re-election which would provide welcome continuity and asked all to continue to support the committee and the hard work and effort they put in.

4. Treasurer's Report

See attached report and statement of accounts.

In response to a point raised by Julie, Jill clarified that funds allocated to us from the Ramblers must be spent on activities in line with the aims of the Ramblers' Association and that because of this, historically, we have struggled to spend the money. We are entitled to a percentage of our subscription fees. Our bank balance has shown a healthy surplus for some years now as a result of profits made in the past from socials and weekends away.

5. Secretary's Report

Emma advised that our current membership stands at 231, around the same as last year. All our members have been added to the new Gmail account, the website is visited regularly and Facebook membership continues to grow. We continue to see healthy numbers on walks and at social events and weekends away.

6. Walk Co-ordinator's Report

Martin thanked Sue for her help in handing over the role last year and thanked all the walk leaders for their help and support in putting on a regular and varied programme of walks over the year. He particularly thanked Jim and James for their regular contributions to the programme and also acknowledged the eight new leaders who had come on board during the year. The Group have offered around 150 weekend walks led by 46 active walk leaders. There have been no major incidents to report. The walks have been of varying distances and grades and there have been several 'special interest' walks which have been very popular. It is hoped that the annual Silly Hat Walk will take place later in the year – Martin will allocate a date and ask for a volunteer to lead it.

Martin indicated his intention to hold walk leader meetings throughout the year, one at the Fat Cat and then others in conjunction with different walks to enable as many people as possible to attend.

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, some more successful than others but in the main the majority had been well attended and enjoyed by all. Several events are planned for early next year, details of which will be on the website soon. Our Christmas event is at the Shakespeare on December 23rd with a curry style buffet, a DJ and dancing and a raffle with proceeds going to the Air Ambulance. Details again on the website shortly. Originally there were 10 members on the Social Committee but three have had to step down. If anyone wishes to join the Committee please let Tracey know and any ideas for future events would be very welcome.

Jim suggested external advertising to promote the group. Jill suggested that perhaps Jim would like to produce the advert. However, Jim declined the initiative.

Tracey advised that First Aid Kits had been ordered for walk leaders. Gill enquired about possible First Aid training. Tracey will look into possible courses and Jill will find out if we can pay for the training from Ramblers funds.

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

See attached report.

Jim thought we should encourage members to organise weekends away to share the workload and Jill agreed. There is always a lot of interest in and support for weekends away and we would welcome individuals willing to arrange one themselves. Gill queried the insurance situation and it was confirmed that if an organiser is a member of the Ramblers, the weekend is publicised on a Ramblers website and the committee is confident in the ability of walk leaders on the weekend then the Ramblers insurance is valid for the weekend.

9. Web Editor's Report

Jez confirmed that we have moved the Group email account from Hotmail to Gmail and that the new account is functioning much more efficiently. He confirmed that all are aware of the new email address Sheffield40swg@gmail.com.

Socials and weekends away are now on the walk calendar.

It is now possible to complete and submit walk templates via tablet as well as PC.

Jez has done some work on the website and it should now be easier to upload photos on to the site. The more photos on our website and on Facebook the better as it helps promote our Group to others and to potential new members.

We have considered paying search engines to promote our group but it is expensive and we have no way of knowing how successful or otherwise it is so we have decided not to proceed.

Any ideas for improving the website, particularly to encourage new members, would be very welcome.

Jim raised the issue of getting quick messages out re walk cancellations/alterations as the Message Board is not popular. As we have 'texting on' for walks all walk leaders should have the contact numbers of who they are expecting and can get a message out to all quickly if necessary.

10. Special Business – Adoption of Constitution

Wayne advised that we are required by the Ramblers to have in place a constitution but that one never appears to have been adopted since the group was formed. The committee have agreed a constitution very closely based on the standard Ramblers constitution which we need to vote on today. If it is approved today it is passed to Area for their approval then back to the members via the committee for final adoption either at a Special Meeting or at next year's AGM.

Wayne then opened this to the floor.

Jim expressed concern that group members have had only three days to read and consider the proposed constitution rather than 14 days as required in the same. Wayne responded that there is no constitution in place at the moment so at present there is no requirement for any 14 day notice period. Once this constitution has been approved, then the 14 day notice period will become effective for any future amendments. He pointed out that if this constitution is adopted it can be changed if required at any future Special Meeting or AGM. Julie expressed concern that she did not feel in a position to be able to vote on the proposal today as she has not yet read the document. She proposed that the vote today be to agree the proposal as a draft only subject to alteration and a final vote at a later date. Jim seconded this motion. A vote was held with three in favour of this motion, thirteen against with six abstaining. The motion failed. A vote was then held for adoption of the proposed constitution. Fifteen were in favour, three against with four abstaining. The motion was carried. The proposed constitution was adopted and will go to Area for approval.

11. Elections

All the existing committee members are willing to stand again in the same posts for the next year.

The Chairman moved ratification of the received nominations.

Jim proposed a motion that this be accepted which was seconded by Julie and unanimously agreed by all present.

12. Potential Speaker from Area

No-one from Area was able to attend the meeting.

13. Items for Discussion

Jim raised the issue that we need an independent auditor for the Group accounts. Wayne responded that the committee will take this on board and try to find someone suitably qualified.

Jim pointed out that two Area Representatives are required under the new constitution but that at present we have only one, Jez. Wayne responded that once the new constitution has been formally adopted we will appoint a second and asked that if anyone is interested in the post to let the committee know. Julie put her name forward.

Jean asked for clarification on what was happening with our hosting of the Area AGM on January 28th 2017. Wayne explained the format of the day – walk led by Jim in the morning then lunch and the AGM in the afternoon – and asked that as many members as possible support the event. Jill confirmed that the cost of hosting the AGM will be recovered from Area.

14. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.