

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Area Council

9th September 2013. Scout HQ, Trippett Lane, Sheffield, S1 4EL

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Terry Howard (President), Les Seaman (Access), Philip Ryder (Rotherham), Marion Thompson (Doncaster), Christine Whittaker (Information Officer), Chris Greig (Dearne Valley).

Apologies: Basil Merry (Chesterfield), Cath MaxKay (MWPF), Nicki Farmery (Barnsley), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Tony Liversidge (Doncaster), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op).

Minutes of the meeting of 10th June 2013

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

GJ said that all Group and Area budgets had been submitted to central office on time.

The new Chief Ranger in the PDNP is Mary Bagley, who takes up her appointment at the end of September.

Group reports

CG reported that the Dearne Valley Group had received an invitation to the 'Big Conversation' event at Edale with less than two days to respond. AP will take the matter up at a meeting for Area Chairs on 13th September at Wrexham with senior staff from central office.

TH said that the Sheffield Group had quickly raised £200+ to buy a strimmer for RoW maintenance work, rather than approach central office.

TH also said that the Sheffield Group have introduced the online submission of walks. This had proved very successful, with no problems whatsoever.*

Officer's Reports

Chair: AP reported that the ACROW meeting had discussed 'Lost Ways'. It was proposed that Area buy a copies of the book *Rights of Way - Restoring the Record* and give a copy to the Sheffield, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Barnsley and Doncaster Groups, who were encouraged to set-up a small committee to look into lost ways within their area and liaise with their Local Access Forum.

Individuals were encouraged to sign the BMC 'Stand up for Stanage' petition (see www.synedramblers.org.uk).

AP had attended a meeting of the Bolsover Group at which the Group decided to disband. Area Council regret that it was given little opportunity for input. Members of the Bolsover Group are grateful that the Chesterfield Group have been so welcoming.

Secretary: DG will send out the correspondence list with the minutes.

Regarding the strategic review that Area had agreed to carry out, DG reported that he had emailed central office to try to find out if any other Area functioned in a significantly different way from SYNED. Central office replied that they were looking into effectiveness of Areas, including in a series of meetings with Area Chairs. AP was attending such a meeting on 13th September.

Treasurer: GJ presented his report. He said that the deadline for Group returns to Area was 25th October, and the deadline for Group and Area returns to be sent to central office was 8th November.

Training by central office

CW reported that central office is intending to introduce training workshops covering six subjects at various places throughout the country. The six subjects are: Ramblers Routes, Walk leader training, Treasurer training, Media and electronic communication workshop (Publicity?), an Area Chair forum and Rights of Way training.

SYNED has been asked to organise a local venue for this region. CW will investigate possible venues. It was felt that either of the Saturdays 5th or 12th April 2014 would be suitable.

AGM

The AGM will be at the Woodland Discovery Centre, in the Ecclesall woods, at 2.00pm on Saturday, 25th January, 2014. Car parking is available. The Sheffield Group will organise a walk in the morning. DG to contact central office regarding a speaker.

AOB

The next 'Spirit of Kinder' event will be on 26th April 2014 at the Sheffield Town Hall from 2.00 until 4.00.

There was discussion on the unsatisfactory nature of the Scout HQ as a venue. TH has to open it up, set up the room and lock up afterwards (including the car park). There are no refreshment facilities. A unanimous decision was taken to transfer to the Quaker Meeting Rooms. (Details below).

* For further information contact Dave Jefferies at webadmin@sheffieldramblers.org

All future Area Council and ACROW meetings will be at: Quaker Meeting Rooms, St James Street, Sheffield.
This is next to Sheffield Cathedral.

We will be in Room 2.

Refreshments are available.

There is no dedicated car parking but parking is available nearby, cheaper away from the city centre.

ACROW and Area Council: 6.30 and 7.30, 25th November, 2013

10th February 2014

9th June 2014

8th September 2014

24th November 2014

AGM: 2.00, 25th January, 2014

Area website: www.synedramblers.org.uk

National website: www.ramblers.org.uk