

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Area Council

10th February 2014

Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield, S1 2EW

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Terry Howard (President), Les Seaman (Access), Christine Whittaker (Information Officer), Chris Greig (Dearne Valley), Marion Thompson (Doncaster), Cynthia Ashton (Co-opted), Nicki Farmery (Barnsley), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Basil Merry (Chesterfield),

Apologies: Philip Ryder (Rotherham), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Gary Dickson (Sheffield 20-30s).

Minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2013.

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

Group reports

Nothing significant was reported.

Officer's reports

President

Terry Howard said that the *Spirit of Kinder* event was being held from 2.30pm on Saturday, 26th April in the Sheffield Town Hall. Speakers will highlight the future of the Moors as well, with Bill Bevan, archaeologist, it's prehistoric past. Kate Ashbrook, President of Ramblers, will speak.

TH said that Area must continue to discuss the future, and to seek more publicity to promote the work we do. CM said that there were specific ways of getting news releases published.

TH pointed out that September will be the 10th anniversary of the passing of the CROW Act in the Peak District. It was agreed to hold a celebratory event.

Chair

Allen Pestell reported on the Access, Countryside and Rights of Way meeting which preceded the Area Council meeting. TH and LS had attended a meeting on HS2. They feel that there is strong political will from the government to build HS2. There is a plan to establish a corridor, several metres wide, alongside the line for footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways; however the noise factor appears not to have been taken into account. In the Sheffield area much of the line will be above the ground or in tunnels, and hence rights of way will not be massively affected.

BM attended a presentation on HS2 in Stavely. The maps showed cycleways which were, in fact, footpaths. In Derbyshire 60 rights of way would be affected, 50 of them in the Chesterfield Group's area. BM said that the Group had no confidence in the Derbyshire CC maps, very small digital maps being difficult to see accurately and having many RoW missing.

It was established that there were no guidelines on the closeness of wind turbines to Rights of Way. (NB Later ascertained as being between 1.1 and 1.5 of turbine height by different guidelines).

Regarding rights of way matters Area Council has written to Ramblers RoW officer, Janet Davis, seeking guidance on the best way to make progress. The Deregulation Bill is still being progressed; it could make the claiming of historic rights of way much easier, although it was pointed out that the Bill may not be passed due to lack of parliamentary time before the next election. It was suggested that, after General Council has taken place, a meeting is held for people interested in claiming historic routes from our Groups.

Copies of the book *Rights of Way; Restoring the Record* have been obtained and will be passed to the local Groups interested. The book contains full information on sources of historical information. One of the biggest categories of unclaimed routes are the 'White Lanes', i.e. historic routes which have simply never been claimed and thus have no legal status.

TH said that Ramblers Groups should publicise what they do more - maintenance work as well as providing walks, which provide opportunities for people to improve health - especially in these times of council cutbacks.

Secretary

David Gadd distributed a correspondence list, drawing attention to the poor responses from central office to requests for information. Apologies had been received.

Treasurer

Gavin Johns distributed the Treasurer's report as at 10th February 2014. He said that all Groups with the exception of the Chesterfield 20-30s had sent their accounts on time and there were no problems except a technical problem with Rotherham Metro's accounts. The money from the dissolution of the Bolsover Group was now in our account. GJ said

that Groups were not spending much at the moment, and hence our balance was high. He would probably decline 4th quarter payment from central office.

It was proposed by TH and seconded by GJ that GJ would hold 500 copies of the Sheffield Country Walk booklet recently published by the Sheffield Group for distribution to Groups to sell. Monies received would be kept by the Groups.

GJ said that we were now affiliated to the Open Spaces Society.

Information Officer

Christine Whittaker said that training manuals for Ramblers Routes were now on the SYNED website. Groups are welcome to download them to their own sites.

The Training Day in York on 12th April was now being booked. CG said that four members from the Dearne Valley Group were going.

General Council

General Council will be held at The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on 29/30 March, 2014. The theme will be 'Working in Partnership'. Delegates to attend were elected at the AGM. They were Allen Pestell and Nicki Farmery. A request for a non-voting delegate had led to Terez Nagy, from the Dearne Valley Group, being chosen.

It was agreed that the following motion from SYNED would be submitted:

This General Council is concerned that we are now half way to the 2026 cut-off date to add historic Rights of Way to definitive maps, introduced by the CROW Act 2000, and that Areas and Groups have not yet received any guidance on the types of routes which they should claim.

It urges the Board of Trustees to issue, as soon as possible, clear advice on where and how we should all be concentrating our efforts in order to achieve maximum efficiency.

AOB

It was agreed that the Constitution and Standing Orders, and an up-dated contact list, would be sent to all Area Council members.

ACROW and Area Council meetings:	9 th June 2014 8 th September 2014 24 th November 2014
AGM:	2.00, 25 th January, 2015
General Council:	29/30 March, 2014
Area website:	www.synedramblers.org.uk
National website:	www.ramblers.org.uk