

## South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire

### Area Council

24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

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

**Present:** Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard (President), Christine Whittaker (Information Officer), Chris Greig (Dearne Valley), Gary Dickson (Sheffield 20s), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Les Seaman (Access), Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Marion Thompson (Doncaster).

**Apologies :** Gavin Johns, Cath MacKay, Basil Merry, Judy Gathercole, Cynthia Ashton, Philip Ryder.

### **Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2013**

They were agreed as being correct.

### **Matters Arising from those minute**

None

### **Group Reports**

The Dearne Valley Group have submitted walks as part of the Get Doncaster Walking programme but CG had problems with participants being dressed incorrectly.

The Doncaster Group now have very good arrangements with Doncaster RoW Dept re maintenance and currently have sessions every fortnight.

### **Officer's Reports**

President

TH reported on the charging by commercial companies to lead groups onto Kinder. His letter to *walk* magazine had been the 'Star Letter' in the Autumn edition.

TH said that in his earlier life he had been mentored in rights of way matters by people such as John Bunting. However younger people today do not appear to be taking on similar roles. This has obvious implications for the future. He pointed out that this is not in any way a criticism. Various comments were made, including the fact that young people have little spare time, that getting volunteers even to lead walks is difficult, and that there are no big issues to campaign around like the right to roam.

Chair

AP reported on the preceding ACROW meeting. Regarding the Lost Ways project, no guidance from central office has been received yet. However AP and DG will attend a meeting in Leicester on 1<sup>st</sup> October with CEO Benedict Southworth and Chair Jonathan Kipling.

AP reported that the government has committed to completing the England Coastal Path by 2020 although some scepticism was expressed, bearing in mind that this parliament is drawing to a close. He reported that Sheffield City Council have agreed that all woodland in the city shall be open access land and that the Holling Dale Plantation, on Bradfield Moors (SK2292), has been cleared to be returned to moorland. However the intention is that it will not be declared open access land until a review in 2019. Rod Moor (SK2688) is open access land with only one point of access. TH has pursued this with Natural England and pointed out that no consultation took place prior to a new fence being installed. Finally, he reported that Long Causeway has been granted a full TRO.

Secretary

DG said that the correspondence list would be distributed with the minutes. It was agreed that the

correspondence list is worth distributing.

Latest membership figures are:	National	SYNED
January	106947	2462
June	107837	2486
September	107679	2468

#### Treasurer

The financial report had previously been circulated. GJ reported that with a healthy balance of about £4600 in the general account he has increased our contribution to next year's budget by the Area to bring us in line with ramblers reserves guidelines.

GJ would like to receive any expenses claims by the end of the month.

#### Information Officer

The deadline for officers and Groups to send their reports to CW for inclusion in the Area Newsletter is the first week of October.

#### **Review of Area/Group structure**

We had a very brief discussion but agreed to defer a full discussion until the next meeting on the basis that it is possible that some information on this subject may be given to AP/DG at a meeting in Leicester on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

#### **Harassment**

Harassment on social media sites was reported and had necessitated the offender being blocked.

#### **CROW Act celebration**

The event on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September was fully organised. It is an informal event, with groups asked to walk to the Discovery Centre at the Longshaw Estate between 12.00 and 12.30 with a picnic lunch. AP will chair short speeches from Roly Smith, Terry Howard, Cath MacKay and Nicki Speakman.

#### **AOB**

CG said that he is on the new Volunteer Sounding Board established by central office and will feedback as appropriate. The first meeting will be in November.

ACROW and Area Council meetings: 6.30 and 7.30 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014

AGM: 2.00, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

General Council: Cambridge 28/29<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Area website: [www.synedramblers.org.uk](http://www.synedramblers.org.uk)

National website: [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)