

## **South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire**

### **Area Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> November, 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), Mark Hodgkinson (Sheffield 20s), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Les Seaman (Access), , Marion Thompson (Doncaster), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Basil Merry (CNED), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Cynthia Ashton (Co-op Ramblers), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Raj Joshi (Sheffield 40s), Jeremy Kenyon (Sheffield 40s).

**Apologies:** Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone)

### **Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

They were agreed as being correct.

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

TH reported that the rucksac he had won for his star letter in *walk* magazine, about commercial groups charging people to walk in the Peak District, had been too big but that he had been able to change it for a smaller one!

### **Group Reports**

Recent problems within the Sheffield 40s Group appear to have ended. Following the Group's AGM a substantially new committee had been elected, with Raj Joshi as chair and Jeremy Kenyon as webmaster.

### **Officer's Reports**

#### **President**

TH said that his 3-year term of office ends in January. He feels that 2015 will be a challenging year, with local authorities facing further substantial cuts.

#### **Chair**

AP reported on the previous ACROW meeting, the meeting with Nick Clegg, the inaccessibility of some access land, a problem in Stannington with a fence alongside some common land, the growth of 'solar panel farms' in Derbyshire, Ramblers Areas representatives meeting Derbyshire CC re outstanding issues, and temporary issues in the Burbage valley.

#### **Secretary**

DG said that the correspondence list had been distributed with the agenda and an up-dated contact list. Anyone wanting the re-sending of an email should contact him.

It was agreed that DG would continue to distribute all formal Ramblers mailings plus any other emails related to the countryside etc, leaving members to delete as appropriate.

#### **Treasurer**

GK circulated the financial report. GJ reported that with a healthy balance quarterly payments from central office might be reduced.

However, any Group wanting to set up a project is very welcome to request funding.

#### **Information Officer**

CW reported that Lee Farmery, previous Chair, had paid the website fee. Thanks were expressed.

Printed copies on the Area Newsletter were available to be taken away by Groups for distribution to their members not on email.

### **AGM**

The Dearne Valley Group are hosting the 2015 AGM, which will be held in the St Mary's Church Hall, Sprotbrough (GR SE539020).

There is limited on-site parking but plenty of street parking, although car-sharing is wise.

There will be a walk of about 5 miles starting at 10.30, with tea/coffee and plenty of time for lunch after the walk.

The AGM will start at 2.00pm.

2015 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sheffield Federation, which developed into the SYNED Area of Ramblers. It was agreed that the Dearne Valley Group would organise a cake to celebrate.

TH has been president for three years and his term of office must end. AP will seek a replacement. Current members of Area Council indicated their willingness to stand again.

DG will contact affiliated groups to invite them to be one of two representatives on Area Council and will prepare the agenda, to include an up-date of Standing Orders.

CM will propose the re-affiliation of the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance, Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland, the Peak and Northern Footpath Society, Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Open Spaces Society.

### **Review of Ramblers governance.**

The recent 'New governance structure for the Ramblers working group proposals for discussion, October 2014' had been received recently by email. Paper copies were available, and it will be printed in the next *Walk* magazine.

Various issues were briefly discussed but the over-whelming feeling was that, with a deadline for the consultation set at 31<sup>st</sup> December. The 6-week consultation period, particularly at this time of the year, is ridiculously short bearing in mind the importance of the subject.

At the 2014 general Council it was pointed out that the whole structure of Ramblers could be improved. However, it was pointed out that Groups make up Areas, and that if this structure ceases it might all become unworkable. It was pointed out that some statements had been made in the document with no evidence to back them up. The question of the qualifications needed to be a Trustee was raised.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that 1) AP/DG would write to Benedict Southworth expressing concerns re the lack of consultation time; 2) AP would write something to this effect on the Ramblers blog; 3) We would make our views known to other Areas to establish the strength of feeling over the issue; 4) a sub-committee (consisting of AP, TH, CM, RJ, JK and DG) would meet to go through the proposals line by line in whatever time could be found.

### **AOB**

None.

#### **ACROW and Area Council meetings:**

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 6.30 and 7.30pm starts respectively | 9 February 2015  |
| Dates to be confirmed by AC.        | 8 June 2015      |
|                                     | 7 September 2015 |
|                                     | 23 November 2015 |

AGM: 2.00pm 24<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)

### **AGM details**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Venue:** St Marys Church Hall GR SE539020  
Main Street  
Sprotbrough  
Doncaster  
DN5 7RE

**At 10.30 a 5-mile walk will start from the venue, to be led by Chris Greig.**

**Walkers to return to the venue for tea/coffee and lunch.**

**At 2.00 the AGM will start.**