

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire

Area Council

9th February 2015

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

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard (MWPF), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Chris Greig (Dearne Valley), Mark Hodgkinson (Sheffield 20s), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Les Seaman (Access), 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), Nikki Speakman (B&P).

Apologies: Roly Smith (President), Christine Whittaker (Information officer).

Minutes of the meeting of 24th November 2014.

They were agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising from those minute

There were no matters arising from those minutes.

AGM of 24th January 2015.

The minutes will be approved at the AGM of 23rd January 2016.

Thanks were expressed to the Dearne Valley Group for hosting the AGM. The event went very well, with a good walk, a good venue and good catering.

Issues were discussed re the presentation by Richard May, Trustee, it being considered too 'corporate' and not individualised for us or by the speaker. A letter would be sent to central office expressing our concerns. We also agreed to discuss the issues we would like the speaker from central office to address before future AGMs. JK raised the issue of how central office/the Board of Trustees consult Area/Groups/members. Some meetings have been held, with AP and LS describing a meeting at Edale.

Group Reports

CG said that the Dearne Valley Group had enjoyed hosting the AGM.

Officer's Reports

Chair

AP briefly recounted what had been discussed at the ACROW meeting, relating to the completed work in the Burbage Valley, a re-laid track on Derwent Edge, the lack of access on open access land owned by the Fitzwilliam Estate, and the situation re solar farms. Also mentioned was the large natural increase in deer on Big Moor and the new cooling technology that enables cables, which previously could only be laid underground at great expense, to be laid underground much cheaper now.

In the ACROW meeting the suggestion had been made that we try to re-establish the Peak District Co-ordinating committee of Ramblers Areas covering the Peak District National Park.

Raj Joshi was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of Area Council for 2015.

Secretary

DG had distributed the correspondence list prior to the meeting. He drew members attention to the response from central office to the submission on the governance proposals made by the sub-committee. (This email has been forwarded to Richard May).

The AGM minutes would be re-sent, in pdf form and with minor amendments.

The secretary agreed to inform Area Council of membership figures.

Treasurer

GJ proposed that Andrew Milne be nominated to check our accounts next year. This was seconded by PR and agreed unanimously.

GJ pointed out that with our high balance he would probably decline our Q4 payment. Groups were reminded that they can submit a request for funding for a specific project. It was also agreed to discuss expenses to members at the next meeting, as different groups encourage/discourage claims for different things. GJ said that there is a policy on expenses on the Ramblers website.

Bids are sought for a specific project that money from the Herbert Proctor legacy could be used for.

General Council

The following motion for General Council was sent on 31st January: 'This General Council urges the Board of Trustees to suspend action on the new governance consultation to give all parts of the Ramblers proper time to respond'.

It was agreed that the four members attending GC, plus any other members who wish to attend, will meet to discuss issues prior to GC.

It was agreed that Raj Joshi would attend GC as a visitor. Proposed by AP, seconded by CM. Agreed unanimously.

AOB

1 TH said that various publicity materials were available to Groups who might wish to attend an event to promote Ramblers. The advantages of attending events to promote Ramblers were discussed, along with the disadvantages in the complete lack of interest at some events i.e. the Sheffield Cliffhanger.

2 PR asked whether we should send copies of our 'Dedication' letter to the Local Access Forums. TH pointed out that the LAFs were sending letters and that the Chairs of the local LAFs are all members of Ramblers.

3 JK asked if Groups could email the secretary about any successful methods of increasing membership. This subject would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

4 JK is standing as a Trustee at the forthcoming GC. He asked if members of Area Council would read and respond to his draft paper on 'One member, one vote' and let him know which of his arguments are the most important and most effective.

5 RJ agreed to co-ordinate a meeting of the three Sheffield Groups.

ACROW and Area Council meetings:

6.30 and 7.30pm starts respectively	8 June 2015
	7 September 2015
	23 November 2015

AGM:	2.00pm	23rd January, 2016.	Doncaster Group to host.
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General Council:	Cambridge	28/29 th March 2015.
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Area website:	www.synedramblers.org.uk
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National website:	www.ramblers.org.uk
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