

## **Area Council**

6th February, 2017

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

## **Present**

Terry Howard (Acting Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Les Seaman (Access), Christine Whittaker (Information), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Jez Kenyon (Sheffield 40s), Basil Merry (CNED), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley).

## **Apologies**

Allen Pestell (Chair), Philip Ryder (Rotherham), Angela Coles (Sheffield), Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone).

## **Minutes of the meeting of 21st November, 2016**

Agreed as being correct.

## **Matters Arising**

None

## **AGM Minutes for consideration**

Christine Whittaker and Jez Kenyon would discuss with John Rush, a member who has agreed to get involved with the website.

The use of the digital projector etc was considered to have been very beneficial to the AGM as a whole, with the accounts, photos of the plastic matting on the moors, and the old Clarion photographs aiding everyone's understanding.

Gavin Johns has a laptop to add to the equipment. We also have loudspeakers.

For location and transport reasons, Christine Whittaker agreed to store the equipment, rather than Nicky Speakman.

Two motions had been voted on:

- i An emergency motion regarding the plastic matting laid on the moors near Langsett, sent to the PDNP prior to a meeting to respond to a retrospective planning application from the landowner.  
*(Email received 6th Feb stating planning application failed).*
- ii A motion on ploughing and cropping to be debated at General Council had been passed at the AGM. It was agreed that Jez Kenyon would put it on the Ramblers-Net and that any minor changes in wording would be acceptable. The motion needs to be submitted by 18th February.

Thanks were expressed to the Sheffield 40s Group for organising an excellent Area AGM.

## **Group Reports**

The CNED Walking Festival will be from 6th/17th May, 2017. It is the 50th anniversary of the Group and various celebration walks will be held on 12/13th May.

Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers have a new website.

The Sheffield VI Walking Group are walking the Sheffield Round Walk for sponsorship, in co-operation with the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind, who are excellent supporters of the walking group.

The Sheffield Group have a walking festival from 9th/17th September.

Jez Kenyon said that the Sheffield 40s Group are unaware of the wider work being done by Ramblers and would benefit from having a newsletter of the activities of other Groups.

The Dearne Valley and Rotherham Metro Groups are combining to organise a walking festival from 11th - 15th October, 2017.

## **Officer's Reports**

### Secretary's Report

Recent correspondence has been as follows:

30 Nov	Derbyshire Area Annual Report and Newsflash forwarded
06 Jan	Info on re-instating paths in Derbyshire forwarded
26 Jan	PDGLA Jan 17 Newsletter forwarded
30 Jan	Motion re plastic matting on Langsett moors to PDNP.
06 Feb	Documents re GC forwarded
06 Feb	Letters of condolences to David Hey and Roy Cannon
07 Feb	Email from PDNP re <u>failure of retrospective planning application</u> received and forwarded.
07 Feb	Mins from Derbyshire Group's RoW mtg fwded
08 Feb	2016 AGM, AC + ACROW minutes emailed to Sheffield Archives.
09 Feb	Letter of condolence sent to Ted Ellerton, Sheffield VI Walking Group.

Latest membership figures are as follows, with the November figures in parenthesis as a recent comparison:

CNED	(441)	431	Dearne Valley	(109)	115
Doncaster	(225)	220	Sheffield 20s	(258)	258
Sheffield	(601)	588	Ch'field 20s	(26)	23
Rotherham	(269)	266	Sheffield 40s	(224)	229
Barnsley & P	(173)	159			
			SYNED	(2352)	2316

### Treasurer's Report

Gavin Johns said that as at 6th February £3,428 had been paid out to Groups and for expenses, leaving the current balance at £1,230. £1,000 has been allocated to the CNED Group for the North-South Trail.

The legacy balance was £42,748, with £4,000 allocated for the Clarion Ramblers book, although it was likely to cost considerably less. Money had been allocated to pay for Lost Ways expenses.

The Sheffield 20s Group had asked for information regarding a request for legacy money, which had been supplied.

A donation of £50 had been requested for Sheffield Environmental Week. GJ had suggested that an advertisement should be taken out and a £50 payment made.

A donation, supported by the CNED Group, of £2,500 was requested for expenses connected with making a path alongside the canal at Staveley more accessible for disabled users. It was suggested that matched funding from the Canal Trust be requested.

Cath MacKay said that £480 from donations given at the funeral of Roy Cannon had been given to SYNED.

## **General Council**

It was agreed at the AGM that Allen Pestell and Jez Kenyon would represent SYNED at GC in Southampton on 1st-2nd April.

Area Council has agreed to pay for a non-voting visitor to attend GC. Anyone interested should contact the chairman or secretary as soon as possible.

## **Lost Ways**

The Sheffield groups would be getting together soon to discuss Lost Ways. David Gadd is attending a Barnsley & Penistone committee meeting in March to discuss Lost Ways.

Action from Central Office following the Lost Ways seminar in October, regarding guidance, possible digital storage and information-sharing facility, has been lacking.

The possibility of someone being paid to do specific research at the national archives, Kew, was mentioned.

## **Role of Groups**

The document put before the AGM was discussed and it was decided to circulate the draft Ramblers Local Work document and to ask Groups to discuss it and respond to the secretary before the next Area Council meeting.

The Ramblers Local Work document is an overview of what Ramblers Groups/Areas aspire to do at a local level. The document should be considered a draft for discussion and hopefully it will lead to a document agreed by all the Groups in the SYNED Area.

### **AOB**

The first meeting after an AGM a Vice Chair needs to be appointed. JK agreed to fulfil this role.

Having heard and seen the presentation on the South East Walker newsletter by Robert Peel at the AGM, we agreed to consult on the possibility of some form of Area Newsletter. It would allow us regular contact with all our members, not just those who walk. It would facilitate publicity for the non-walking things that our Groups. It could be used to promote walking festivals and other activities in the Area. All Groups in SYNED are asked to discuss the possible introduction of an Area Newsletter and respond with their thoughts before the next AC meeting on 5th June.

2017 ACROW meetings start at 6.30pm and Area Council meetings start at 7.30pm  
All meetings are held in the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW.  
6th February  
5th June  
4th September  
20th November

2017 General Council 1/2 April.

2017 “Spirit of Kinder” 2.00pm, 22nd April, Edale Village Hall

2018 AGM: 2.00pm, Saturday, 27th January  
Rotherham Metro to host.

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