



Area Council

4th June, 2018

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

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (MWPF), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley), Jez Kenyon (Sheffield 40s), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op Ramblers), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group), Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro).

Apologies

Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Cath MacKay (MWPF).

Minutes of the meeting of 26th February, 2018

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

None.

General Data Protection Regulations

GDP Regulations came into force at the end of May. We discussed various issues and agreed that names, rather than roles, would continue to be used in our minutes and that the secretary would continue to send minutes out via 'copy' rather than 'blind copy'. It was pointed out that although central office are carrying out a re-consenting programme, a significant number of members have not consented to receive emails from central office, but have agreed to communicate with their groups via email. Groups were continuing to communicate with these members.

Central office initially said that all walk leaders should give written consent for their phone numbers to appear in the walks programme. However in response to an email from DG pointing out that in giving their number to their group walks programme co-ordinator they had implicitly given consent; central office then agreed that written permission was not necessary.

Group Reports

DG said that the Doncaster Group held its first walking festival last week, with 27 walks in the 9-day period. The decision had been made not to promote the festival outside the Doncaster area but to try to encourage local people who don't normally walk to join us. DMBC were happy to fund the design and printing of 5,000 copies of the leaflet and to distribute many of the leaflet and inform council tenants about the festival. The festival was successful in attracting people who normally do some walking, but not in attracting people who do no walking. Nevertheless we promoted ourselves well, with items in the local press, as well as highlighting the pleasant countryside around Doncaster. A selection of photos from many of the walks are on our website. The Doncaster Group have also become involved with offering walks to carers and cared for people, with funding from Sports England. This innovation has been successfully started with Kent Ramblers. We have a local walk organised for 11th July and another in Chatsworth Park in September, with one more to follow in October to complete the three-walk trial. Funding to pay for the coach and refreshments will go to the Doncaster Group, although the booking of the coach and refreshments will be made by the Doncaster carers organisation.

PR said that the Rotherham Group was re-launching the Rotherham Ring Route after some route alterations and improved signage. Many circular walks had been added to the project. A booklet describing the route, with mapping and points of interest, had just been sent to the printer. The route will be re-launched at 10.30 on 27th July, with our president, Lord David Blunkett, attending the launch and intending to walk. Details will be circulated closer to the date.

GJ said that the CNED Group had led a significant number of the walking festival organised by the Chesterfield council in May.

The Group continues to have discussions with Derbyshire County Council regarding resolving problems with CNED members doing footpath maintenance.

NS said that the 20/30s section of the Barnsley and Penistone Group was likely to fold in the near future due to a lack of people willing to lead walks.

TH said that the Sheffield walking festival was being held in September, with the Group playing a significant role via the Local Access Forum. Sheffield is being branded as *The Outdoor City*. TH also pointed out that there is a display about campaigning for access to the countryside at the Weston Park Museum. TH and LS had recently led a short one mile access walk with many stops to point out places of interest.

CW raised the issue of the vandalised information boards on Sheffield's Five Weirs Walk. It was agreed that she would investigate whether SYNED could arrange for their replacement.

Officer's Reports

Chair's Report

AP said that General Council this year, in April, had a completely different 'feel' to it. The atmosphere was positive and encouraging, with staff working closely with volunteers. JK said it was the best GC of the four GC's he had attended. SYNED had successfully opposed a motion against the idea of asking people joining Ramblers (is this right? or was it for people applying to be governors?) to provide information if they had any special skills to offer.

TH had been involved in filming an episode of Great Railway Journeys with Michael Portillo. They had met Michael Portillo, had a short walk up Grindsbrook and had been involved in interviews, etc.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary presented the up-dated membership figures, *with June figures added*:

| | CNED | Don | Sheff | R'ham | B&P | DV | Sh20 | Ch20 | Sh40 | SYNED | National |
|---------|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-------|----------|
| 1/10/13 | 505 | 234 | 661 | 269 | 242 | 99 | 226 | 22 | 179 | 2399 | |
| 1/12/13 | 542 | 227 | 663 | 272 | 223 | 100 | 223 | 25 | 190 | 2449 | |
| 1/06/14 | 536 | 232 | 677 | 271 | 202 | 103 | 214 | 23 | 219 | 2486 | 107837 |
| 1/06/15 | 478 | 232 | 626 | 264 | 187 | 103 | 235 | 37 | 227 | 2403 | 107473 |
| 1/01/16 | 473 | 230 | 614 | 266 | 180 | 105 | 231 | 33 | 230 | 2392 | 106452 |
| 1/01/17 | 439 | 224 | 590 | 259 | 167 | 114 | 258 | 25 | 233 | 2334 | 105234 |
| 1/06/17 | 433 | 213 | 581 | 255 | 157 | 114 | 249 | 23 | 238 | 2293 | 105136 |
| 1/01/18 | 424 | 204 | 580 | 246 | 152 | 117 | 233 | 23 | 240 | 2256 | 104617 |
| 1/02/18 | 425 | 210 | 591 | 246 | 148 | 119 | 231 | 22 | 247 | 2256 | |
| 1/03/18 | 427 | 213 | 574 | 246 | 143 | 121 | 234 | 23 | 246 | 2263 | 104259 |
| 1/06/18 | 423 | 224 | 559 | 251 | 144 | 129 | 227 | 23 | 253 | 2270 | 103605 |

Recent Correspondence:

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|----------|---|
| 22 Feb | 2017 AGM/AC/ACROW mins sent to Sheffield Archives. Acknowledged. |
| 28 Feb | Grateful thanks for the £10,000 donation to Mend Our Mountains expressed by the Peak District National Park Authority. |
| 28 Feb | PDGLA Feb Newsletter sent. |
| 02 March | Email to central office re having only one speaker at our next AGM (no problem) and advising that David Blunkett will be attending our 2019 AGM and the possibility that Vanessa might like to attend also (will see closer to the time). |
| 27 March | PDGLA March Newsletter sent. |
| 11 April | Press release re SYNED £10,000 for repairs to the Great Ridge, as part of the Mend Our Mountains campaign sent. |
| 14 March | BMC Newsletter sent re Mend Our Mountains item. |
| 19 April | PDGLA April Newsletter sent. |
| 23 May | PDGLA May Newsletter sent. |
| 30 April | SYNED response to Wetton Hills TRO application sent. Acknowledged |
| 01 June | Photos re memorial plaque for Roy Cannon sent. |
| 01 June | Info from Stoney Middleton Parish Council re Traffic Regulation Order on Jacobs Ladder sent. |

Treasurer's Report

GJ said that SYNED had an opening balance of £1248, we had received £2175 as third quarter funding and, after funding to groups etc our current balance is £1092.

The Ivy Cowan (Deceased) Trust Legacy had an opening balance of £37709 and after payments of £200 to the Dronfield Heritage Trust, £10,000 to the Mend Our Mountains campaign for 'Great Ridge' (Mam Tor to Lose Hill) path repairs and PNFS to sponsor a signpost, our current balance is £27,217.

There has been no change to the Clarion Call Account, which stands at £2978, giving the current bank account a balance of £31,286.

GJ had contacted all group treasurers to request budgets for the next financial year by 20th July.

GJ had received an email from central office stating that we had not followed the rules in donating £10,000 to the Mend Our Mountains campaign. An exchange of emails followed, resulting in an apology from the original sender for the tone of his email but still indicating that the remaining donated money should be transferred to our main account. GJ had replied that the money had been left to SYNED to be used according to Ramblers aims.

GJ suggested setting up the 'Ivy Cowan Project' to protect this money and to use as we see fit. There was general agreement with this. GJ would propose the project formally at the meeting on 3rd September.

AP said that this was an excellent suggestion. TH said that the publicity our donation had engendered had been excellent, with the BMC and the PDNPA, and that the money to improve this iconic route would be very well spent.

Access Officer

LS presented information on the proposed Northern Forest, available online at http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/01/a-new-northern-forest-beyond-the-headlines/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwre_XBRDVARIsAPf7zZiBZCi4b-AkDofka23nfMvNJM_QxfNqB4g-P3zndhIUyAAoGEmnIT8aAh2OEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds

He also gave information on access restrictions, available online at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/crow/crow-restrictions>

Information Officer

CW suggested that photos of the memorial plaque for Roy Cannon should be placed on our website. All agreed.

AOB

PR said that central office have decided not to continue to print hard copies of the membership joining form, relying entirely on potential members joining online. Generally we felt that this was not a good idea. The secretary agreed to convey our thoughts to central office.

Following a recent posting on Ramblers-Net to the effect that no improvement to the ploughing and cropping situation has occurred following the passing of a motion on the subject at last year's GC, JK suggested that we initiate a mini-campaign, particularly relating to the non-reinstatement of rights of way. If we go ahead with this we will be able to generate a database to show offenders, particularly frequent offenders, as well as encouraging our members to become more involved and report problems. JK agreed to develop his suggestion.

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.

2018 3rd September
 26th November

2019 AGM: 2.00pm, Saturday, 26th January
 Barnsley and Penistone Group to host.

West Bretton Village Hall
Bretton Lane
Wakefield, WF4 4LB

Area website: www.synedramblers.org.uk
National website: www.ramblers.org.uk