

Area Council

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

2nd September 2019

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (MWPF), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op Ramblers), Malcolm Dixon (Sheffield), Philip Lee (DVR), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Basil Merry (CNED).

Apologies

C MacKay (MWPF), Christine Whittaker (Information), Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Ken Coupar (Sheffield 20s), Steve Robertson (Doncaster).

Minutes of the meeting of 5th June 2019

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

MD said that a letter of apology to the Sheffield 40s Group had been sent.

Group Reports

MD said that the visit by the Liverpool Group had gone well. The visitors had requested urban walks and three walks had been provided for the 43 Liverpool members, who had been surprised at the amount of greenery in the city of Sheffield. A return visit would be organised. The event had led to an article in the Sheffield Telegraph.

The Group were putting on a Clarion Call Singers Gig at 7.30pm on Friday, 25th October at the Shakespeare Ale and Cider House, 146-148 Gibraltar St, Sheffield S3 8UB. Tickets are £5 and can be bought via eventbrite.co.uk or on the door.

DG said that the Doncaster Group were getting frequent publicity in the local weekly press, including, recently, an interview with a senior member of the Group saying that 'Ramblers saved my life' because the interviewee had had a breakdown about 30 years ago and she credited walking with her recovery.

Officers Reports

Chair

AP said that all Groups were aware of the First Aid courses that were available. Several members had attended and were very positive about the course.

Central Office had appointed Dominic Tooze as Don't Lose Your Way Programme Officer and he has been in touch, as has Chris Vannozi, from a Sheffield company called Diva Creative.

AP has attended a meeting with the one member in the Chesterfield 20s Group prepared to accept any responsibility regarding the folding of the group. Various options are being considered, including joining the CNED Group, being a separate section within the CNED Group, and joining the Sheffield 40s Group.

Secretary

Up-dated membership figures:

	CNED	Don	Sheff	RM	B&P	DVR	Sh20	Ch20	Sh40	SYNED	National
1/10/13	505	234	661	269	242	99	226	22	179	2399	
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
1/06/17	433	213	581	255	157	114	249	23	238	2293	105136
1/06/18	423	224	559	251	144	129	227	23	253	2270	103605

1/12/18	414	235	566	250	148	141	230	22	247	2294	102296
1/02/19	402	227	566	250	151	149	230	23	249	2278	102023
1/04/19	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	23	250	2281	101649
1/06/19	387	230	545	251	147	150	231	21	245	2245	101928
1/07/19	388	234	538	250	143	150	221	20	246	2240	101537
1/08/19	387	231	539	249	144	148	217	20	246	2231	101675
1/09/19	382	230	534	250	145	149	220	18	244	2223	

Please note the possibility of teething problems on the new dashboard so these figures may not be 100% accurate.

We discussed the subject of affiliated groups. DG had been in contact with central office re affiliated groups but there appear to be no developments. It was agreed that DG would write to existing affiliated groups in SYNED to thank them for their continued support and describe some of the things Ramblers are doing in this Area. Also, to try to contact as many non-affiliated walking groups within our Area as possible and write to them to explain what Ramblers do and suggest that they might wish to become an affiliated group to support us. The huge number of groups affiliated to the PNFS was noted, as was the low affiliation fee for PNFS in comparison with Ramblers. We also agreed to submit a motion to General Council on the subject of affiliated groups.

Communication:

17 June Historic m'ship figures sent to groups.

17 June Links to PNFS Newsletter sent.

27 July Ramblers Derbyshire Rights of Way Committee (RDROWC) minutes distributed, with subsequent informal consultation on similar minutes from other groups.

There will be no change to the current situation.

7+14 Aug. Two emails re possible SYNED project on river walks in our area distributed.

2 Sept PDGLA Newsletter sent.

A very positive discussion ensued about the Don Valley Catchment project (suitable title?). CA brought a number of walk leaflets to the meeting. LS said that, with others, over a 12 year period, he had walked all the rivers feeding the Don and produced documents, with distances between sections, etc. There was general agreement that the project was viable and that it would be very worthwhile.

Treasurer

GJ said that a request for £6500 had been made to central office for SYNED funding for next year.

In the General Account we had an opening balance of £929, with £1600 received for 4th quarter funding. Doncaster had received £230, DVR £280, and CNED £550, and with hall hire and bank charges added, the total of £1123, leaves the current balance at £1406.

The Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement Project has a balance of £11050, with no monies yet to be paid out.

The Ivy Cowen Trust balance remains at £18097 and the Clarion Call balance remains at £4083. Groups are welcome to submit requests for funding from the Ivy Cowen Trust. **This item will be on the agenda for the meeting of 25th November.**

The annual returns from Groups are due on 21st October, with the Area return due on 4th November.

The Unity Bank now charges for paying in cheques and cash so direct payments are preferred. The Sort Code is 60-83-01 and the Account number is 20142317.

Publicity

Following on from the presentation of the Treasurer's report several issues were discussed re the use of the Ivy Cowen Trust money. Clearly the Don Valley Catchment project, assuming that we agree to proceed with it on 25th November, will need a budget. It was pointed out that we have money to spend on footpath maintenance, including, possibly, repairing or replacement of bridges causing the closure of a rights of way. We also discussed the possibility of all groups producing a publicity leaflet/postcard to distribute to interested parties. It was suggested that a common template be drawn up, leaving groups to insert their particular information/photos, etc. The DVR and CNED leaflets will be circulated for interest and discussion.

AOB

1 AGM speakers.

Central Office will, as usual, send one speaker. It was suggested that a speaker from the Sheffield Moors Partnership, or People's Landscapes (a National Trust project), be invited. TH to investigate.

2 The three Sheffield Groups have agreed to have one footpath officer to represent them all, with Christine Whittaker having volunteered to act as the co-ordinator. David Woodhead, who has been the Sheffield Group's footpath officer for many years, is retiring from the role.

3 Between 11.30 and 16.00 on Saturday, 14th September, at the Moorland Discovery Centre at Longshaw, as part of the People's Landscapes project, there will be a display of memorabilia relating to the fight for access, Ramblers, GHB Ward, etc.

4 April 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the CRoW Act as it relates to this area. AP said that he would lead a walk in the Bradfield area to mark the event. This walk would enable members to see the results of the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement project.

5 BM referred to an article in the Guardian by George Monbiot about the lack of information on the ownership of land. This is sometimes a major issue when attempting to address a right of way or access issue. BM suggested that Ramblers should be supporting attempts to make Land Registry information open access and suggested a motion for General Council to this effect. AP said that we had already agreed to submit a motion re affiliated groups and that Areas were limited to one motion. However if an individual Group submitted a motion to Area it could be submitted to Ramblers trustees.

6 The AGM venue is included below.

ACROW meetings start at 6.30pm and Area Council meetings start at 7.15pm
All meetings are held in the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW.

2019 dates: 25th November

2020 AGM 25th January
Sheffield Walking Group (Sheffield 20-30s) to host.
Venue: Victoria Methodist Church, Stafford Road,
Sheffield,
S2 2SE.

2020 dates: 24th February
1st June
7th September
23rd November

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