

Area Council

4th September, 2017

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

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Les Seaman (Access), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group), Basil Merry (CNED), Terry Howard (MWPF), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley), Angela Coles (Sheffield), Jez Kenyon (Sheffield 40s)

Apologies

Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Christine Whittaker (Information), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op Ramblers), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Tom Kistell (Sheffield 20s).

Minutes of the meeting of 5th June 2016

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

- i TH gave two copies of *Clarion Call* to groups to give to their local archives and history societies.
- ii Discussions regarding the establishment of a Ramblers Heritage Centre at the Longshaw Estate are ongoing in what will be a lengthy process. The granddaughter of GBH Ward and the designer of *Clarion Call* have expressed their interest in helping.

Group Reports

Christine Hewitt said that members for the Sheffield Visually Impaired Group's had completed the Sheffield Round Walk on 17th June, a very hot day. They were delighted that over £3,000 had been raised for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and for the walking group.

Philip Ryder said that the Dearne Valley and Rotherham Metro Groups combined walking festival on 11th - 15th October was offering eight walks over the five days. They had had 5,000 leaflets and various size posters printed. Rotherham MBC were very supportive and were giving the leaflets to all their staff, distributing it to libraries, etc. All SYNED groups were asked to take copies and distribute them.

Wayne Grounsell said that one of the photos in the BBC Countryfile photo competition for their 2018 calendar had reached the final, had been taken by one of their members, Kevin Dolby, of deer in Stainborough Park, Wentworth Castle, between Christmas and New Year 2014-15.

David Gadd said since that a member of the Doncaster Group had become its Publicity Officer, the publicity for the group had increased dramatically. This led to a brief discussion on the importance of this role for all groups.

Officer's Reports

Chair's Report

Allen Pestell said that he had received an email this morning from Diane Simcoe, the recently appointed Area Support Officer due to attend this meeting, saying that she was unable to attend because a new line manager had been appointed and he/she wanted to visit SYNED with her soon.

Secretary's Report

Correspondence 5th June - 4th September

09 June Email to central office re possibility of them having archive material for SYNED
20 June CNED Newsflash
20 June Trail Riders Fellowship email from John Newrick forwarded
28 June Update from CEO
28 June AC + ACROW mins
28 June Response from central office re archive material for SYNED - they have none.
09 July PD Local Access Forum Annual Report
09 July CNED Newsflash
18 July CNED Newsflash
22 July Info re Footpath Secs mtg with Derbyshire CC
24 July TPT Newsletter
27 July PDGLA July Newsletter
01 Sept AC + ACROW agendas
04 Sept Consultation re cycling in Wales

Membership update

	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	
1/06/14	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
1/08/16	457	227	603	265	172	107	247	26	238	2369	106131
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
1/07/17	432	215	578	252	152	111	250	24	233	2279	105139
1/08/17	434	209	579	249	152	113	238	24	228	2258	104991
1/09/17	435	206	584	249	154	112	239	24	228	2263	104986

A discussion on membership figures took place. With the three groups in Sheffield, the total figure for Sheffield was very healthy. However, it was accepted that the increased number of walking groups everywhere gave walkers more choices and was contributing to the decline in numbers. We discussed the possibility of offering support to any SYNED group which might need it. Philip Lee said that a few years ago the Dearne Valley Group had been on the point of closure but had turned itself round and was now functioning well. The importance of a Publicity Officer was stressed.

Treasurer's Report

GJ distributed the Treasurer's Report.

He said that all Groups had submitted their budgets and that these had been forwarded to central office.

Third quarter funding had been paid to Groups as requested.

Money from the Roy Cannon legacy had been allocated for a bench, and for a PNFS signpost, although it had not yet been spent.

From the Ivy Cowan legacy £2250 had been spent on a defibrillator for the Edale MRT. Monies had been allocated for three signposts for the PNFS, Staveley path improvements, Mosbrough Country Walk improvements and the Ramblers Heritage Centre project at Longshaw.

Approximately 800 of the 1,000 *Clarion Call* books had been sold, with a current balance of £2,450 in this account.

Group annual returns are due by 25th October, with the Area return due by 8th November.

Information Officer

Christine Whittaker requested all reports, including annual reports from Groups, are sent to her by 30th September so that the Area Annual Report can be printed and distributed at the next AC meeting on 20th November.

Edale Mountain Rescue Team Defibrillator

Our donation has provided the Edale MRT with a defibrillator. AP will liaise with the MRT to arrange a suitable occasion for a formal presentation with publicity.

2018 Dates

We agreed slight changes to our normal pattern of dates for the ACROW and AC meetings to give a more equal distribution throughout the year. The agreed dates are: 26th February, 4th June, 20th August and 26th November.

Walk with Vanessa Griffiths, Ramblers CEO

Vanessa and two colleagues (Diane Simcoe, the new Area Support Officer, and the to-be-appointed Area Support Manager) are coming from London on Wednesday, 25th October to walk and talk to SYNED Area Council and to Group members.

We agreed that Longshaw would be an ideal venue for a figure-of-eight walk starting from the Longshaw Estate car park at 11.30 and walking to Higger Tor, Upper Burbage Bridge and back via Burbage Rocks. After lunch we will walk south to Little John's Well, east to Totlely Moor, then north-west back to Fox House and Longshaw, to finish before 4.00.

In addition to Area Council members Groups are invited to send up to three representatives. Please inform Jez Kenyon (jex@jez.cc) of the representatives. Packed lunches should be taken.

AOB

TH said that he had old minutes from the old Ramblers Peak District Liaison Committee, which ceased to exist with the introduction of the CRoW Act 2000. It was agreed that these should be offered to the Sheffield Archives.

Philip Ryder gave details of the AGM on 27th January. See below.

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.
20th November

2018 26th February
4th June
20th August
26th November

2018 AGM: 2.00pm, Saturday, 27th January
Rotherham Metro Group are hosting.

Venue: United Reform Church, Wickersley Road, Rotherham, S60 4JN
The church is on Wickersley Road near the 'Stag' roundabout on the A630 (A6123).
It is 2.5 miles from J33 of the M1 and 3 miles from J1 of the M18 (via the A631/A6021).
The church is approximately 2 miles from Rotherham town centre where both bus and railway stations are located. Bus numbers X1, 19 and 19A all stop close to the church.

The room is hired from 10.00am to 10.30am when the toilets will be open prior to the start of the 5.5 mile rural walk around Whiston and Wickersley, which will be led by Ivor Wilson. The meeting room will be available from 12.00 until 5.00pm.

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