

LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday 27 September 2021 at 7.15 pm by Zoom

Present: Dave Twigg (Chair), Chris Rimbault (Treasurer), Sue Mears (Social Secretary), Stuart Tyler (Footpath Officer), Lynne Atkinson (Membership Secretary), Margaret Eade (Elected Member), Tony Coates (by invitation)

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Sue Bicknell.

3. **Minutes of the last Meeting** (8 April 2121)

The Minutes were approved.

4. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

5(c) (penultimate para). Only mobile numbers of leaders are now listed on walk details.

5(e). Details were passed on and the two walks from Nanpantan car park went ahead as planned on 21 August 2021.

6. There are still some specific issues when using Apple computers with Safari and DT is trying to resolve them. DT to discuss with ST the location of some information on the website.

7. SM contacted Yvonne and six trees in memory of John Harper have been planted in the National Forest. CR arranged payment for them out of the account.

5. **Officers' Reports**

(a) Treasurer

The balance on the account is £1113.72 made up of £491.84 in the main account and £621.88 in the social account.

Ideas on how to spend some money were requested. Suggestions made were secateurs, which need to be lightweight, first aid kits, maps and a group subscription to the OSmaps app. Discussion to be held at the next meeting.

(b) Membership

The membership total at present is 123. 21 people have joined in 2020-21, with 10 in 2020 and 11 in 2021. The total is still slightly down on previous years. During the year 3 members resigned; 1 died, 1 moved, the other was unknown. Discussion was held as to why people join the Ramblers when we don't seem to see them on walks.

(c) Walks Programme

Walks were restarted on 3 April 2021 and in the 6 months to the end of September two walks each week had been offered apart from 1 Saturday in July and 3 Wednesdays in August. They started with a maximum number of 12 and then a maximum at the discretion of the leader. Booking has been required by mobile phone. However the walks have been reliant on a relatively small number of leaders. Risk assessments need to be completed and these are passed on to TC. The

Ramblers have recently changed the risk assessment form and it now needs to be kept for 3 years. Mobile contacts need to be kept for 3 weeks for Covid tracing purposes.

TC asked that the attendance form should have a full names, date of walk, and mileage on it. DT offered to add mileage on the blank form.

(d) Social Secretary

The 2021 holiday finally went ahead 14-17 August to Whitby. We had 25 members who went on the holiday and did 3 three walks, including two coastal walks, one to Robin Hoods Bay and then the other one, a linear walk, from Staithes to Whitby. It would be useful to have a meeting after the AGM to discuss a holiday for 2022. The Christmas walk and lunch social is to be arranged for a date in December, possibly 8/15th December 2021.

(e) Area Committee Report

A written report was submitted by SB (attached).

There was a discussion regarding walks for children and families (item 5) and it was thought that it was not appropriate at present due to the difficulty in getting walk leaders.

(f) Footpath Officer

There is an issue with a footpath near the Ashby Road, heading towards Shepshed - the new signpost doesn't point to where the path is and the path is overgrown. ST to report to Leicestershire County council.

TC is also concerned about a footpath to Woodthorpe, near the One Ash roundabout. Evidence is needed to show the footpath existed as it is not shown on new maps. ST to investigate.

6. Review of contact information on the website (cont from previous meeting)

It was agreed to reinstate the email links to committee members on the contacts section of the website.

7. Arrangements for Group AGM

To be held at Ronald West Court on Wednesday 3 November 2021, at 7pm for a 7:15 start. We will do tea, coffee, and biscuits at the beginning of the evening. The cost for hiring RWC is £15. LA to send an email out to members notifying them of the arrangements and the agenda. The Area will also be informed. The annual report, when written, needs to be sent to Roy Denney for the Rights of Way magazine. It was agreed that we would leave out the Muddy Boot award out unless we can think of an incident that had happened during the year which had been very restricted due to the pandemic.

8. Arrangements for Area AGM

The 2022 meeting is being organised by Loughborough. The Linford in Newtown Linford has been booked for Saturday 29th January, 9am – 1pm. The meeting will start at 10am. It will cost a maximum of £40 depending on how much is spent at the bar. Refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits will be served twice, at the beginning and then during the interval which will be after the guest speaker and before the AGM meeting. We will buy the refreshments and the Area will pay. Disposable cups will also be required. The host district puts a walk on after the meeting and SB has offered to do this, leading a 4-mile walk. The Area will organise the use of a computer and/or projector. (The Linford has a screen).

9. The National Forest Walking Festival 2022

To be held 14 – 26 May 2022. The theme this year is Wildlife and they need to know

details of any walks, including the numbers of stiles, by 1 October. TC offered to forward two walks.

10. **Any other Business**

It was agreed to continue with booking to attend walks.

11. **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

To be late November or early December 2021.

Area Report submitted by SB

- 1 Jack Cornish, from HQ is to give a talk on Lost Ways at the Area AGM. I am in touch to see what technical equipment will be needed. The Area office holds a projector if this is required.
- 2 At the AGM a new Chair is needed as Martin has completed his term of office. All suggestions welcome.
- 3 The next Area Quiz is to be held on 12th November at Wing Village Hall, Morcott Road, Wing, Oakham LE15 8SA. Meet 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Team of 4 @ £2 each. Refreshments available.
- 4 The Area Committee is to put a motion to the national AGM requesting members be aligned with their local group by county/district rather than use postcodes as at present. This attaches many to Nottinghamshire instead of Melton and Northamptonshire instead of Market Harborough and Lutterworth. The Lutterworth Group is to change its name to embrace Market Harborough.
- 5 I have been requested to canvas you on your opinions on whether you would like to be able to offer something to children/grandchildren of members and what this might be, walk or other activity.
- 6 Area membership has increased by 30 over the last 3 months (Loughborough -1 to 123) although it is not clear whether this is new members or returnees after lockdown.
- 7 The award for best kept footpath has been dropped due to lack of nominations. An award can be made in the future should there be a special case.
- 8 I was asked to express thanks for the Area walks. They were regarded as well organised.
- 9 There were 4 members from Loughborough attending the map-reading courses. Further courses are to be run in the new year.