

Ramblers East Cheshire Group

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2017

Present John Edwards – Chairman
Colin Finlayson – Treasurer
Sue Munslow – Membership Secretary
Jane Gray – Social Secretary
Dave Barraclough – Footpath Committee
Kathryn Carty
Adrian Flinn - Secretary
Apologies: None

1. To discuss and amend the draft Minutes of previous meeting held on 11th November 2016 under item 2 "Friends/Affiliates of ECR list

It was agreed to add a clarification as follows: Priority is given to ECR Members in the booking of places for events and social activities.

This situation will be monitored for the next 6 months and the Membership Secretary will be the custodian of this list. At this time one name is on the list.

The minutes will be issued. **Action:** John Edwards

2. Matters arising from last meeting

None

3. New Issues

3.1 A new on-line survey will be launched on 9th January 2017 by Central Office (CO) seeking our views on ways to improve support for area and group volunteers so that CO may incorporate these in their plans for improved support to Groups and Areas. The survey closes on Friday 31 March. Also they will be holding individual conversations with some volunteers as well.

We are all encouraged to respond as individuals, but CO have also indicated that it would be helpful to get collective responses from Group and Area committees.

CO will be asking us to think about the support we use and would like to have from CO which could include a variety of things: IT systems, websites and databases, training and support materials and manuals, or new processes and procedures. We have been asked to think about what would help us across all our area or group's work, not only for leading walks or campaigning, but volunteer recruitment and support, membership, finance, publicity and running meetings and committees.

It was agreed that we should respond as the ECR Group Committee and shall consider the best way to provide and collate the input from individual ECR committee members after the survey is published.

Action: John Edwards and Adrian Flinn

4. Reports from Officers

4.1 Chairman

Nothing to report since recent AGM

4.2 Treasurer

Bank Mandates names were confirmed following the formation of the new committee at the recent AGM. **Action:** Colin Finlayson

The bank balance on 31 December 2016 was standing at £ 10106.19 and this includes the 1Q payment of £ 500 from RA. Within this balance ECR now have £ 4000 which have been specifically provided for

major footpath projects so efforts now need to be increased to identify and scope suitable projects.

4.3 Membership Secretary

The latest December 2016 showed 621 members of ECR that includes 5 new members.

4.4 Social & Events Secretary

The Christmas lunches were well supported (about 100 in all).

The Training Course for Walk Leaders on 9th February 2017 has 10 participants booked and there are 2 spare places left. A reminder will be sent to the membership. **Action:** Adrian Flinn

The Social & Events Calendar for the first half of 2017 will be ready for distribution to the membership by the year end.

4.5 Footpath

There has been no Footpath committee meeting since our last meeting in November. The following points were raised:

- *The Big Patchwatch Phase 2.* Some of the inputs from the public to Phase 1 of the BPW relating to our area were erroneous. Therefore the FP Committee will again try to persuade Central Office to incorporate our ECR Annual FP Survey data into the current Phase 2. **Action:** Dave Barraclough.
- *Lost Ways project:* the possibility to submit a motion to the Ramblers Association Annual General Council Meeting on 1st and 2nd April regarding their policy on this project is being considered. The deadline to submit a motion is given in The RA Articles of Association located on the website and is 7 weeks before the meeting.

The work being undertaken on the next stage of this project by ECR (lead by Colin Park) is off the ground by starting the recruitment of volunteers. Progress will be reported periodically.

- *Major footpath projects to fund:* the Footpath Working Group leader will be contacted to discuss priorities to use this fund. **Action:** Colin Finlayson
- *Peak Park Boundary Walk (17 June 2017):* consideration is being given to contribute/participate in some way. **Action:** Dave Barraclough
- *Archiving of Footpath Committee documentation:* under consideration
- It was noted that David Bates has resigned from the Footpath Committee and are looking to recruit a replacement.

4.6 Publicity

Colin Park has offered to coordinate and administer articles for the Macc. Express and Manchester Weekly News.

5. Any other Business

None

6. Date of next meeting

This will take place at the house of our Social & Events Secretary on **Friday 24th March 2017 at 13.30**

Adrian Flinn - Secretary

19 January 2017