**Ramblers East Cheshire Group**

**Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Friday 11th November 2016**

**Present** John Edwards – Chairman

Colin Finlayson – Treasurer

Mike Bull – Membership Secretary

Jane Gray – Social Secretary

David Bates – Footpath Committee representative

Sue Munslow

Kathryn Carty

**Apologies:** Adrian Flinn – Secretary

1. **Preparations for the AGM on Saturday 19 November.**

Committee reviewed all the arrangements and timings and agreed final actions.

1. **Friends/Affiliates of ECR**

Committee reviewed the eight names on the current list of Friends/Affiliates. This had not been reviewed or updated for several years. John would work with Adrian to bring this group up to date and retain only those people who expressly requested to remain on the circulation list to receive our communications and be eligible to participate in ECR Social activities and Events.

As most of the Committee had been unaware of the existence of "The Friends", the criteria to be applied for including people in this group going forward was discussed. Opinion ranged over a wide spectrum of eligibility. Some members thought that as our website was open for all to see then any member of the RA might apply to join, for example, Coach Trips or Weekends Away in the same way as they could join our walks. Others believed that that such Group Social/Events activities were exclusively for ECR members and it would not be equitable if ECR members were prevented from attending because the place was taken by an outsider. Some felt that the answer to such a problem was for members to get their applications in quickly. There was a clear division in opinion between those who wished to allow free access and those who wished to exclude, or closely control the way in which, non ECR members could participate in activities by using the following suggested criteria: Members of other RA Groups who had made a significant and sustained contribution to ECR by serving and supporting our Group in some notable way. Any future nominations for people to be enrolled would be discussed and agreed at a Committee meeting.

However, finally, it was agreed, by a majority of 5 to 2, that the category of "Friends/Affiliates" would remain and the criteria for inclusion would be members of other RA Groups who requested the information and hence they would join the group of “Friends/Affiliates”. (Subsequently a clarification has been agreed that: Priority is given to ECR Members in the booking of places for Events and Social activities.)

One individual from the Halton Ramblers has requested to be included in this list. John would write to obtain contact details and confirm arrangements.

1. **Group Walk Leader Training Day: Thursday 9 February 2017**

4 members had applied to participate and 4 more had expressed an interest in joining and will be followed up.

At the Area AGM on 18th November, John would alert the Congleton and South Cheshire Groups of this day and provide copies of the advert flyer and Training Programme. Any nominations from these Groups would be paid for on the same basis as they had for joining last year's "Incident and First Aid training" day.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 4 January 2017. Time: 13.30 hrs. Venue: Social Secretary’s house