

# **East Cheshire Ramblers Group Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018**

## **1. Present**

Jane Gay – Chair & Social and Events Secretary

Colin Finlayson – Treasurer

Dave Barraclough - Footpath Committee Chairman

Kathryn Carty

Adrian Flinn – Secretary

**Apologies:** Sue Munslow

## **2. Matters arising from last meeting**

**2.1 Coach trips (item 3.2):** discussed and Jane Gay agreed to ensure that details are on the website.

**2.2** General Council 2018 will be held in Bangor, North Wales at the University on the weekend of 7th and 8th April. It is the turn of ECR to send two representatives on behalf of our Cheshire East Area (**item 4.1**): One person has been identified (Colin Finlayson) and there is room for another nomination. **Action: Jane Gay agreed to ask Sue Munslow to attend**

**2.3 Footpath Committee vacancy (item 4.5):** the vacant position has been taken up by Colin Finlayson.

**2.4 Second midweek short walk (item 5):** A survey by the short walk coordinator has indicated that there is no demand from the active short walkers for an additional short walk. Discussion suggested a proposal aimed at encouraging new walkers into a new group, possibly increasing membership and might be planned as a “stroller” walk of about 4 miles. **Action: Jane Gay to explore**

**the possibility of stroller walks and obtain short walk numbers**

### **3. New Issues**

#### **3.1 Matters arising from 2017 AGM**

**3.1.1 Walks on social activities – third party liability insurance for Leaders guidelines:** After some discussion it was considered adequate to publicise this type of activities in the Social Programme , as it is done already, to meet the guidelines. **Action: Jane Gay to ensure that information is on the website**

**3.1.2 Date for our AGM in 2018:** It was agreed to hold this AGM on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Macclesfield Tennis Club

**3.2 Research and engagement activities on the future of access (An RA initiative):** No point in following up with the Membership as the deadline has expired.

### **4. Reports from Officers**

#### **4. 1 Chair**

A proposal to send a questionnaire to the Membership to get an understanding of what they want from ECR Group and what they are prepared to support by volunteering to organize some events. A draft questionnaire will be prepared for the next meeting using as the basis the last one sent out in December 2009. **Action: Jane Gay**

The need to increase the number of Committee members and the roles that would be available were discussed. **Action: Jane Gay and Kathryn Carty will discuss outside the Committee and put forward proposals for discussion at the next meeting.**

## 4.2 Treasurer

Flagship projects (Poyton and Bollington): The wording for the two signages have been agreed with all stakeholders. The cost for each sign quoted by the manufacturer is £200 each. The majority in the Committee agreed to go ahead and have the signs made. **Action: Colin Finlayson**

A general small sign using non specific wording and made of plastic to publicise our footpath maintenance work was shown to the Committee. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea. **Action: Colin Finlayson will discuss with the PROW Enforcement Officer (Evan Pedley)**

The honorary position of Finance Director is being advertised generally by RA Central Office.

## 4.3 Membership

Noted

## 4.4 Social & Events

The social programme for Jan-July 2018 is being revised to reflect some changes/additions. A revised version will be circulated . A draft was shared with the Committee. **Action: Jane Gay to progress**

## 4.5 Footpaths

The last Footpath Committee Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and attended by the PROW Enforcement Officer (Evan Pedley). Nothing of note to report.

Colin Finlayson has been coopted into the Footpath Committee.

## 4.6 Publicity

Nothing to report on publicity.

Recent postings in our Website: there was a discussion on whether the articles/notices posted can be separated into ECR relevant and non relevant to make it easier to identify items of interest. **Action: Jane Gay to contact the Webmaster to ascertain whether this is possible or not.**

## 5. Any other Business

**5.1 South West Peaks Landscape Partnership (SWPLP):** They are seeking community organisations through which Heritage Lottery funds can be channeled to achieve community enhancements in this area. This is of potential interest to ECR. The Footpath Committee has been in contact with the SWPLP coordinator( Ruth Wilson) and is identifying possible projects of interest to put forward.

**5.2 Local route to be featured by RA in forthcoming edition of Walk Magazine:** Along side the route they will include a link to our ECR webpage so that anyone interested in finding group walks in our area will know where to start. This will be good publicity for ECR. A discussion ensued as to whether the information of our walks in the RA website provide sufficient details. After a quick inspection it was noted that the details given varied and it was felt that perhaps more details are needed to be posted if they are available in time in our own website. **Action: Jane Gay will request Theresa Marshall to put more detail information if available at the time when transferring the ECR walks to the RA website**

In addition, the Central Office have made suggestions on how to improve our website. **Action: Jane Gay will reply to RA (George Redmayne) and copy our Webmaster.**

**5.3 Project Group:** It was suggested that consideration be given to forming a small “projects Group” similar to the Footpath Committee). This could provide coordinated planning of the project work and also to ensure continuity of the work if or when the Footpath Maintenance Projects Team lead by Brian Richardson reduces or steps down from his current high level of activity (as a way of managing succession planning). **Action: Jane Gay and Colin Finlayson to consider the possibility**

**Date of next meeting**

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 1.30 pm at Chair house

Adrian Flinn – Secretary (5.2.2018)