

East Cheshire Ramblers Group Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018

1. Present

Jane Gay – Chair & Social and Events Secretary

Colin Finlayson – Treasurer

Dave Barraclough - Footpath Committee
Chairman

Sue Munslow – Membership Secretary

Maggie Swindells – Committee Member

Adrian Flinn – Secretary

Apologies: Kathryn Carty

Keith Anderson joined this meeting as an observer before deciding whether or not to join the Committee. (**Post meeting note:** We are delighted to welcome Keith as our new member following confirmation of his willingness to serve in the Committee)

2. Matters arising from last meeting

All outstanding actions have been completed

except:

- Footpath Projects walk: No contact with Brian Richardson yet. **Action: Dave Barraclough will follow up and report back to the Committee**
- RA stipend to ECR Group: The new Finance Officer resigned and another person was appointed recently. **Action: Colin Finlayson will write requesting clarification/explanation and asking for an increase**
- Midweek Walks notifications: A further improvement noted in the advanced posting of dates in the website. No further action is needed as the Committee acknowledges that common sense and good practice is being taken on board by Walk Leaders.
- Training Courses for new Walk Leaders: On going. **Action: Colin Finlayson will contact external training providers to find out slots availabilities for early 2019 and then hand over to Kathryn Carty who will take it forward.**

3. New Issues

3.1 Preparations for AGM 2018

No nominations or motions received from the membership by the dateline. The Agenda and papers have been posted in the website (about 25 paper copies will be available on the day). The framed awards were sent by Central Office and will be presented to the recipients at the AGM. Helpers will be available on the day and several have volunteered to contribute refreshments and crockery.

3.2 Publicity leaflets

Over 100 leaflets have been left in several venues in Macclesfield (eg. GP Surgeries, Library). **Action: Sue Munslow to provide tailored leaflets to leave in other areas by Committee members**

3.3 Restoring Lost Ways

Points for discussion at the forthcoming 2018 Cheshire East Area AGM on 24th November raised in the Footpath Report were discussed extensively together with the input from a workshop arranged by the British Horse Society

in conjunction with RA. **Action: Committee members attending the Area AGM will ensure that the concerns are thoroughly discussed and, if there is agreement, they should be passed to Central Office and consider an appropriate motion to the General Council in 2019**

3.4 Stroller Walks

A coordinator has been identified and it was agreed to offer these walks next year between April and September. Now that the “Walking for Health” initiative will not continue next year we may consider setting up a programme of weekly walks. **Action: Jane Gay to discuss the frequency of walks with the Coordinator and report back at the next Committee meeting**

The “Walking for Health “ was open to the general public with or without RA membership so there was discussion as to whether our stroller walks should run on the same basis or require RA membership. **Action: Jane Gay to seek advice from Central Office as opinion was divided in the Committee**

3.5 Footpath Database

There were no suggestions from the Committee for the development of this database.

4. Reports from Officers

4.1 Chair

No report. No issues

4.2 Treasurer

No report. Our budget was approved for 2018/19. Our subscription for the PNFS (Peak & Northern Footpath Society) was renewed.

4.3 Membership

No report. There has been a complaint from Leaders about one person joining our walks on numerous occasions without being a member of RA. **Action: Sue Munslow will contact Central Office to find out if that person is a member or not**

4.4 Social & Events

No report. No issues

4.5 Footpaths

Report is in Appendix 1. Issues raised have been

discussed in 3.3 and 3.5 above.

4.6 Publicity

No report. No issues

5. Any other Business

5.1 Cheshire East Area AGM dates

It was agreed to explore at the forthcoming AGM if the date for this meeting can be moved to the first quarter of the New Year to fit with our group AGM at the end of the year. **Action: Jane Gay to raise at this meeting**

Date of next meeting

Friday 8th February 2019 at 1.30 pm at Chair house

Adrian Flinn – Secretary (29.11.2018)

APPENDIX 1

There has been one Footpath Committee Meeting since the last ECR Committee Meeting. The Agenda covered normal items regarding footpath inspections and Orders from CE PROW. The meeting welcomed Jane Gaye as ECR Chair who attended to learn what we do - this was believed to be a first visit by an ECR Chair.

The annual footpath inspections have now been completed and we are pleased to report a second year of 100% coverage - 1276 paths inspected across 33 parishes, with a new low of the poorer paths (grade C&D) of 7.3%. The system is working well but nevertheless we are planning to collate some suggestions for development of the database to Roger Fielding.

There have been just 3 reports from the public of path problems, one of which was passed on to Congleton Ramblers.

I believe we are attending the Area AGM shortly. I would like our representative to raise discussion regarding the progress of the 'Lost Ways' project by Central Office. This is seen as a major project and I have discussed its progress with the special CO Project Manager – Jack Cornish. I am concerned that this project is trending towards making claims of very large numbers of Lost Ways in many parts of the country, without adequate consideration of whether these new paths may be really useful or how much resource it would require (from both Ramblers and Local Authorities). The Project currently has no data on how much a claim will typically cost!! We also seem to be blindly cooperating with the British Horse Society who are proposing to claim about 2000 new bridleways - an absolutely vast number and mostly of little benefit to Ramblers. South Cheshire Ramblers

expressed similar concerns at the recent PROW Consultative Committee. If other Groups have similar views, I suggest that we may consider some appropriate motion to the General Council in 2019 that these costs and efforts need to be more carefully prioritised and a budget limit set on the project.

Dave Barraclough
4.11.2018