

East Cheshire Ramblers Group Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19th July 2018

1. Present

Jane Gay – Chair & Social and Events Secretary

Colin Finlayson – Treasurer

Dave Barraclough - Footpath Committee Chairman

Sue Munslow – Membership Secretary

Kathryn Carty

Adrian Flinn – Secretary

Apologies: None

2. Matters arising from last meeting

All outstanding actions have been completed.

3. New Issues

3.1 Managing Personal Data by ECR – Guidance and advice on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Chair conducted an exercise jointly with the Membership Secretary to identify the areas that will impact on ECR activities and it was discussed in depth. The Committee was

reassured that ECR are handling the needs for each activity to meet the regulations without making the current practice complicated hence no general guidance will be issued by ECR.

3.2 Minutes of ECR Committee Meetings – Data protection and Officers Reports

The advice is that there is no need to seek permission/consent from any individual named in the minutes before posting the minutes on the website. It was agreed that the Officers will make clear in their reports anything which is for private discussion within the Committee so that it can be redacted from the report before is incorporated in the minutes. **Action: all Officers and Secretary**

3.3 Plea for help Questionnaire – results of survey

Several volunteers are willing to help and have put their names forward as follows:

- a) Walk leaders: 4
- b) Organize day coach outings : 5
- c) Organize Residential walking trips: 3
- d) Serve in the Committee: 4
- e) Organize an Event: 1
- f) Walk Leader training/Map reading course: 5 express interest

in attending .

g) Stroller Walks: 11 would consider leading this type of walks and 6 would consider joining (see item 3.6 below)

h) Footpath Inspection: 3 would consider this role.

These volunteers will be contacted to arrange a follow up and get them coopted/involved in the roles asap. **Action: Jane Gay, Kathryn Carty and Dave Barraclough will contact each of the volunteers as agreed at the meeting**

The Committee is grateful to all the volunteers that have put their names forward to help ECR to continue to provide the extensive programme of walks and social events to our membership.

3.4 ECR Members contact preferences

Several members stopped receiving ECR notices after they failed to re-consent nationally to receiving emails from the Ramblers Association (RA) following a Data Protection update. The unintended consequence is that this choice also applies to notices of events, coach trips and other news from ECR. If members wish to continue receiving emails of local interest from ECR they must alter their profile by going to their Account in the RA website. This is an issue that cannot be resolved by the Committee. However after some discussion it was decided to ask the Webmaster to create a post on the

website under information for members which detailed which emails had been sent recently to members. If members had not received the email they could contact Kathryn to receive it.

Action: Jane Gay to contact Webmaster

3.5 Walks programme

A proposal to have a recurrent item on this topic in the agenda for future Committee meetings was agreed. **Action: Adrian Flinn**

3.6 Stroller Walks (every other Friday between June and September)

This year trial programme has been successful and there is support for this type of very short walks from the membership (see item 3.3 above). Therefore the Committee agreed to set up a similar programme for next year on a permanent basis.

Action: Jane Gay to identify a volunteer to act as Walk Coordinator from the names who volunteer to lead these type of walk in the Questionnaire (item 3.3 above)

3.7 Midweek Walk Leaders

It has been noted that recently some walk details are not being posted in the website or emailed in plenty of time. A gentle reminder will be sent to the midweek walk coordinators.

Action: Jane Gay

3.8 Footpath Projects Group

This topic was raised sometime ago but remained dormant without any further progress and now raised by the Footpath Committee. The purpose of the discussions is to how the Projects team can be organized and managed when the Projects coordinator decides to reduce his commitments or retire. We are concerned that the invaluable work on footpath maintenance could come to a stand still if there are no plans to support the Project Coordinator who manages and administers all the work by himself. Possible ways forward and models were discussed. **Action: Dave Barraclough will contact Brian Richardson to discuss further and report back to the Committee**

4. Reports from Officers

4. 1 Chair

Issues raised were covered and discussed in item 3 above. Full report in Appendix 1.

Another permissive path (Tor Gate to Bottom of the oven ?) has also been successfully retained thanks to the efforts of Alan Catherall .

4.2 Treasurer

Noted. Full report in Appendix 2

The Committee reached agreement on the figures for the 2019 budget as proposed by the Treasurer. **Action: Colin Finlayson will submit the ECR budget for 2019 to Central Office (CO) by the 20 July deadline**

Questions were raised regarding the basic income allocation to ECR from Central Office: a) how does it compares with the monetary support given to affiliated groups by the Ramblers Association and b) the proportion given to groups seems very small when compared to the contribution from membership fees that CO receive from each member. **Action: Colin Finlayson will write to the RA Finance Officer requesting clarification/explanation**

4.3 Membership

Noted. No issues. Full report in Appendix 3

4.4 Social & Events

Noted. No issues. Full report in Appendix 4

4.5 Footpaths

Noted. Issues raised covered and discussed in item 3 above. Full report in Appendix 5

4.6 Publicity /Lost Ways

Noted. No issues. Full report in Appendix 6

5. Any other Business

5.1 Emergency Cards

RA have printed updated “in case of emergency cards” for individuals to carry with them on walks. We have ordered another 100 cards to give away to our members. **Action: All to hand out during walks**

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th September 2018 at 10.00 am at Chair house

Adrian Flinn – Secretary (21.7.2018)

Appendix 1

Since our last meeting I have spent some time looking at the issues surrounding data protection and the sending out of emails. My idea of hell!!

Re-data protection Sue and I have had several meetings and I circulated a sheet with the main facts, as we saw them, which affected ECR. Several members have felt strongly that they do not wish to receive information from central office but do wish to continue receiving ECR information. This is not possible since we are a subgroup of Ramblers nationally.

There have been issues with members not receiving emails for some bizarre reason. These members have been receiving emails until recently. This is nothing to do with data protection but suddenly they are not receiving them. Fortunately, for me, Frank was one of these people so we have been able to use him as a guinea pig. Roger and I have been communicating over the issue and hopefully it will be now sorted. He did consider changing the provider but, I think, has now decided to stay with mail chimp.

Update 16th July Recently these issues seem to have been causing problems with members not receiving bulk emails. I intend to send out the information about Ann's coach trip to my list of non receivers and will report back at the meeting.

I think Dave's idea about short walks on the website with a heading of less than 4miles. Is great but we need someone to action this. I have a short walk ready to sed but am not actually sure who to send it to!!

The Hidden Gem walks initiative. We had one walk which fell into this category and thanks to the leader who took on the responsibility of doing this.

I've met with John Goodman to sign the agreement re Charles Head permissive path. This is great news that the landowners are happy to extend the agreement for another 5 years. Thanks to John ad Alan for all there hard work

Topics to keep in mind

Celebrating and recognising volunteers
Emergency aid and map reading course
Committee members. Maggie Swindells and Heather Christiansen have both expressed an interest.

Thanks to you all. Jane

Appendix 2

Self Funded Activities:

Details will be covered in Social Secretary's report this has been a relatively busy quarter socially with several events organised notably :

Ecology Walk, Oswestry Coach trip , Coniston weekend away, Visit to Buxton MRT and Coach trip to Malham.

Financial performance of the above will be reported verbally at the meeting

Bank

The balance at 15th July was £5605.69

Donations :

£110 was collected by members for donation to Buxton MRT following their evening talk

Permissive Rights of Way

Following action from John Goodman and Alan Catherall the Charles Head Permissive Way Agreement has been extended for a further 5 years (June 2023).

The peppercorn rents remain the same at £20 per landowner per annum (Messers Bolshawe and Maynard)

Status of Treasurer's actions from January meeting :

Item 4.2 Flagship Schemes Signage :

Signs are currently being manufactured with delivery imminent.

5.3 Projects Group:

See comments regarding this item in Dave Barraclough's footpath group feedback.

Budget Review 2018/19

A full review of the above will take place during the meeting .Input from Footpath Projects Group and our Website Manager have already been received and will be included in the above review.

Our Budget has to be submitted to Area/RA on 20th July.

RA Finance Officer (Areas and Groups)

Ishmael Braimah the RA Finance Officer has now left the Ramblers so we await news of his replacement

Appendix 3

Membership totals

592	3 new	January
590	5 new	February
590	6 new	March
588		April
594	7 new	May
594	2 new	June

At the beginning of this year membership numbers seem to be steady with no downward trend. Numbers of new members fluctuate between months.

Last year numbers of new members averaged about 4/5 each month which appears to be continuing.

Appendix 4

Since my last report the following have taken place.

Ramble with a Ranger organised by me took place on the 19th May. There were five members of the public there and 15 ramblers. As usual we were very entertained by Martin James the Ranger so thanks to him.

The ecology walk went out on the 9th of June and this was an excellent, informative and interesting walk led by John Handley. The walk was oversubscribed and all who went seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. Thanks to John.

The coach trip on 16th June enjoyed, for the main part good weather. 3 excellent walks took place. Thanks to Colin Park, Steve Hull for organising the trip and to Rob Stevenson who helped by leading the short walk.

A week end away to Coniston was organised by Melanie Davy and was a great success. This was the first week end which Melanie had organised but I'm hoping it won't be the last. Over 40 people attended.

The July to December programme is ready to circulate. It is on the website but has not been circulated. Ant thoughts.

The Christmas meals are all being organised with Teresa Marshall taking on the organising of the week end meal.

Still needing planning

Residential

Emergency aid/ walk leader training.

Thank you social

Appendix 5

There has been one Footpath Committee Meeting since the last main ECR Committee. The routine Agenda covered normal topics of reviewing several PROW Diversion proposals as well as any major developments (such as the Poynton Ring Road plans).

The annual footpath survey is smoothly in progress, with a full complement of Footpath Inspectors and the database recording many details. This continues to be a smoothly working arrangement thanks to efforts over previous years. There has been no new reports of footpath problems needing investigation over the last few months.

There has been one PROW Consultative Meeting with Cheshire East, with various routine items. We were also able to update our list of 'Priority Path Problems' with the Enforcement Officers. These are mostly solved or being solved. One exception is a couple of 'mapping errors' where the ECR system merely adds them to their list of mapping errors and nothing gets done. We are pressing that this list is published and prioritised. There has been one CE PROW Committee Meeting where a number of Diversions were formally approved, with ECR comments being satisfactorily taken into account.

The Meeting updated progress of the Projects Group and Lost Ways Project, although these are not directly managed by the Footpath Committee. Project Group work has been at a standstill due to Brian Richardson's personal commitments - which we understand. However the Committee felt that this illustrated the need for the ECR Committee to organise a 'Projects Group' if the valuable basis of earlier work is to have future continuity. Lost Ways work has also been at a standstill (with Colin Park) and there are still no volunteers to assist him. There is now a nationally appointed Project Manager at Central Office. I have been in contact with him to input our views, principally on the need to prioritise which Lost Ways are claimed, rather than waste resources on claims with limited benefit. Although this progress is slow, the Footpath Committee is not unduly concerned for our area as we already have a better network of Public Footpaths than many areas.

The Footpath Committee remains one member short. Although we are coping with the workload, it is important that we do look for another member in order to continue with our established allocation of parishes across the Committee. Colin Finlayson's recent joining has been very valuable as well as (unintentionally) giving a useful link with the main Committee when I am away.

Dave Barraclough

Appendix 6

Articles are still going into the Macclesfield Express each week. It's a good way of getting free publicity. I have a small team of willing contributors but I have had the odd person who has refuse to supply a write even after I have offered assistance in a write up if they outline what they did.

I am planning to get back into the Lost Ways Project this winter. I had a phone call from Jack Cornish representing the ramblers 'Lost Ways' Project a couple of months back to get the programme on track again and we discussed where I had got to but I have heard nothing since. I've still had no volunteers to help with putting claims for lost paths forward. I really need to go through the process of making a claim with someone in the know as I feel that making a stab in the dark may do more harm than good.

Colin Park