



Minutes of Cheshire East Area Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 29th November, 2022 at 7:00pm

Macclesfield Tennis Club (Park Lane SK11 8JR)

Those present:

Jane Gay, Steve Butterfield, Trevor Park, Phil Guest, Colin Finlayson, Jeanette Clarke, John Peck, Sue Munslow, Maggie Swindells, Pippa Wainwright, Marketa Davies

Apologies received from:

Nigel Hersee, Neil Colley, Kevin Bush

Chairperson's welcome:

Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all those present to introduce themselves and briefly describe their volunteer role.

Minutes of last years meeting:

Agreed as a true record:

Report of the work of Cheshire East since the last AGM:

- 1) The constitution agreed at the last AGM has now been formerly approved by the Trustees of the Ramblers.
- 2) Webpages on the Ramblers National site for each group and for the Area were submitted by Steve in February to meet the requirements stipulated by Ramblers of a photo, some text describing the group, contact details and a link to the Group's own website. However, due to problems with developing "walks manager" the National website has not been updated to the new format. Steve asked each group to check a printed version of the details of the submitted web pages.
There was a question about who can edit the webpages on the National site. In the first instance it will be only officers at central office - but this will change so that eventually webmasters for each group / area can edit them.
- 3) Congleton did a Saturday morning at Alsager Library in May. There was quite a lot of interest from local people in exploring shorter local walks.

South Cheshire did a stall at the Nantwich fair? In July and again there were quite a few enquiries.

4) Steve went to General Council - a one day meeting held at the NEC. (Trevor who was also due to go was struck down with COVID). The minutes of General Council had been circulated prior to the meeting and could be included with these minutes.

Action point: Steve to check with each group the content of the webpage that will go on the National Website, and then inform Central Office of any changes.

Finance - Treasurers Report:

Jeanette circulated a report listing the income, expenditure and balance sheet.

There is still a balance of £0.36 that has been there for several years now.

In the discussion that followed, expenses for mileage can be claimed at 45p per mile (was 28p).

Jane thanked Jeanette for her report

Election of officers and independent examiner of accounts:

Jane stated that she would be standing down as chairperson this year.

Chairperson: John Peck. (Followed by Trevor in future years)

Treasurer: Jeanette Clark

Auditor: Michael Dale (Congleton)

Secretary: Steve Butterfield. (Also, membership secretary and webmaster for Cheshire East Area)

Signatures for cheques: Jeanette, Colin Finlayson, Phil Guest

National Council Delegates:

There was a discussion whether this should be rotated around the 3 groups or whether one from previous year and a new person should be used. The latter idea was adopted.

Trevor Park

John Peck

National Council will again be a one day meeting at the NEC on Saturday 1st April 2023.

Action Point: Steve to inform Ramblers Central Office about the Changes to officers and the delegates for General Council:

Discussion of any motions or changes to the constitution:

A point had been made prior to the AGM that not all members had seen the constitution before it was discussed at last years AGM. It was agreed that the current constitution would be made available to be viewed and commented on by all members in the area.

A discussion ensued about the section of the constitution that details those who make up the Area Council. This includes the groups who do not pay a membership subscription. (For those new to this it was explained that one member pays the subscription and their membership number covers the whole of the group).

Action point: Steve to circulate the constitution to each group so that all members can see it and have a chance to suggest additions / changes. The new constitution will be available to all members at least 2 weeks prior to the next AGM when the plan is for the new constitution to be adopted.

Other Business:

Don't lose Your Way. (DLYW)

In the discussion that followed it was observed that the urgency for this had now gone with the removal of the 2026 time limit. The point was also made that we are relatively well off for footpaths in Cheshire East and it is more a matter of looking after and improving what we have got.

Groups working closer together

A suggestion had been made that the 3 groups should (could) work more closer together:

“A starting point would be for each group committee to have a discussion to understand the pros and cons and these could be shared between the groups”.

One immediate point was the sharing of good practice. Trevor mentioned sharing the practicalities of developing social media to advertise the work of each group.

Action Point: Chair of each group to include this as an item for discussion on the next committee meeting

Expenses:

It was re-iterated that mileage can now be claimed at 45p per mile.

Communication:

Steve enquired whether the Area secretary should communicate directly with all members of Cheshire East area. It was suggested that this could be confusing to members who were used to communication coming only from the secretaries of each group. It agreed that the Area secretary would circulate any items to go to members to the chair and secretary of each group. Previously, the secretary had just circulated to each Chair. It is then for each group to decide whether this is emailed directly to all group members or placed on the group's website or a combination of both.

Action Point: All future messages for members or items for circulation to be sent to the Chair and Secretary of each group.

Meeting closed at 9:00.

(At which point we watched the second half of the England World Cup match!)

Attachments to be added to the minutes:

- Treasurers report
- Area Constitution
- Minutes from Ramblers of General council 2022

A point not raised at the meeting. - but for consideration:

A significant anniversary of the formation of the 3 groups is coming up. - further exploration is needed.