

WAVENEY & DISTRICT RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE QUAKER HALL, BECCLES

Thursday 22nd November 2018

Attendance: 32 members attended

1. Welcome: The Chair, Alex McPherson welcomed all those members in attendance

2. Apologies: Barry Covey, Diane Covey, Daphne Hayward, Greg Walker, Maggie Goffin, Linda Dowe, Lesley Cox, Michael Farrow, Robert Mountney, Brian Kerridge.

3. Address from the Chair: Alex appealed for additional involvement from members "to take control". The need for volunteer members to join the Committee has been met with a limited reaction. The social calendar is presently non-existent, as there is no Social Secretary and no volunteer has come forward to take over the role. Waveney Ramblers' future depends on volunteers and needs at least 30% of members to volunteer for the Committee or as walk leaders. If people lack the confidence to volunteer, then this can be overcome. There is a need to connect to Social Media and Alex made reference to the Waveney Ramblers website organised by Neil Bauers.

4. Minutes of the 2017 AGM: Alex gave a brief summary and were approved. Proposed by Mary Shaheen, seconded by Parvez Shaheen.

5. Matters Arising From the Minutes: Alex asked Neil if the AGM minutes could be displayed on the Waveney Ramblers website which Neil advised was possible. However, Susie Dunham (Membership Sec.) advised that this may not be permissible under GDPR. Until Waveney Ramblers receives guidance from The Ramblers' Association on this matter, the minutes would not be displayed on the group's website. There were no further matters arising.

6. Presentation of Annual Reports: *Please refer to reports circulated prior to meeting.* There were updates by the following: (a) Programme Sec. Roger Moore – attendance at many walks was influenced by the wide variation of weather differences. (b) Footpath Sec. Robert Newell – Norfolk County Council has suggested diversions to Angles Way which have been rejected by Waveney Ramblers. There have been no visits from Suffolk County Council concerning land sale and the effect on walk routes. (c) Treasurer Pat Harrington – *please refer to attached summary of accounts supplied by PH at the meeting* Pat explained various figures to the members explaining that the deficit of £221.56 was on paper. There has been no income from Area as Waveney Ramblers has a healthy reserve. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Tony Langford and seconded by Mary Shaheen. *NB* The Secretary has received notification from External Examiner (Robert Newell) that the accounts were, in his opinion, a fair representation of the groups finances 2017/18. (d) Area Rep. David Harmer – reminded the members that there was a 'no dogs' policy (Ramblers' Association directive) with the exception of guide dogs. There was a far ranging discussion on the issue with general agreement that it was at the walk leaders discretion whether or not dogs would be allowed. It was generally acceptable that dogs could be allowed on walks if kept on a lead. (e) Membership Sec. Susie Dunham – stated that GDPR issues were an ongoing consideration when dealing with membership details.

7. Election of Officers: As there was only one nomination for each position, Doreen Salmon nominated the following en bloc:

Chair – Alex McPherson

Vice Chair – to be appointed in Committee

Branch Secretary – Tim Sutton-Day

Membership Secretary – Susie Dunham

Treasurer – there was no nomination

Footpath Sec. (1) – Robert Newell

Footpath Sec. (2) – Pat Harrington

Programme Sec. – Roger Moore

Area Rep. (1) – David Harmer

Area Rep. (2) – Alex McPherson

Social Sec. – there was no nomination

Committee Members: Michael Farrow, Emma Freeman, Grant Walker, Denise Betts,

Each nominated person accepted their nomination and was elected. The vacant position of Treasurer was discussed, as this role was crucial to the continued functioning of the branch. A new member, Zuhail Tobin, accepted the nomination to act as Treasurer and was elected. Zuhail is an accountant, so is very well qualified to take on the role of Treasurer. The position of Social Sec. remains vacant and a volunteer is sought. The following members, who either resigned or retired under the 2/4 year rule, were thanked by Alex for their services to the branch: Barry Covey, Diane Covey, Mary Shaheen, Parvez Shaheen, Jean Carter, David Crisp, Leslie Cox. This was seconded by Rosemary Kerridge.

8. Resolutions and Submitted Questions: (1) Review of Ramblers Constitution (Alex McPherson). Alex, after consulting the Area Chairman, proposed that the present tenure clause of Chair (2 years), Secretary (4 years) and Treasurer (4 years) be removed from the Constitution and be replaced by annual tenure, renewable at each AGM. This proposal was seconded by Pat Harrington. After considerable discussion on this issue, a vote was taken. Result – those for the amendment 17, those against 7 with 8 abstentions. (2) Proposal to create a list of Honorary Members (Alex McPherson) *this item was withdrawn as the issue is being dealt with in Committee.* (3) Proposal to have more early morning walks in July/August (Doreen Salmon). This proposal was accepted without any disagreement. (4) Waveney Walks (Neil Bauers). Neil has produced an extensive programme of walks connecting each section of the Waveney Way. He is seeking volunteers to lead walks for each of the 20 walks he has planned. Alex thanked Neil for all his hard work on this project. A number of volunteers have already signed up. (5) Leaders Courses (Peter Westmacott). Peter suggested that a further six walk leaders would be ideal and that short training courses could be arranged. Planning short walks could be a starting point which could incorporate some essential planning guidelines.

9. AOB: Chris Sharp was invited to read out his letter on the issue of the future of the Tea Party. Having read it, Alex informed him that the matter was being dealt with in Committee and that it was to be discussed at the next Committee meeting on 6th December 2018. This decision was made at the last Committee meeting on 9th August 2018 and that decision has been minuted. There were no further matters under AOB.

10. Close of Business: The meeting ended at 9:30pm.