

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION - YORK GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2021 at 2:30pm at 49 Main Street, Escrick, York

Present: Ian Reavill (Chairman), Vivienne Taylor (secretary), David Nunns, Steve Hoather, Simon Lyle, Linda Gall, Avis Strudwick, Judith Tosh, Mike Norman and Paul Shepherd (Treasurer)

1/. Apologies: Anne Parker, Eric Smith

2/- Minutes of the last meeting held by Zoom Conference on 25th February 2021 were adopted. The Committee also approved that once the Draft Minutes had been circulated to the committee, there would be a 2-week window for any amendments, and thereafter the minutes would become accepted as the final minutes and published on the website.

3/-Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4/- Treasurers Report:

BANK BALANCE

As at the close of business on Friday 7th December 2021 the balance in our Bank Account stood at £1,754.08 which comprises £508.27 in the Main Fund plus £1,245.81 for Self-Funded Activities. The balance on the Main Fund has been reduced from £877.15 at the start of the financial year, 1st October, by payments for refreshments at the AGM (£250) and the cost of distributing the recent Newsletter.

The balance for Self-Funded Activities has risen from £817.81 at the start of the financial year, 1st October, due to the receipts for the Christmas Lunch partly off-set by payments in connection with September's Coach Ramble which included £480 for hire of the coach.

UNITY BANK – NEW SERVICE

The Unity Bank has entered into an agreement with Elavon to offer "Card payment solutions to meet our business needs". This is a device similar to those used by retailers and other businesses enabling customers to make payments using their debit or credit cards. Needless to say, there is a charge, shared between Elavon and the Unity Bank, for each payment made using this new method.

This new payment method does not seem appropriate nor practical for our Group. Consequently, PS proposed and AS seconded, that we do not take up this offer and continue to encourage members to make payments by online transfer as this is the only method free of charges. The Committee unanimously agreed that we encourage all members to pay by BACS where possible.

5/- York AGM: Owing to the success of the AGM at Welburn Hall, which included walkers and non-walkers, it was agreed to hold the next AGM at the same venue. Date yet to be arranged. IR mentioned that it very much favoured the Wednesday walking group, but all walk leaders agreed that it was very much up to individuals to choose whether to come. IR also thanked SL for the presentation he gave at the meeting. SL suggested that at the next meeting we look into the use of a VDU screen and also a microphone. This is something that the Committee needs to investigate nearer the time to ensure that all the technical support is available to ensure it runs smoothly.

Area AGM: The Area Committee have decided to have a live AGM, and York will be hosting this event which takes place on the 22nd of January at the Tithe Barn in Nether Poppleton. Our responsibility for this event is a 5/6-mile walk starting at 10:30am and getting back around 12:30pm. The hall is open from 12:30pm, refreshments will be organised between 1:00pm until the meeting starts at 2:00pm, and then after the meeting has finished at 3:00pm there are further refreshments before the guest speakers from Central Office give a talk, finishing at 4:30-5:00pm. IR has arranged all the refreshments, and the volunteers from the York Group will be available to serve the refreshments and clear up afterwards. There will possibly be around 40 people attending and a request was made for volunteers. Volunteers for organising refreshments included VT, MN, DN, JT, JT. Diane Norman and VT will purchase any items required, and IR volunteered to lead the walk. SL suggested that we also organise a microphone. SH highlighted that there could be problems with parking, therefore IR will look into this and at the same time check The Nelson pub is open for those that might not be going on the walk. JT asked whether we needed to put the chairs out beforehand and to be aware of hand sanitisation, IR said that he would check with the venue and at the time ensure all covid protocol would be carried out. SH also highlighted that our members need to be informed, and IR reported that Area will be sending out the Annual Report to all members informing them of the AGM.

6/- Website:

MN reported that the Ramblers are changing their national website and that all the groups have a page that are attached to that. This is a website we don't use much because we use the yorkramblers.org website as opposed to the ramblersyork.co.uk. Unless we put our request in for the national website it will disappear, therefore the York group needs to complete a form indicating what they wish to appear on the website. This information needs to be in by the 30th of January where it will eventually be uploaded between January and March of 2022. This includes a main page with a sub-page with a few links with drop-down menus. Although there is a limitation to the national website page it was confirmed by MN that there will be a link to our own website yorkramblers.org. The result of all these changes is that it will make the whole process easier and that walks leaders can put their own walks on. SH suggested that we have a website sub-group to move this forward.

The Committee agreed to FaceTime Tom Halstead at 3:30pm for more information:

TH reported that it looked to be an improvement and quite straightforward and that it is very much a 'landing page' for the group and encourages people to move on to our own website. TH agreed to complete the form, and for the committee to produce the right language and picture. TH confirmed that he would be happy to put any information on whenever it was required.

We would like to thank Tom Halstead for his FaceTime input.

It was confirmed at the meeting that Geoff Richardson had editing rights, and it was also agreed at by the committee that MN would also have editing rights.

The committee agreed the sub-committee as IR, MN, VT and Geoff Richardson, to for this group to decide on the content for the national website page [meeting to take place on 17/12/21].

7/- Walking groups and future walks planning: An issue raised by SH was that there was no procedure in place for cancelled walks, and there needed to be something on the website as well as in the newsletter to make people aware of the possibility of a walk being cancelled. A last-minute decision to cancel a walk can take up to 24 hours to be uploaded onto the website, therefore because the walks booklet is no longer printed there now needs to be a contact number that needs to be published on the website and in the newsletter so that walkers can get the right information. This information should be given to all walks leaders, other than those who have a booking system, that if they wish to cancel a walk, they need to contact MN so that it gets posted on the website. Geoff Richardson, Tony Corrigan and Martin Hill also have access to the website. JT for the Amblers and AS for the Public Transport Walks both commented on how effective a booking system was for their walks. SH suggested that he contacted all the Wednesday walks leaders and inform them that if they needed to cancel a walk they should contact MN before 1800 hours the day before, and that if MN wasn't available then the secondary contact would be Geoff Richardson.

8/- Footpath matters – reports, surveys and path maintenance groups: DN reported that the old lane in Copmanthorpe that went up to Beckett's crossing was approved by the Secretary of State on appeal by the council as a restricted borough highway. There is also two schemes to replace the Bishopthorpe level crossing with some steps to where the Beckett's crossing is, or an outrigger footbridge to the Temple Lane end of the village.

SL is going to email those members he has listed to prompt them as to whether they were still carrying out their parish path surveys, and also IR suggested that as chairman he would give members a little reminder on walks. SH complimented the group on how full the list of contributors was, and that it was mainly due to Covid and the lack of contact, therefore going forward it just needed to be a few more prompts. IR hoped we could get a footpath maintenance team in operation, to which SL suggested we get a willing group to go out once a month. SH commented that this could be something we encourage and detail in the next newsletter, and suggested we send an email out to all York members detailing path maintenance, and for any of those interested arrange a site meeting in Spring.

9/- Membership report: As of 8th December, despite requests, membership details have not been updated, therefore there is no current information regarding new members or leavers. New changes on the website have now meant that even minor changes in membership details can only be carried out by either member or head office. ES also commented on the AGM minutes relating to coach rambles, remarking that details were never sent out either by post or email and was simply by word of mouth.

10/. Correspondence: Megan Thomas from the Wellbeing Walks has contacted the York Group about any members being able to volunteer to lead approximately 1-mile walks for their 'Move Mates Project'. There is a 6-month commitment to being a Walks Leader and it will take place in the local area. To do this role Walks Leaders will need to undergo a DBS check, provide a character reference, and undertake self-led training. It was agreed by the committee to detail this information in the next newsletter.

11/. AOB:

Coach Rambles – AS informed the committee that there were several members that commented on the last coach ramble to Bakewell, that the A Walk didn't get their refreshments when they got back. Therefore, the requests from the PTW Group were to have the coach ramble relatively close and also to allow more time at the end to have a look around and take refreshments. Suggestions for the next Coach Ramble included Malham, Clapham or Settle, and it was finally agreed by the committee to make it Settle. IR to organise the walks and VT to arrange the coach [at a later date the Coach Ramble was agreed as 22/05/22].

Newsletter – as our walks booklet is no longer printed, and the only way of communicating with our members, particularly those that are not on the internet, is through the the newsletter. It was agreed by the committee to pay Chris Parker for a professionally designed newsletter twice a year at a cost of £50 an hour, with overall costings of around £300 a year. There are approximately 160 newsletters posted out, with the remaining sent out as an email. SH commented that this could be another newsletter item suggesting that all members sign up to the newsletter by email. Newsletter date to be agreed, but preliminarily March.

The Wolds Way 40th Anniversary – Area have suggested that all sections of WW be walked in a single day on Sunday the 2nd of October 2022, and that all groups are being encouraged to contribute by including YWW in their programme. It was agreed to bring this up in the next meeting.

Social Event – VT suggested that we have a summer BBQ and Ceilidh at the Tithe Barn in Poppleton mid-summer. AP currently looking into availability and costings.

12/. Date and venue of next meeting: Thursday 24th March 2022 at 14:30 hours and hosted by Steve Hoather.

ADDENDUM to Committee Meeting held 9th December 2021

Sub-committee Meeting for Website Content for National Website Page held on 17th of December 2021 in Escrick

Present: Ian Reavill, Viv Taylor, Mike Norman and Geoff Richardson

SECTIONS 1-2: Tom Halstead to complete.

SECTION 3:

About us (150 words - group description)

Welcome to York Ramblers, a friendly group of walkers that enjoy the splendours of the Yorkshire countryside. York is in the centre of the Vale of York and has excellent walking to the many miles of footpaths that take us to the North York Moors and Coast, the Yorkshire Dales and Wolds. If you are interested in walking with us, you are welcome to try one or two walks before joining, so why not checkout out our website www.yorkramblers.org.uk for more detailed information about our organisation and activities.

Our Walks (150 words – benefits of joining group)

We welcome new walkers to a varied programme of walks throughout the year and led by experienced members. Our walks include:

Tuesday Walks (7-8 miles)

Wednesday Walks (9-11 miles)

Wednesday Ambles (6-8 miles but at a slower pace)

Weekend Public Transport Walks (7-15 miles)

Weekend Public Transport Trail Walks (8-13 miles)

Coach Ramble Away Days

Join Us

This is a great way to experience the breathtaking natural wonders of Yorkshire, make new friends and discover how walking can boost your wellbeing. For more information email the Secretary viviennetaylor@yorkramblers.org.uk

Volunteering

Some of our members also get involved in footpath maintenance and path surveys and are always looking for volunteers to set up groups of working parties. Members are also encouraged to inspect and report on the condition of footpaths, gates, stiles and bridges, and obstacles removed and signage improved. While others delve into archives to find evidence for claiming paths that would otherwise be lost.

SECTION 4: Web Links

TH to link **website yorkramblers.org.uk** and also to link **York Ramblers Facebook page**.

Geoff Richardson explained that York Ramblers did have a Facebook page, and that now anyone could join automatically if they were a member, but if a member wishes to post an item then authorisation was required from either himself as 'Admin', or MN as 'Moderator'. VT suggested that we find someone within the group to manage and monitor the Facebook page to ensure it is kept up to date.

SECTION 5: (100 words – 25 words each section)

The sub-committee agreed four headings for the 'optional' subpage:

Walks, Footpath Maintenance, Path Surveys and Coach Rambles

The wordage would be agreed at a later date once the webpage was launched.