

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION - YORK GROUP

DRAFT

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7th of July 2022 at 2:00pm
at 49 Main Street, Escrick, York YO19 6LQ**

Present: Ian Reavill (Chairman), Vivienne Taylor (Secretary), Paul Shepherd (Treasurer), David Nunns, Steve Hoather, Linda Gall, Eric Smith, Judith Tosh, Mike Norman

1/. Apologies for absence: Tom Halstead, Simon Lyle, Avis Strudwick, Anne Parker and Stephanie Windsor

2/. Committee: Very sadly Avis Strudwick has resigned from the Committee due to ill-health.

3/. Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th of March 2022 were adopted.

4/. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

5/. Treasurers Report:

BANK BALANCE

As at the close of business on Thursday 7th July 2022 the balance in our Bank Account stood at £493.43 which comprises £64.62 in the Main Fund plus £428.81 for Self-Funded Activities.

The balance on the Main Fund has been reduced from £306.68 as of 18th March 2022 (please see my Report to the Committee Meeting of 24th March 2022). This has been a result of the booking deposit for this year's AGM (£44.00), payments for Newsletter (£234.76) and Bank charges for processing cheques (£3.30) offset by commission from RWH Travel Ltd (£40.00).

Committee Members are asked to note that a further invoice of about £100 relating to the Newsletter has yet to be received which would have been likely to have meant ending the Financial Year with a small deficit on the Main Fund. To avoid this Area Treasurer has refunded the expenses (£196.97) from the Area AGM.

The balance for Self-Funded Activities has risen from £353.81 as of 18th March 2022 (please see my Report to the Committee Meeting of 24th March 2022). This is due to a surplus of £75 from the May Coach Ramble (please see attached Receipts and Payments Summary). Committee Members are reminded that the September 2021 Coach Ramble resulted in a deficit of £133.00.

BASIC ALLOCATION

Every year each Group receives funding from Central Office. In the past the York Group has not accepted this funding as more than enough commission has been received from RWH Travel Ltd to cover costs such as the AGM and Newsletters. Owing to the Covid Pandemic this commission has been greatly reduced.

It is therefore proposed to accept the Basic Funding Allocation for the 2022-23 Financial Year. This will be £544.45 being the lump sum of £95 per Group plus £1.01 per member for 445 members, i.e. the number of members at 23rd May 2022). IR and DN agreed to accept the extra funding.

6/. Membership: Since early April this year the York area ramblers have had no new members, this leaves us with a total of 434 full members and 1 associate member. At the last committee meeting the membership was 442 full and 1 associate member, therefore eight down on what we were the previous year.

7/. Footpath sub-committee report and parish footpath report:

DAVID NUNNS reported that the Copmanthorpe level crossing bridge was going to cost around £2 million whereas a ramped one rather than a stepped bridged would be double, therefore Network Rail would not fund that, and the landowner would also object to the ramp because it would reduce the width of the lane away. Holgate Central Leeman Road riverside path is coming up for planning again because the council forget to inform all the objectors of the meeting. Askham Bryan footpath 9 that runs through the wildlife park - Askham Bryan College were prepared to erect mesh fencing either side but with a legal minimum limit of 1 metre it wasn't worth retaining. Copmanthorpe to Appleton Roebuck that was a bridleway should go through, but at the Appleton Roebuck end this would still be a footpath. Fulford 23 path that Graham Chainey tried to claim - the decision was appealed by the land owner but the appeal was lost and the path is now being well used. Kexby 19 and 20 path - one of the paths may get confirmed. Knapton Grange Lane still awaiting for the City Council to produce the next part of the system by the appeal for a restricted byway rather than a footpath. The Skelton paths, as yet no further reports from City Council. Strensall cut-through path no objections. Strensall West Pit paths have been adopted. Aldwark Manor applied for 5 lodges on stilts. Local objections to Carlton Husthwaite solar panel farm. Sutton Park are putting a glamping site on their land.

SIMON LYLE attached a spread sheet of the parishes and details of the contacts made over the last year or so. The names highlighted in yellow are the people who have not confirmed since Covid that they are still looking after their allocated parishes and it would be helpful if they could be contacted to get an update. Some of the highlighted are committee members and I am sure they are covering their parishes but I need it confirming.

The parishes in blue are vacant. There are three volunteers (noted on the spread sheet) who all live near York and are looking for parishes near York. Therefore Simon cannot give members a parish until he gets some feedback as to any vacancies.

The number of reports relating to issues notified to NYCC has been minimal and typically one member who did send me details of a report, when asked to send the CAMS numbers, sent 7 relating to issues that I had not been informed of. It makes attempts to collate statistics very difficult. There are several applications for changes in footpaths all of which are diversions away from farms and homes involving little alterations to the existing paths.

IR and SH suggested that a standard email gets sent out to all the volunteers listed and see what comes back. IR and ES to get together to send out an email to the volunteers.

8/. Walking Groups

Linda Gall – Tuesday Group reported that walks were planned until middle of October. Numbers are generally between 10 and 15 with a maximum of 20.

Judith Tosh – Amblers reported that numbers have dropped but averaged around 11. Same leaders, but there have been a few new people turning up for walks. Judith warned that parking is no longer free at Wharrah Percy and that payment does have to be made on your phone.

Steve Hoather – Wednesday Ramblers reported that he had walk leaders until middle of September, and even though one dropped out he didn't have any problems filling the gap. Numbers down a bit because a lot are away, and a noticeable drop in numbers when travelling further afield.

Avis Strudwick – Public Transport reported that the group continues to flourish with a full programme planned until the end of September. Two new leaders have put walks into the programme and the response to our request for walks was very good with more offered than we needed. The usual problems with small buses and a train strike have not led to any being cancelled as either a replacement walk or a change of transport have been put in place by the walk leader.

Alastair is leading 14 members of the group for a week's walking holiday in Slovenia at the end of August. They had to cancel the week walking in the Dolomites for the last two years and hope that the trip planned for this year is able to go ahead without Covid causing it to be changed again.

As from September's programme both Avis and Lynda will no longer be organising the Public Transport Group, but there are two interested parties that are looking to take over the running of the PTG. Our thanks go out to both Avis and Lynda for all their hard work over the years.

Roger Brooks – Public Transport Trails the last section of the Dales Way is going well.

9/. Website

Mike Norman reported that there is an increase in hits on the website.

Tom Halstead reported that the most recent stats show that there are on average 88 hits per day on our website. The Wednesday Walks page is by far the most popular, so thanks are due to Mike for keeping this page up-date.

10/. Area Council:

IR reported that at the last area meeting it was confirmed that Risk Assessments had now been thrown out, and that York's 'Advice for Walk Leaders' that were published in our newsletter were also being used by other groups.

Bookings are now being taken for the Yorkshire Wolds Way 40th Anniversary on Sunday 2nd of October. To celebrate the anniversary the 79 mile trail from Humber Bridge to Filey Brigg, has been split into seven equal sections of about 11 miles each, and all sections will be walked on 2nd October. Places are limited to 30 people per walk and there will be a charge of £5 per person to

cover the cost of coach transport (payable at the point of booking). There is a link to the booking site on our Area website: <https://www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/>
VT to forward details to Tom to put on the York Rambler's website.

Area Treasurer Sam Borman needs to submit the Area budget for 2022/23 by 5th August, which is well before our next Area Council meeting on 23rd August. The budget needs to be discussed and approved by Area Council, therefore it is necessary for us to convene a special budget meeting via Zoom - this will be on 26th July at 7.30pm. PS agreed to attend the Area Council meeting.

Also discussed at the meeting were expenses where we are entitled, both area and group, to claim for travelling expenses at 28p. per mile. PS pointed out that this was also for walk leaders when they did a recce. VT asked what the situation was regarding the recce's for the coach ramble, where IR responded that this was normally covered by not paying for a seat on the coach ramble. SH said that we had an old agreement where they could claim either expenses or get a free seat on the coach ramble. IR suggested that each time we plan a coach ramble we advise the walk leaders of their entitlement. SH said that this also applied to backmarkers as well as leaders.

VT brought up the subject of Ryedale walk leaders being recompensed £15 for leading walks, and that it had been approved at the Area Meeting. IR put it to the committee as to whether we should be doing the same. PS responded that if we had the basic allocation then that would just about cover these expenses if everyone claimed, but that would not then cover the newsletter or the refreshments for the AGM. Having spoken to Area Treasurer Sam Borman, he suggested that some of these expenses could be claimed under 'unforeseen circumstances'. SH pointed out that we could not say to people they could claim expenses if we didn't know if funds were available. JT responded that owing to the several walking groups York had this would be an expensive exercise. IR also pointed out that Ryedale were offering expenses for walk leaders because they were trying to encourage more walk leaders, but he felt that this would make little difference to the York Group, to which SH backed up this statement. DN responded that if the walks are part of an area programme then it should be funded by area. SH agreed with DN but pointed out that it shouldn't be advertised unless we have the funding from area and suggested we try and work out how much we need to fund it. JT commented that owing to the cost of petrol she felt that we should claim expenses because there might be somebody within the group that would love to do the job but they may not be able to afford it. IR also commented that for those that didn't want to claim then they could always donate it back. VT pointed out that there was an anomaly between groups as to how much should be paid for travelling expenses, where Ryedale has a maximum of £15 whereas York was 28p a mile up to a limit of £50. SH reported that it was quite a big step to take and that any walk leader could claim for the recce, and if we're going to do it then we need to follow through and pay it. VT commented that it wasn't all about the money, it was also about the administration because with six walking groups a week that would amount to considerable extra time for the treasurer, and that we'd have to think of the best way of administering it. IR suggested that for now we do nothing and this was agreed by ES, although IR suggested that if we did get negative feedback we will relook at it again. PS to get back to us after the Zoom area finance meeting on the 26th of July.

11/. Newsletter:

VT brought up the subject of costings for the newsletter and suggested that maybe we look at sending out as many newsletters as we can by email which would save in the region of £200 per publication. VT also suggested that we get the designer of our Newsletter to produce a York Ramblers email header template for 'updates'. This would enable us to send out professional looking emails updating members on upcoming events like the coach ramble, AGM, and other notices, and reducing the newsletter to maybe once a year. SH suggested we try and get in touch with as many members as possible and ask them if they still wanted paper copies, but also pointing out that there will still be people that are not on email. VT commented that there were only 115 people that received paper copies and that a lot of those had emails where they could be contacted. SH suggested that as most of them were on email that we contact them and ask them whether they still wanted paper copies, and that we were looking to reduce costs. ES to check how many of those 115 are on email. IR reiterated how important it was to keep up communication with members. JT suggested that for those that would like a paper copy and are not on email then it's something we could print out ourselves and send to them. ES suggested that we get in touch with central office and ask them the best way of solving this problem. IR asked whether we were going to print another newsletter and felt concerned that despite members paying their membership fees that were not on email they were not receiving any communications from the York Group. ES said that there were still members that didn't receive any communication whatsoever, but they were quite happy just to support the Ramblers. IR pointed out that we need to publicise the coach ramble and we need to publicise the AGM. JT and VT suggested that we try the email header 'Update' and see what response we get. VT to contact the designer regarding the template header and once designed send out to the Committee for approval. MN suggested that the designer look on Assemble to get the logo. VT to get in touch with Assemble and ask them whether there was a template header available for us to use.

12/- Coach Ramble The next Coach Ramble is booked for the 16th of October with the venue being agreed by the committee as Reeth – all walks finishing at The Green in Reeth. Alastair to lead the A walk, Linda to lead the B walk and JT to get back to IR as to who will lead the C walk. JT commented that on the last coach ramble there were very few Amblers, which could well be due to the fall in the group numbers. VT confirmed that the coach booking had already been booked but now that we have a venue she would confirm with Inglebys the price and inform that there will be drop-off points. IR to contact Alastair regarding the A walk.

13/. Correspondence:

A request has been received by Penny Hudson from Ryedale Ramblers for us to send out an invite to our members for attending their Walks Tea Party at Goathland Village Hall on the 7th of August. SH suggested that we test the email header, but if not send to ES to email out. VT to inform Tom and get it put on the website.

Sam Borman is offering free navigation lessons from the 10th to the 13th of August. ES to email out and VT to get Tom to put on website.

14/. AOB: York AGM venue at Welburn Hall booked for Wednesday the 23rd of November. It was suggested that if possible we use the big screen for a photo display for walks, but other than that because of the good attendance last year we go with just the refreshments. MN pointed out that if we put on a good walk that would encourage members to join. JT also commented that it was a good way for all the groups to come together. VT to check the timings. SH to organise the Wednesday Walk and JT to organise the Amblers Walk.

15/. Date and venue of next meeting: Monday 31st of October 2022 at 2:00pm and hosted by Steve Hoather.