

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION - YORK GROUP

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 31st of October 2022 at 2:00pm
at 49 Main Street, Escrick, York YO19 6LQ**

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

1/. Apologies for absence: Steve Hoather, Stephanie Windsor, Anne Parker and Anne Cornfield

2/. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July 2022 were adopted.

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

4/. Committee: Ian Reavill welcomed to two new members of the committee who had taken over from Avis Strudwick as Public Transport Secretary - Annette Bond and Anne Cornfield. After 20 years of organising the Wednesday Group, Steve Hoather decided it was time for a change and has delegated his role to Mike Norman, who has agreed to take over the role of Rambles Secretary. IR also thanked Simon Lyle for all the hard work he has put in as Parish Paths Secretary, and who regrettably will no longer be able to walk with the group. Simon is therefore wishing to handover his role to someone who can keep in touch with the group, although at the same time he has agreed to keep the paperwork going until a replacement is found.

5/. Treasurers Report:

BANK BALANCE

As at the close of business on Sunday 23rd October 2022 the balance in our Bank Account stood at £787.57 which comprises the nett of £88.59 overdrawn on the Main Fund plus £876.16 for Self-Funded Activities.

The balance on the Main Fund has been reduced from £64.62 as of 30th June 2022 by £153.21. This has been a result of payments for refreshments at this year's AGM (£250.00) and a further payment for the May 2022 Newsletter (£100.00) partly offset by the reimbursement from Area for expenses incurred in hosting their A.G.M. (£196.37).

Committee Members are reminded that at the Meeting on 7th July 2022 the proposal to accept the Basic Funding Allocation of £544.45 for the Financial Year 2022-23 was agreed. This is expected to be paid in four quarterly instalments of £136.11 in October, January, April and July. This all goes into the Main Fund.

The balance for Self-Funded Activities has risen from £428.81 as at 30th June 2022 an increase of £447.35. This is due to receipts for the Christmas Meal of £357.35 and a current surplus of £90 from the October Coach Ramble. Committee Members are asked to note that refunds to Walk Leaders totalling £30 and reimbursement of the driver's tip are outstanding at the time of writing this Report (please see attached Receipts and Payments Summary).

ADDITIONAL BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORY

There are currently three signatories on the Group's Account with the Unity Trust Bank. By virtue of their positions these are Ian Reavill (Chairman), Viv Taylor (Secretary) and Paul Shepherd (Treasurer). In line with guidance from Central Office all payments whether by cheque or made by online transfer require two signatories.

Owing to holidays and other absences payments have occasionally been delayed as only one signatory has been available. This may increase should Walk Leaders begin to claim expenses for undertaking a recce.

It is therefore proposed that a fourth signatory be added. Steve Hoather, being a senior member of the Committee, has kindly agreed to take on this role. The committee voted unanimously to accept Steve Hoather as being the fourth signatory.

PS also reported that the Annual Accounts for 21/22 have been passed by the Independent Examiner.

6/. Travelling Expenses

Ian Reavill reported that Ramblers Central Office sent out a circular suggesting that members could and should be claiming for travelling expenses for doing recces for walks because of the increasing cost of living. This has been discussed at quite some length between York Group, Area and CO, and since the circular was sent out Ramblers Central Office have now indicated that they may not have sufficient funds.

Paul Shepherd reported that he'd had a number of exchanges from Sam Borman Treasurer of Area and that he was proposing a limit of 50 miles. But since then Ramblers Central Office suggested that all trustees should be paid a rate of 45p per mile, which is the rate that comes from HMRC. At the same time Ramblers Central Office suggested that members should maybe looking at a lower rate. PS also looked at whether the 50 miles limit would be appropriate for the York Group because just taking the Wednesday Walks alone, there were 59% over 50 miles and 19% over 60 miles or more from York.

It was proposed and agreed by the committee that the rate paid to walk leaders for recces will be 45p per mile with a limit of 50 miles. It was also proposed and agreed by the committee that a maximum limit of £22.50 would be paid to those leaders making recces by public transport supported by the relevant paperwork.

Ian Reavill suggested that each member that leads a walk should receive a letter explaining the situation and then it's up to members whether they claim. A letter has been drafted by Paul Shepherd and once amendments have been made and agreed by the Chairman it will be distributed amongst the committee for comments. Judith Tosh suggested that the letter and expense form be emailed to walk leaders rather than copies distributed by Walk Secretaries which was agreed by the committee.

7/. Membership:

There have been no new members since mid/late August and the York Group have lost 16 members since that time. Membership currently stands at 416 full memberships with 1 affiliate member. The vast majority of losses were between 2020 and 2021. Judith Tosh suggested that we go back to advertising our walks in the Handymag and the Dalesman.

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

DAVID NUNNS reported that not a great deal had changed and that is was all very much in the pipeline. The Knapton footpath is back for further consultation because the inspector accepts that it could possibly by a byway rather than a footpath. The Copmanthorpe level crossing where the City Council are still insisting on a ramp that would double the cost so that's still waiting. The A64 dualling between Barton and the Hopgrove was in discussion again. The outer ringroad dualling that's come up for planning is just a matter of whether they get permission to do it. For many years the Foss Walk at Oulston Burton House Farm has gone through the farm buildings and the farm track where the farmer never encouraged it, but now there's a diversion with very good access. There's several solar panels proposed near or on footpaths – Kilburn Grange, Husthwaite (still undecided). The Kexby Pass (Dunnington Woods) has a public enquiry and there's still nothing decided. The path from The Ship at Acaster to opposite Naburn Village, the British Horse Society claimed that for a bridlepath (with objections).

SIMON LYLE reported that York had recorded 13 reports of issues with paths, some multiple. Most of the CAMS numbers have been, or are being resolved. Unfortunately Simon has received no details from 42 parishes as to whether they are being covered by walkers or not. The present parishes not being covered are Nether and Upper Poppleton, Shipton, Stillingfleet, Alne, Coxwald, Newburgh, Barlby with Osgodby, Thornton on the Hill, Ulleskelf.

The committee agreed to check with walk leaders as to who was still volunteering, and where possible to update the paths list and keep it up to date.

9/. Walking Groups

Linda Gall – Tuesday Group reported that walks were continuing every other week and were all well-attended and walks were planned until the end of January. A regular group of walkers that averaged around 15.

Judith Tosh – Amblers reported that there was a programme of walks until the beginning of January. The usual hardcore of leaders, although struggling to recruit new leaders because there's been no new members. Good numbers walking and range from 11 to 18. It has been suggested by the group that maybe there should be a name change from Amblers to something else, but that is currently under review.

Steve Hoather – Wednesday Ramblers reported that during the period under review (Oct 2021 – Sept 2022) the Wednesday Group has arranged a walk every week. At times numbers were low due to the lingering effects of Covid and its Omicron variant, but gradually increased during the Spring and Summer and attendances are now typically around 30. All walks have been advertised on the websites and this seems to have worked well.

Annette Bond – Public Transport reported that they have a walk every week with all their regular walkers, and occasionally do get new walkers. And sometimes, all depending in what area is being walked, they do get people from other groups. Groups are up to around 16, although sometimes the

group is split because there's a Trails Walk by Roger Brook. There's a programme of walks up to the end of December and ready to produce another programme of walks for the next 4 months. An extremely good base of leaders willing to lead even at the last minute.

10/. AGM

The AGM at Welburn Hall is on the 23rd of November. Ian Reavill reported that Tom Halstead will be making a presentation and will talk about Open Access and the Coastal Path. It was agreed that Ian Reavill, Viv Taylor and Mike Norman would visit Welburn Hall and checkout the projector to ensure that all connections were appropriate for computer use. Mike to contact Tom as to his computer connections and whether it's possible to Bluetooth.

A request from the Secretary was made to the committee for AGM reports.

11/. Area Council

Nothing to report.

12/. Newsletter

Ian Reavill, Viv Taylor and Anne Parker will get together to arrange for regular email Bulletins to be sent out, with the first bulletin landing in members in-boxes by January 2023. It was agreed by the committee that owing to lack of funds a printed newsletter would no longer be viable.

13/- Coach Ramble

Although the numbers were low for the October Coach Ramble it was enjoyed by all. Comments from Judith Tosh were that it was the fact the coach ramble was in October and the darker nights on the return journey, and the date also clashed with the York Marathon and the Trail Walks. Annette Bond wondered whether it was the cost that was deterring members, particularly if they had to cancel, and the other comments were that some members didn't know about the coach ramble. IR commented that this had been advertised on the website for some time and that maybe members were going onto the CO website. Eric Smith also pointed out that he had sent out an email to all members two weeks before. Viv Taylor commented that most of the members that went on the coach rambles were from the public transport group and that it might be more successful if it was run by the public transport group, obviously supported by the committee, but have more of a deciding role of preferred routes and dates.

The Committee decided that we would plan a coach ramble for May next year and see how it went. The dates suggested were the 14th or the 21st of May, but Annette Bond will come back to the committee on whether it clashes with HF, and also to see what were the best dates and venues for the public transport group.

14/. Correspondence:

Owing to a complaint from a Rambler Member from York in connection with dogs on walks the committee discussed whether it was possible to publish more walks where dogs were allowed. It was pointed out by several members of the committee that it was completely up to the walk leaders as to whether they allowed dogs or not. Judith Tosh for the Amblers mentioned that one of her walks on the 12th of October did allow dogs, but that was down to the leader. Having discussed further the consensus amongst the committee was that it was down to walk leaders to make a decision on dogs, and that these decisions were purely made on the amount of stiles, cows/bulls in fields, the worry of dogs with long leads and generally the overall added responsibility that lies with the leader.

15/. AOB

No other business.

16/. Date and venue of next meeting

The committee agreed a date of the 7th of March 2023. Venue to be decided.