

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION (YORK GROUP)

COMMITTEE MEETING

**Held on Monday 7th October 2024 at 2 pm at
Beech House, 49 Main Street, Escrick, York YO19 6LQ**

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence:** Linda Gall, Anne Parker, Tony Tew
Present: Ian Reavill (chair), Vivienne Taylor (minutes), Paul Shepherd, Annette Bond, Anne Cornford, Mike Norman, David Nunns, Steve Hoather, Judith Tosh, Eric Smith, Stephanie Windsor
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 17th May 2024 were approved by the Committee.
3. **Matters arising**
Walk Leaders Training
IR asked whether any of the committee had completed the online training courses and what their thoughts were. The consensus was that the courses were far too long and could have been condensed down to 30 mins. But it did highlight the need to distribute more ICE cards. TT to order more cards and distribute to all walk leaders.
4. **Committee:** Anne Kennedy has volunteered to take over from Linda Gall as Walk Coordinator for the Tuesday Group. The Committee thanked Linda Gall for all her hard work and dedication. The committee approved the appointment of Anne Kennedy who will be voted on the committee at the AGM next month.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (*Paul Shepherd*)
(Please see attached report)
6. **Membership** (*Eric Smith*)
We currently have a group of 427 full members and 1 affiliate member. This is a small increase from the 422 full plus 1 affiliate we had in May this year. We are still losing members, but the trend has been slightly more joining than leaving. Leavers have generally been newer members rather than long term members. There are some anomalies on new members appearing on one list and then disappearing on the next, but this appears to be the way the computer categorises which group someone joins and then gets changed at a later date.
7. **Footpaths**
Footpaths sub-committee (*David Nunns*)
Osgoodby Parish Council finally got a path on the definitive map and they are wanting some help to try and get some furniture on the path which is ongoing. City of York Council are still dealing with applications on 20 year usage, where there were six of them in the Clifton area in August. Heworth Without there's a bridal path which is difficult to use which the farmers wanted to divert through a woodland which was found to be very respectable and an improvement for cyclists.

Parish footpaths monitoring (Steve Hoather)

Out of the 85 parishes monitored there have been very few reports, to date there have only been 15 reports submitted this year. SH will be sending out reminders this month to all those who haven't reported. Last year there were 58 parishes that had been checked and the aim this year is to improve on that figure.

8. Walking Groups & Future Plans (Ian Reavill)

Linda Gall – Tuesday Group

Tuesday walks continue on a fortnightly basis. There have been twenty walks this year with an average of twelve walkers, this is slightly down on last year. Thanks to all who have lead walks especially members of Ryedale, Harrogate, Northallerton and Pocklington.

As you are aware I am standing down at the AGM, Anne Kennedy has offered to take over unless anyone else comes forward.

Judith Tosh – Amblers

Ambles have continued on a weekly basis after some explaining and arm twisting to get more leaders. Thank you to John C and Harry for their efforts in getting leaders and supporting me with the programme of walks.

There has been an average of 16 on the ambles. Numbers are influenced by the location, where the other Weds group are and of course the weather. A programme of walks is in the pipeline for the next few months.

The principal behind the Ambles is that they are between 6 and 8 miles and slower paced giving the opportunity to stop, take a breather, look at the view admire a plant/tree etc and that those at the front are aware of those further behind and consider them.

Mike Norman – Wednesday Ramblers

From the 4th January to the 25th September there have been 39 walks with a total number of 860 walkers. The average number of walkers is 22. The largest numbers are 35 at Terrington in September and 33 at Coxwold in February. The lowest number was 9 on two local walks in bad weather. We had 22 walks with over 20 walkers and 21 walk leaders some leading multiple times.

We walked in one new area to the group Holmfirth and some areas not recently walked including Otley Chevin and Guiseley Moor. We also ventured to Whitby, Grassington and Aysgarth Falls as well as the North York Moors, Howardian Hills, and the Wolds.

We thank all the walk leaders for their offers of walks and their efforts in planning and receiving them giving the group an interesting and diverse programme.

Annette Bond and Anne Cornford – Public Transport

We have held 19 walks since the last committee meeting averaging approximately 13 walkers each time. We are indebted to our leaders who do a fantastic job receiving and leading our group.

At the beginning of June a group of us stayed in Sheffield for three nights and then caught buses and/or trains into the Peak District to do a variety of walks. Everyone enjoyed the weekend and many thanks to Ken for organising this.

At the beginning of September 15 of us went to Ischia on a walking trip. We also visited the islands of Capri and Procida. It was very hot but all of us enjoyed the holiday and we managed shorter walks in woodland. Our thanks go to Alastair who spends a lot of time organising the hotels and transfers and planning the walks.

Thursday Evening Walks (Stephanie Windsor)

To be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

Friday Group (Debby Cobbett)

IR to contact Debby Cobbett in connection to running the group.

9. Area Council (*Ian Reavill*)

IR brought up the matter of the Walks Magazine being moved online from November, and that there would no longer be a printed copy. He pointed out that 16% of Area members get their newsletter by post and this change to the Walks Magazine would very likely affect these members' ability to receive it in future. SH also pointed out that members that don't walk, but like to stay in contact with the Ramblers through the Walks Magazine, would possibly cancel their membership. IR plans to raise a motion to discuss this at the next Area Council meeting on 26th November.

Get Your Boots On (GYBO) was formed 20 years ago as a Rambler's group for young people in their 20s and 30s to walk together and socialise with their peers. Twenty years on there are an increasing number of GYBO members in their 40s and 50s, weakening the core purpose of the group. Area Committee has approved a new Ramblers Group for this age range in the East Yorkshire & Derwent Area. It will be a 'flexi-group' (no constitution and a small budget of £100 per year.)

10. Website / Newsletter

Website (Tom Halstead)

Nothing to report.

TT to give AGM details to Tom to put on the website.

Newsletter (Anne Parker)

Nothing to report.

ES to contact all members of the AGM by email.

11. Coach Ramble (*Tony Tew, Annette Bond and Anne Cornford*)

Our coach ramble on 2nd June was a great success, largely thanks to our excellent walks planners and leaders. The two longer walks included Roseberry Topping and all three followed a section of the wonderful Cleveland Way, ending up in Saltburn. At £15 per person the event was close to breaking even.

Paul Shepherd thanked Mike Norman for replacing him on the Coach Ramble by leading the B Group.

12. **AGM** (*Ian Reavill*)

The Tithe Barn has been booked again for the AGM, with refreshments organised by IR. The meeting will start at 1:30. Steve Hoather will be leading a walk from the War Memorial by the river at 10:30. Ian Reavill will lead a walk from the Tithe Barn at 10:00. All walks will be different from last year, although water levels permitting! VT to arrange help with the refreshments. There will be no speaker or projector images this year.

Anne Kennedy to be voted onto the committee as walks coordinator for the Tuesday Group.

13. **Christmas Meal** (*Stephanie Windsor*)

It was agreed by the Committee that the Christmas Meal at the Cosy Club will be open to all York Members. SW sent out an email to all Wednesday Walkers and previous lunch-goers with a deadline of the 16th of October. After this date Eric Smith will then send out an email to all members informing them of the upcoming event. Mike Norman will also be reminding all Wednesday Walkers to book early to prevent disappointment.

14. **First Aid training update** (*Paul Shepherd*)

Training be deferred until the new guidance, promised for the 2024-25 financial year, is received from Central Office.

15. **Publicity for Walks** (*Ian Reavill*)

There have been various suggestions for increasing our reach for publicising walks.

Advertising in Handy Mag for outlying districts of York could be useful and York Local Link has good coverage in and around the City. There is a webpage with links to local walking groups: <https://www.itravelyork.info/homepage/149/walking-groups-and-organisations>)

There is no website that maintains an up-to-date feed of all upcoming local walks across all groups.

Vivienne Taylor to investigate publicising the York Ramblers on the Local Link, Handy Mag and the Evening Press.

16. **York Cycle Campaign** (*Ian Reavill*)

York Cycle Campaign (<https://yorkcyclecampaign.bike/>) are interested in combining with local walking groups to campaign for better (urban) walking. The committee decided that as the York group did very little urban walking, and our main was on monitoring and maintaining paths, that we had very little capacity to assist with campaigning.

17. Correspondence – nothing to report.

18. Any other business – nothing to report.

19. Date and venue of next meeting –

AGM: Wednesday 13th November, Poppleton Tithe Barn, Nether Poppleton, York YO26 6LF.

Next Committee meeting: Monday 3rd February, Steve Hoather, Poppleton YO26 6LP.