

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION (YORK GROUP)

COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 2 pm
at Beech House, 49 Main Street, Escrick, York YO19 6LQ

MINUTES

(version 3)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Tom Halstead, Tony Tew, Carys Tew, Stephanie Windsor, Annette Bond
2. **Present:** Ian Reavill, Debby Cobbett, Anne Cornford, Steve Hoather, Anne Kennedy, David Nunns, Mike Norman, Paul Shepherd, Judith Tosh, Vivienne Taylor
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 3rd February 2025: Accepted
4. **Matters arising:** None
5. **Committee:** Debby Cobbett, co-ordinator of the Friday Walks was elected onto the committee.

6. **Treasurer's Report** (Paul Shepherd)

BANK BALANCE (see Appendix I)

As at the close of business on Sunday 25th May 2025 the balance in our Bank Account stood at £1,738.97 which comprises the nett of £715.45 on the Main Fund plus £1,023.52 for Self-Funded Activities.

MAIN FUND

The balance on the Main Fund has increased from £604.84 as at 28th January 2025 by £110.61. This has resulted from a receipt of £160.00 being commission from RWH Travel Limited, previously known as Ramblers Holidays Limited, offset by several small payments totalling £49.39. This Balance continues to be higher than has been the case in recent years due to drawing the total Basic Funding Allocation (£502.03) for the 2023-24 Financial Year from Area. Members are reminded this was done in anticipation of paying for a face to face First Aid Course which has had to be suspended pending further information from Central Office yet to be received. None of our Basic Funding Allocation for the 2024-25 Financial Year of £534.90 has been drawn from Area so far this year

FUNDED ACTIVITIES

There was increase in the balance for Self-Funded Activities from £528.52 as at 28th January 2025 by £495.00. This was entirely due to receipts for the 2025 Coach Ramble.

VOLUNTEERS' EXPENSES POLICY

Following the previous Committee Meeting the Group's Volunteers' Expenses Policy was updated and expanded then approved by members via e-mail. It was then uploaded to the Group's website and circulated via e-mail to those Walk Leaders whose e-mail address is listed on the Ramblers website. A letter to Walk Leaders advising them of the Group's updated and expanded Volunteers' Expenses Policy was then approved by members, again via e-mail, and uploaded to the Group's website.

7. Membership (Eric Smith)

No report.

8. Footpaths

Footpaths sub-committee (David Nunns)

- FP Naburn 7 - Palmes Close to Vicarage Lane - 2021 DMMO (definitive map modification order) not confirmed by SoS. (Secretary of State) - we had no evidence.
- Acaster Malbis 3 - FP through Chestnut Farm Holiday Park diverted and confirmed as as BW.- we suggested a diversion some years ago.
- Clifton Park - 5 claimed FPs proceeding to DMMOs based on user evidence. 1 not proceeding due to a fence erected within the 20 year claim period (claim again in 3 years?) - people had climbed the fence but CYC considered it negated the user evidence forms.
- Heworth Without BW 1 & 2 - DMMO diversion around Cow Moor Farm (Stockton Lane to Bad Bargain Lane) confirmed.- we had agreed to this.
- Bishopthorpe FP 3 - DMMO confirmed from Ferry Lane. Unfortunately Claim by Parish for path past the old St. Andrew's church was not confirmed by SoS due to several routes being walked over the claimed 20 years use.
- Kexby FP 22 - DMMO made for path linking the dead-end path north of Kexby to Scoreby Manor.- we provided no evidence, except that parts of the area around the path was used prior to WW1 for a training camp.

DN pointed out that there are a lot of solar farms, battery farms and other such things that are coming up, and although it's not strictly footpaths agenda it does have some effect on access to countryside.

Footpaths monitoring (Steve Hoather)

SH indicated that although it was quite early in the year for monitoring (January to December), he had monitors for all but two parishes, and that currently he has 9 reported as done. The two parishes that required volunteers were Bolton Percy and Barlby. Peter Atkinson was mentioned for his outstanding work and had taken on several extra paths.

9. Walking Groups

Tuesday Group (Anne Kennedy)

Since the AGM there have been 14 Tuesday walks attracting 200 walkers. The average attendance being 14.2. The highest number was 22 at Farndale. There have been 5 new walkers. I am pleased to report that 2 of these have joined the RA. There have been lots of volunteers to lead walks and walk in place for June, July and some in September.

Amblers (Judith Tosh)

There has been a full programme of Ambles. It is pleasing to see that there has been an increase in the number of walkers and volunteers to lead walks. There is a full programme of walks right up to the end of September and that was due to John and Harry's good partnership.

Wednesday Ramblers (Mike Norman)

So far this year we have had 20 walks with a total number of 506 walkers. Our average number of walkers is 25. Our highest number was 35 at Fridaythorpe and lowest 15 at Kirby Underdale. For these 20 walks, we are very fortunate to have had 16 different walk leaders. We have a full programme of walks until the 30th July.

Public Transport (Annette Bond and Anne Cornford)

Since the last committee meeting on 3 February we have organised 16 walks with groups of between 5-19 travelling to a variety of locations including Ilkley, the North Yorkshire coast and West Yorkshire. Once again, many thanks to all our leaders as we couldn't run the programme without them. There are planned walks for both June and July and Roger Brooke plans a trail walk once a month.

Thursday evening Walks (Stephanie Windsor)

A request for walk leaders was emailed to all York members and, to date, two members have volunteered to lead walks. The first walk was held on 22nd May, led by Debby Cobbett. It was a 4-miler from Osbaldwick and there were 10 walkers, despite the last-minute advertising. Debby mentioned that she was happy to lead one walk a month and would get in touch with Stephanie. To date there was one walk to Moorlands on the 5th of June, but beyond that date there is no programme of walks.

Friday Walks (Debby Cobbett)

The first-Friday walks have run every month since last October, with attendance in single figures, so steady, like the walks. We've been to various local destinations: Knavesmire, Kimberlow, New Earswick, Rufforth, Acaster Malbis, Escrick and Hagg Wood and next month to Rabbit Warren. We use public transport and most walks are linear.

Grading of Walks

Debby Cobbett pointed out that grading her walks was difficult because all the walks come graded as 'moderate', whereas 'leisurely' would have been more appropriate. Mike Norman also pointed out that there's no standard of classification that groups and leaders are following and that the 'moderate' and 'strenuous' definitions had very similar wording. The committee agreed that it was down to the leader to specify the grading, but to ensure that a full description was in place, and where possible the ascent if appropriate.

10. **Social events** (Stephanie Windsor)

Sunday Lunch Walk

This walk of approximately 4 miles took place on March 9th followed by an enjoyable lunch at The Horseshoe, Levisham. The lunch itself was attended by 13 Ramblers with two joining for the walk only from Pickering. Three members new to the ramblers came for both lunch and the walk. The consensus was to repeat this in the future with a later time for lunch so the walk could possibly be extended, although the walk length was ideal for some.

11. **Area Council** (Ian Reavill)

IR attended the Area Council Meeting and was told that all meetings from now are going to be by Zoom and that there will no longer be anymore travelling. Ian reported that at the meeting it was announced that Howden and Google Group are going to fold because they only had three walk leaders, and that they were going to amalgamate with Hull and Holderness.

12. **Media presence**

Website (Tom Halstead, Mike Norman)

Details of the Thursday Walks and clarifications to the text have been applied in the 'Our next walks' section of the website. Dave Hodgkinson (Ramblers-Website Support) has informed Tom that it is now possible for us to send emails using the website address 'mailadmin@yorkramblers.org.uk', though no immediate use for this facility has been identified. Mike Norman asked the question as to who this actually goes to, to which no one was quite sure, so further investigations are ongoing.

13. **Newsletter**

We agreed in our previous meeting to communicate with York members via the website and via emails. IR's concern was once again whether people were getting informed, particularly if they weren't on the internet. Judith Tosh mentioned that one of her walkers was unable to find a form for the Coach Ramble because of the lack of printed material, but they got round it by someone in the group printing it out. It was agreed that the means of communication would still be digital, and that Eric Smith would send out details on the coach ramble, the AGM, the new Friday Walks and a list of all the other walking groups as well. It was suggested by Judith Tosh that a crib sheet be published for all walk leaders on how to use Walks Manager. **Paul Shepherd has agreed** to produce these details and it will be circulated to the committee members before publication.

14. **Coach Ramble** (Tony Tew)

The number of confirmed bookings for the coach ramble stands at 37, plus three provisional bookings. We need 43 walkers (including the walk leaders, who travel free) for the event to break even. The coach has a capacity of 53, so we need to continue to promote the walk to York Group members and to members of the other groups in our Ramblers Area.

15. AGM 12th of November (Ian Reavill)

The Tithe Barn is booked. Once again, two walks are planned, one from Redhouse led by Ian and the other by Steve Hoather.

16. New requirements for walk leaders (Ian Reavill)

Central Office has informed us that due to low take up by existing walk leaders, all walk leaders will be required to read, and confirm they have read, our Walk Leader Handbook and **either** complete our two online training modules (Walk Leadership Foundations and Preventing and Managing Incidents) **or confirm that they have either:** A Mountain Training qualification (Lowland Leader Award, Hill & Moorland Leader Award or Mountain Leader Award) **or** An active record of group Walk Leadership experience, for **either** Ramblers groups **or** Ramblers Wellbeing Walks (or both) over the last three years. Both **Ian Reavill and Mike Norman** will be attending an Introduction Session on the 3rd of June and will come back to the committee once they fully understand the implications. Judith Tosh mentioned that this could perhaps be something we mention in the newsletter.

17. Document archive (Ian Reavill)

(Item held over from previous meeting.) At last year's AGM it was agreed that Alan Clarke's digital and paper documents need to be deposited with Explore at York Library. **Judith Tosh** is dealing with this and will get back to the committee once it is completed.

18. Gift of personal navigation and tracking equipment (Tony Tew)

Can we find the following a good home? Three portable items about 10 years old: A Garmin eTrex 20 for route making and navigation; a Bushnell BackTrack GPS device; a Spot 2 Satellite Personal Tracker. Instructions available for each. Being gifted by Derek Maguire. Steve Hoather suggested that this is something we could publish in the online newsletter. **Action Tony Tew** to do this.

19. First Aid training update (Paul Shepherd)

Paul Shepherd has heard nothing from central office, and suggests that as the online training seems to have taken over that we drop it off the agenda, to which the committee agreed.

20. Correspondence

None.

21. Any other business

Ian Reavill has been approached by a group coming to York for a meeting. He has agreed to lead them on a walk in the City.

Debby Cobbett suggested that to improve membership she would like to put her Friday Walks into the York Environment Festival which is being held from Saturday 27th September until Sunday 2nd of November 2025.

22. **Date and venue of next meeting** – Tuesday 14th of October at Steve Hoather's house for
2:00pm:
8 Fox Garth, Nether Poppleton, York YO26 6LP

Appendix I

York Ramblers Group

Calculation of balances as at 25th May 2025 for the Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 2nd June 2025

	Statement No.	Main Fund	Self Funded	Total
Receipts				
	266	0.00	0.00	
	267	0.00	240.00	
	268	160.00	255.00	
		0.00	0.00	
		0.00	0.00	
		0.00	0.00	
		160.00	495.00	655.00
Payments				
	266	(20.40)	0.00	
	267	0.00	0.00	
	268	(28.99)	0.00	
	0	0.00	0.00	
	0	0.00	0.00	
		(49.39)	0.00	(49.39)
Summary / Grand Totals				
In Period Surplus / (Deficit)		110.61	495.00	605.61
Opening Balance	28th Jan			
at	2025	604.84	528.52	1,133.36
Closing Balance	25th May			
at	2025	715.45	1,023.52	1,738.97

Note: bracketed figures are
negative.