

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Area Council

25th November 2013

Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield, S1 2EW

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Les Seaman (Access), Christine Whittaker (Information Officer), Chris Greig (Dearne Valley), Philip Ryder (Rotherham), Marion Thompson (Doncaster), Cynthia Ashton (Co-opted), Christine Hewitt (Sheffield VI Group), Nicki Farmery (Barnsley), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Basil Merry (Chesterfield), Gary Dickson (Sheffield 20-30s).

Apologies: Terry Howard (President), Gavin Johns (Treasurer)

Minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2013

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

The dissolution of the Bolsover Group has taken place. Members of the Group had been welcomed into the Chesterfield Group.

Arthur Soar has agreed to continue to monitor the RoW in the Bolsover area and report problems to the Chesterfield Group Footpath secretary.

Group reports

GD reported that the Sheffield 20-30s Group had held their AGM and that a new committee had been elected..

Officer's reports

From the ACROW committee, AP reported that: The North Lees Estate was not, after all, to be sold, giving no issues for walkers; the government had published the HS2 Bill today and affected Groups need to respond by the end of January; major tree-felling work is due to be started in the Burbage Valley very soon and will last until 2015; discussion of claims for historic routes, which need to be claimed by 2026, had queried the exact process of making claims, and the likelihood, or otherwise, of successful outcomes. DG to contact central office for guidance; Eckington 34 remains blocked, despite complaints by the Chesterfield Group; Derbyshire CC had agreed to review their policy re reinstating RoW during the crop-growing season.

DG said that the correspondence list had been circulated prior to the meeting. 'Chasing' emails to central office re easier communication between Areas and the strategic review of the functioning of Areas had been sent but replies not received yet.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. GJ had reported that all Groups except the Chesterfield 20-30s had submitted budgets on time and that there were no outstanding issues.

CW reported that our attempts to have central office arrange a Volunteer Development Day in our Area had been unsuccessful. Central Office has published the following dates and venues in the latest eNewsletter:

Friday 24 January 2014: Carrs Lane Church, Birmingham

Saturday 25 January 2014: Cambridge Regional College, Cambridge

Friday 11 April 2014: Castle Gate, Newcastle

Saturday 12 April 2014: Clements Hall, York

Friday 6 June 2014: Edgar Hall, Taunton

Saturday, 7th June: grand Theatre, Swansea

Friday, 11th July, 2014: Manchester Museum, Manchester

Saturday, 12th July: The Vine, Nottingham

Subjects covered will be Ramblers Routes, leading walks, a beginner's guide to rights of way law, a forum for Area Chairs, etc. Further information will follow closer to the dates, although CG suggested that members wanting to attend should act promptly.

AGM

The AGM will start at 2pm on Saturday, 25th January, 2014 at the Woodland Discovery Centre, in the Ecclesall Woods. The guest speaker is Des Garrahan, previously an employee at central office and now a trustee. There is plenty of parking on Abbey Lane.

There will be a walk in the morning, starting at 10.30.

A letter will be sent to affiliated groups advising them that they have the right to have a representative elected onto Area Council.

General Council

General Council will be held at The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on 29/30 March, 2014. The theme will be 'Working in

Partnership'. Delegates to attend will be chosen at the AGM. Central Office pays for these two people. This Area will also, as usual, send a non-voting representative, costs to be borne by Area.

AOB

None.

ACROW and Area Council: 10th February 2014
 9th June 2014
 8th September 2014
 24th November 2014

AGM: 2.00, 25th January, 2014

General Council: 29/30 March, 2014

Area website: www.synedramblers.org.uk
National website: www.ramblers.org.uk