

Area Council

26th February 2018

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

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (MWPF), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley), Jez Kenyon (Sheffield 40s), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op Ramblers), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Lahari Parchuri (Sheffield 20s).

Apologies

Christine Hewitt (Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group), Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Christine Whittaker (Information).

Minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2017

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

i) TH said that because of reasons beyond our control The National Trust at Longshaw no longer had space for a permanent Ramblers exhibition and therefore the SYNED £20,000 grant had been withdrawn. However Sheffield's Weston Park Museum was happy to establish a permanent exhibition, including items from GBH Ward such as his boots, coat, etc. These items would be professionally conserved. There was no cost to SYNED.

2018 AGM

- i) Minutes. These were agreed as being correct, to be formally approved at the 2019 AGM.
- ii) Matters arising. It was generally agreed that three speakers was too many. DG to contact central office to establish whether two speakers from central office would be the norm in future. DG to also ask if the CEO would like to speak next year.
- iii) It was agreed that we should purchase a new laptop at a cost of up to £350. PL to arrange.

Group Reports

Lahari Parchuri was welcomed to Area Council. She is the new chair of the Sheffield 20s Group.

Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report

The Secretary presented the up-dated membership figures, *with March figures added*:

	CNED	Don	Sheff	R'ham	B&P	DV	Sh20	Ch20	Sh40	SYNED	National
1/10/13	505	234	661	269	242	99	226	22	179	2399	
1/12/13	542	227	663	272	223	100	223	25	190	2449	
1/06/14	536	232	677	271	202	103	214	23	219	2486	107837
1/06/15	478	232	626	264	187	103	235	37	227	2403	107473
1/01/16	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	33	230	2392	106452
1/08/16	457	227	603	265	172	107	247	26	238	2369	106131
1/01/17	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	25	233	2334	105234
1/06/17	433	213	581	255	157	114	249	23	238	2293	105136
1/12/17	425	206	582	248	152	117	235	23	242	2264	
1/01/18	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	23	240	2256	104617
1/02/18	425	210	591	246	148	119	231	22	247	2256	
1/03/18	427	213	574	246	143	121	234	23	246	2263	

Recent Correspondence:

- 22 Nov SYNED Annual Report sent to central office.
- 28 nov Ramblers access to woodlands campaign document.
- 30 Nov Nov 2017 PDGLA Newsletter

20 Dec	BM report to Derbyshire Area Council mtg.
06 Jan	Email to affiliated groups re AGM
06 Jan	Save the Lakes petition
19 Jan	Save the Lake District petition up-date.
27 Jan	Press release sent to Group secs for distribution.
19 Feb	Agendas AC+ACROW+AGM mins etc
21 Feb	Consultation on Wetton Hills TRO.
22 Feb	2017 AGM/AC/ACROW mins sent to Sheffield Archives.

Treasurer's Report

GJ circulated the Treasurer's report. It was proposed that it be accepted by AP and seconded by TH. All agreed. Regarding the legacy considerable discussion took place re making a grant to the Mend our Mountains campaign, specifically for 'The Great Ridge', the ridge between Lose Hill and Mam Tor, for which £140,000 is required.

GJ proposed and AP seconded a motion to donate £10,000 immediately, with the possibility of further money later.

TH proposed an amendment and DG seconded that £17,000 be donated immediately. The amendment was lost and the proposal carried.

A request from the CNED Group for signage etc for the Dronfield Rotary Walk was agreed.

Access Officer

LS briefly mentioned the User Group post Brexit Proposals document which he had raised at the AGM.

Vanessa Griffiths describes the origin of the document:

"To answer your question on whether this proposal is an official communication from the Ramblers, and who it was directed at, it was a statement which Mark Weston (of British Horse Society) wanted to send it round to the BHS people on LAFs. Our policy officer working on Brexit (Stephen Russell) and our Policy Manager (Adrian Harvey) agreed that they could add the Ramblers name on it - so it now pops up in various places from time to time!

So it was not an "official" communication, just a fairly general, lowest-common denominator, high level, initial access proposal, to start discussions between access organisations. Looking at it now, it is getting quite out of date really, as things have moved on a great deal over the past five months on this topic...since October, Stephen has convened a round table with more user groups, along with the National Trust and local authorities representatives, to develop more detailed proposals, plus we now have the command paper to respond to over the coming weeks and months."

Publicity

The Dearne Valley Group were thanked for producing the Publicity document. It was considered to contain much good advice and to provide positive suggestions for other Groups to follow.

AOB

Regarding the additional 1,000 copies of *Clarion Call* it was agreed that Group secretaries offer copies of the book to their local library service. DG to contact Group secretaries.

ACROW meetings start at 6.30pm and Area Council meetings start at 7.30pm
All meetings are held in the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW.

2018	4th June 3rd September 26th November
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2019 AGM:	2.00pm, Saturday, 26th January Barnsley and Penistone Group to host.
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West Bretton Village Hall
Bretton Lane
Wakefield, WF4 4LB

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

