

Area Council

3rd September 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), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Lahari Parchuri (Sheffield 20s). Jez Kenyon (Sheffield 40s), Christine Whittaker (Information).

Apologies

Nicki Speakman (Barnsley and Penistone), Judy Gathercole (Sheffield), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op Ramblers).

Minutes of the meeting of 4th June 2018

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

CW said that she had made contact with Sheffield City Council re the information boards. It was considered that because they were so readily subjected to vandalism it would be a waste of time to replace them. However it was suggested that a circular walk, to include the Five Weirs Walk, be developed and put on our website. This would obviously include the information previously on the vandalised information boards.

GDPR

It was accepted that GDP regulations were primarily aimed at commercial companies, not at charities such as ourselves. Area Council had previously agreed to maintain open email addresses between members rather than blind copy. Some groups were asking members the choice to opt-out, with a few members accepting this opportunity. The Sheffield Group, however, had asked its members to opt-in, with chaos ensuing.

Group Reports

Rotherham Metro. PR said that the launch of the Rotherham Round on 27th June had been a great success. SYNED President, David Blunkett, had spoken very well, as had the Mayor of Rotherham and Rosemary Boyle, Chair of Rotherham Metro. About 70 members walked to Wentworth and a considerable number socialised in the pub afterwards.

PR also said that, following the walking festival jointly organised by Rotherham Metro and the Dearne Valley Group last year, Rotherham MBC were actively considering re-establishing a walking festival last held nine years ago.

Sheffield 20s. LP said that some of their members had moved on to the Sheffield 40s group and that they needed to encourage and train younger members to lead walks. They group would like ten members to attend a map-reading course at a cost of £45 per head. This was agreed. GJ said he would pay the fees when the group treasurer sent him the invoice.

Doncaster. DG said the group had become involved in providing monthly walks for carers and cared-for people. The first such walk was local to Doncaster, around Cusworth Park. A coach-load of cares had come, with one wheelchair user and two wheeled walking frames. This project is funded by Sports England, who pay for the coach, post-walk refreshments, etc. The second walk is in the Chatsworth Park area on 12th September.

(Please note, funding is not from Sports England but from money received by Doncaster MBC to improve the fitness of the population of Doncaster, one of the least fit in the country).

Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. GJ said that Derbyshire County Council were continuing to be difficult to work with on footpath maintenance. The previous weekly sessions had decreased to once every 2/3 weeks.

GJ also said that the CNED group were involved with the Chesterfield Canal Walking Festival in October.

Sheffield. TH said that the Sheffield walking festival starts on Friday, 7th September.

TH also said that the ‘Walking Through Time, a Celebration of Sheffield’s Walking Heritage’ open day free event with displays, film, live music and talks is being held on Sunday, 30th September between 11am to 5pm in the Bradfield Village Hall. For further information see www.theoutdoorcity.co.uk/walk. TH pointed out that we have no literature to give out; the Sheffield Group’s walking programme is online, we have no membership forms at the moment, etc. We agreed to discuss this subject at the next meeting.

Officer’s Reports

Chair. AP said that the 2019 General Council annual general meeting will take place on 13 and 14 April in Manchester.

AP also said that because London’s Crossrail project has been suspended for 6 months it will have an impact on HS2.

Dan Jarvis is the mayor of the new Sheffield City Region. A lengthy letter is being drafted by Barnsley MDC, with input from AP, to make suggestions to him. He will be appointing a Transport Commissioner to be responsible for all transport in the region. Thus we may have a regional bus system rather than each town/city looking after itself. The letter being sent to him will suggest the appointment of a specific person to be responsible for walking and cycling-related matters.

Secretary.

Up-dated membership figures, with September’s figures added, are listed below. Note the slight improvement in the SYNED figures but the continued national decline.

	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
1/01/18	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	23	240	2256	104617
1/03/18	427	213	574	246	143	121	234	23	246	2263	104259
1/06/18	423	224	559	251	144	129	227	23	253	2270	103605
1/09/18	422	228	560	252	144	139	224	25	253	2287	103031

Recent Correspondence:

06 June	Obituary written by Kate Ashbrook on Gerry Pearlman.
02 July	PNFS Summer Newsletter.
08 July	Request to support Traffic Regulation Order on Jacob’s Ladder at Stoney Middleton.
06 July	Rotherham Ring Route Revival launch info.
09 July	Request to complete online survey on cycling.
27 July	RRRR reminder.
29 Aug	AC + ACROW agendas.
03 Sept	PNFS June Newsletter.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer’s report, dated 3rd Sept 2018, had previously been distributed. All the group’s figures for the forthcoming year had been sent to central office.

GJ said that from 4th September the Unity Bank would be charging for cheque and cash payments.

Group returns need to be in by 24th October.

Regarding the Ivy Cowen Project the six initiatives the Area will financially support, from the Project, are allied to Ramblers’ charitable aims.

Christine Whittaker proposed and Terry Howard seconded that the The ‘Ivy Cowen’ Project be accepted.

This was passed unanimously. GJ accepted responsibility for initiatives 1, 2 and 5, (Promote walking, Encourage more qualified walk leaders and Events and walking festivals), JK accepted responsibility 3 (for

Footpath maintenance) and CW accepted responsibility for 6 (Publicity and marketing) and AP accepted responsibility for 4 (Campaigning).

A lengthy discussion took place re the request for funding for the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements, with JK agreeing to break the figures down so that the cost of materials could be isolated from labour costs (accepting that much of the work will be carried out by volunteers).

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 26th November

2019 AGM: 2.00pm, Saturday, 26th January
Barnsley and Penistone Group to host.

West Bretton Village Hall
Bretton Lane
Wakefield, WF4 4LB

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