



**South Yorks &
N.E. Derbyshire**

Minutes of the SYNED Area Annual General Meeting

Sunday 19th January 2025

Held in person at Tickhill Pavilion, Tickhill, Doncaster, DN11 9QN

Present: Malcolm Dixon, Area Secretary (Sheffield); Sara Whitby, Area Publicity Officer (Sheff 20's&30's); Johnathan Revell (DVR); Kate Frizzell (DVR); John Watson (DVR); Pat White (DVR); Helen Barker (DVR); Les Seaman, Area Access Officer (Sheffield); Malcolm Mackay (Sheffield); Cath MacKay, VP (Sheffield); Jez Kenyon, Area Vice Chair (S40's); Tom Platt, guest speaker (Central Office); Sylvia Ward (DVR); Brian Ward (DVR); Liz Sharp (Sheff 40's); Gareth Cade (Doncaster); S J Tomlinson (Doncaster); David Horne (Doncaster); Peter Rowsell (Doncaster); Martin Evans (Sheff 20's&30's); Jennifer Lear (Sheff 20's&30's); Lottie Smith (Sheff 40's); Glenna Briggs (Rotherham Metro); Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro); David Gadd (Doncaster); Joan Dalton (Chesterfield).

Apologies: David Blunkett, Area VP; Gavin Johns, Area Treasurer; Roly Smith, Area VP; Terry Howard, Area VP; Cath Baker (Sheffield); Kath Craig (Step Out Sheffield)

1. Chair's welcome and opening remarks:

Vice Chair Jez Kenyon opened the Meeting by asking David Gadd to welcome us all on behalf of the Doncaster Ramblers, our host group this afternoon – David also led the excellent and well attended walk prior to the meeting. Jez summarised the previous year's activities and reminded us of the funding options available for projects and initiatives – urged all groups to get involved and make plans!

2. Attendance and apologies for absence: as above

3. Remembering Area Members who have died during the last 12 months:

A minute's silence was held, and tribute paid to members who have sadly passed away in the last year and how much we owe to those who went before us. These include Allen Pestle (our previous Chair), Chris Maille, Pauline Gibbons, Mrs Raynor and Clifford Johnson.

4. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General meeting - Accepted.

5. Matters Arising from the 2024 Minutes – none

6. Annual Report for 2023/2024 - Accepted.

7. (typo error in agenda – nothing in this section)

8. Financial statement – Accounts for year ending September 30th, 2024. - Accounts accepted.

9. Appointment of Area President and Vice Presidents –

President – remains vacant. Honorary role, any suggestions welcome.

Vice Presidents – David Blunkett; Roly Smith; Terry Howard; Helen Jackson; Cath MacKay; Davod Gadd. All to continue, proposed and accepted.

10. Election of Officers and Council Members – Thanks to all current council officers and reps, and thanks given to Johnathan Revell who has now stepped down from his role as webmaster.

All positions below proposed/nominated, seconded, and accepted.

Area Chair – Jez Kenyon

Area Vice Chair - **vacant**

Area Secretary – Malcolm Dixon

Area Treasurer – Gavin Johns

Area Access Officer – Les Seaman

Area Membership Secretary – Helen Barker

Area Minutes Secretary – Helen Barker

Area Publicity & Social Media Officer – Sara Whitby

Area Footpath Officer - **vacant**

Area Webmaster – **vacant**

Area Countryside Officer - **vacant**

If anyone wishes to get involved or is interested in knowing more about any vacant positions, please let Malcolm know. We do need nominations especially for the vacant roles – anyone wanting to know more or see a 'job spec' is welcome to speak to any committee member. Roles can be shared or split to accommodate interests and availability.

11. Other council members:

a. Two Members' Representatives on the Area Council – Cath McKay proposed and seconded. **We need a second person** as Terry has stepped down. **Please contact Malcolm if you would like to nominate someone from your group.** These are members without portfolio, are there to represent the interests of all groups members.

b. All Group Secretaries – ACTION REQUIRED All groups may send 1 or 2 members to represent the group at the Area Council meetings. Please try and send at least one to every meeting (mainly held on Zoom for the coming year) It does not have to be the same person each time.

c. Two Representatives from the walking groups affiliated to the AC – no current reps – **ACTION** – Area Secretary to write to them all and ask for nominations.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner – Lorraine Watson thanked and proposed/accepted for a further 12 months.

13. Affiliation to like-minded organisations – as an area we affiliate to 4 organisations. These are: Campaign for the Protection of Rural England; the Peak & Northern Footpath Society; Peak District Green Lanes Alliance; and the Open Spaces Society. Continuation of these affiliations proposed and approved. No further nominations for similar groups made.

14. Appointment of Area Delegates to 2024 General Council on April 5th at Birmingham NEC – Liz Sharp and Sara Whitby nominated subject to confirmation of availability for that date.

15. Motions to General Council and for Consideration by the SYNED AGM - No Motions submitted for General Council this year.

16. Any Other Business / Notices – none

End of formal AGM followed by a short break and refreshments courtesy of Doncaster group.

Speaker – Tom Platt Chief Programmes and Delivery Officer for The Ramblers

After the break Tom thanked us for inviting him, and for the pre meeting walk, he enjoyed the conversations he had and will take comments back to Head Office. He spoke to us in detail about current Ramblers concerns, activities and campaigns. He gave us a broad and interesting overview of the Ramblers new strategy and spoke about initiatives such as the Path Accessibility Fund, Walk Together Project and the Out There Awards – a programme now being rolled out which is aimed at young walkers from 18-26 years old to help them build confidence and experience of being outdoors.

Tom then held a Q&A session which led to lively and interesting discussions within the room.

After a vote of thanks to Tom, Doncaster Ramblers and everyone who attended, Jez closed the meeting.

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

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