



## The Ramblers - Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Group

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10:00am at Chesterfield Library.

**Present**      **Committee members:** Isobel McCormick (Chairman), Paul Peters (Treasurer), Barbara Milton (Goup and Membership Secretary), Chris Wildsmith (Programme Coordinator), Mel Hardy (Footpath Officer).

Val Fenton, Michael Fenton, David Moore, Bill Eyre, Jill Wildsmith, John & Tricia Graham, David & Eileen Blackburn, Dermot Toberty, Mike Sims, Joyce Denton, Ellis Pollard, Chris Haynes, Pam Bell, Tricia Borrell, Kath Collins, Jean Powell, Beryl Ransby, John Hayes, Graham Wright, Edna Robinson, Mike Bunting, Lorraine Watson & Martin Lowe.

**1. Apologies for absence:**

David Coomber, Gavin Johns, Sue Harvey.

**2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

Acceptance proposed by **David Moore**, seconded by **David Blackburn**.

**3. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chair Address & Report**

The Chair's report is published separately on the Chesterfield Ramblers website.

Adoption of Chair's Annual Report:

Proposed: **Mel Hardy**

Seconded: **Dermot Toberty**.

**5. Presentation of Accounts and Balance Sheet for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020:**

The Treasurer's report and accounts are published separately on the Chesterfield Ramblers website.

Adoption of Accounts:

Proposed: **John Graham**

Seconded: **Barbara Milton**

**6. Footpath Report:**

The Footpath Report and accounts are published separately on the Chesterfield Ramblers website.

Adoption of Report:

Proposed: **Mike Sims**

Seconded: **Mike Bunting**.

**Mel Hardy** confirmed that all footpath issues were now discussed at the monthly Committee Meetings and thanked all those that supported the separate footpath committee in the past.

**Mel Hardy** asked that all walk leaders let him have the number of walkers on each of their walks plus the distance covered to enable him to keep records.

**Bill Eyre** queried the footpath sign for Marjorie Clutterbuck, which was confirmed to be in Ashover.

**David Blackburn** asked for an update on identifying the unrecorded rights of way (Lost Ways).

Mel Hardy acknowledged this was difficult to update as there are lots to be reclaimed. He emphasised the importance of retaining all footpaths as, whilst they may not be important to the network now, they could be in the future for new developments and improving access to green spaces. He confirmed it is a very long process as ancient maps need to be carefully examined.

**Isobel McCormick** confirmed that the Area are prioritising the areas to look at and that there are 10s of 1000s of paths.

**David Moore** said that the figure of 49,000 lost footpaths has been reported but this is an exaggeration.

It was generally felt that there are lots of new, local footpaths that could be lost.

## 7. Election of Officers:

**Isobel McCormick** has agreed to carry on as Chair for another year.

Proposed: **Mel Hardy**

Seconded: **David Blackburn**

**Paul Peters** has agreed to carry on as Treasurer for another year.

Proposed: **Bill Eyre**

Seconded: **Dermot Toberty**

**Barbara Milton** has agreed to carry on as Group and Membership Secretary for another year.

Proposed: **Eileen Blackburn**

Seconded: **Chris Haynes**

## 8. Committee Members and Unfilled Posts:

**David Moore** has maintained the website over the past year and encouraged social media. He is happy to continue.

**Isobel McCormick** said that the large number of people who took to walking over the recent pandemic has not translated into an increase in Ramblers members. She asked if there was anyone who would be prepared to help David in an unofficial capacity.

There were no volunteers.

**Countryside Officer:** This post remains vacant. There were no volunteers.

**Saturday Walks Co-Ordinator:** Mike Bunting volunteered to take on this role

It was reiterated that all members are very welcome to attend the monthly Committee Meetings (held at St Thomas', Brampton) and especially helpful if a representative of each of the walking groups within CNEDRA also attended.

## 9. Election of Accounts Examiner:

**Lorraine Watson** has agreed to continue in the role of Accounts Examiner for the next year.

Proposed: **Mike Bunting**

Seconded: **Mel Hardy**

## 10. Any Other Business:

**01: Mike Sims** asked for help with footpath issues as, at present, there is only him and Mel Hardy dealing with these especially with the reporting of ploughing and cropping problems. Ideally members would keep an eye on footpaths across fields of crops in their local areas to identify persistent offenders, including taking photographs as evidence. He noted that issues with ploughing and cropping are often ignored as eventually crops are harvested which removes the problem.

**02: David Blackburn** wished Mel Hardy his best wishes for his forthcoming knee operation.

**03: Tricia Borrell** thanked Mel Hardy for his mentoring of new members over the last year.

**04: Bill Eyre** asked if it was still necessary to keep a register of all walkers as NHS Track and Trace don't seem interested in the list. Isobel McCormick said, in her view, that it would be a courtesy to let other walkers know if someone on a walk had tested positive for Covid and that it is still part of Ramblers guidance to keep a register and contact details. It seems some adjoining areas are not taking a register but it was felt we should still do this.

## 11 Date and Time of next AGM

To be discussed at the next committee meeting but the consensus was that the AGM should be held in November after the accounts have been finalised. The exact date would be dependant upon the Library venue being available.

*Following the meeting there was a splendid presentation carried out by Mel Hardy of photographs taken on various walks throughout the year, this brought back many memories. Our thanks to Mel and other members who contributed by forwarding their photographs to Mel.*