

THE RAMBLERS  
LEICESTER & DISTRICT GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday 10th November 2018 at The Linford, Newtown Linford.

The AGM was preceded by a walk of approximately 5 miles led by Howard Watmore. We then enjoyed a buffet lunch.

A talk was given by Peter Osborne who is a Leicestershire Landowner. Terry thanked Peter for his interesting and informative talk.

**Present were:**

Terry Bates (Chairman), Howard Watmore (Vice Chairman & Area Rep), Bob Collins (Treasurer), Charles de Podesta (Secretary & Footpath Secretary), Dave Siddons (Programme Secretary), John Rhodes (Coach Secretary), Howard Freeman (Webmaster & Publicity Secretary), Jenny Freeman (Map Librarian & Statistics), Ray Phipps (Membership Secretary), Frank Russell (Social Secretary), Anne Bates (Minutes Secretary), David Utting, Ian Gamble, Bob Preston, Carole Underwood, Bernard Underwood, Larissa Barker, Jane Linnett, Andrea Davis, Marcus Broughton, Judy Souter, Rachel Hooke, Mark Woodall, Carol Sabin, Glen McPhail, John Sommervill, Tom Merry, Dave Bell, Rosemary Stokes, John Jackson, Graham Reeves, Richard Smith, Penny Bates, Tom Bates.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Anthony Richards, Ruth Richards, Juliet Youngs, Julie Hart, Shirley Bell, Liz Murphy, David Murphy, John Bollands, Cynthia Bollands, Linda Phipps, Janet Reeves, Richard Blount, Linda Blount, Eileen Pott, Anne Whichcord.

**2. Chairman's opening remarks**

Terry Bates welcomed everyone to the AGM. Last year there were 26 on the walk and 39 attended the AGM meeting. This year there were 20 on the walk and 34 attending the AGM meeting. The buffet was provided by The Linford this year, Terry asked if everyone had enjoyed the food, members gave a positive response.

**3. Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes had been posted on Leicester's website and circulated at the AGM. Proposed by Howard Watmore and seconded by Tom Merry. The minutes were passed *nem con*.

#### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

John Rhodes disagreed with comments made by John Jackson in AOB last year. John Rhodes said the price quoted by Roberts had not increased by 20% it was 14%. The replies John Jackson received to his request for quotes were as expensive as Roberts, or the coaches were smaller. One company was cheaper, but it was decided that their set-up was not suitable for our requirements.

There are no plans to cancel the evening meal after coach rambles. The matter has never been discussed in coach committee meetings. Some people (including two prominent walk leaders) have said to John Rhodes that if the evening meal were to be cancelled, they would no longer go on the coach trips. John Rhodes said he also would no longer be in attendance.

John Jackson replied that 11 coach firms were asked for a quote, 3 declined to quote as their coaches were too small. 2 firms quoted lower than Roberts – Orbit quoted £465 for a 53 seater and Ausden Clark £484 for a 55 seater.

Terry Bates felt that this issue should be discussed and resolved at the next Coach Committee meeting.

Howard Watmore arranged 3 very successful First Aid training sessions. These sessions were delivered by the Red Cross. Hopefully there will be more sessions in the future, possibly in 2 years' time.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Bob Collins, the Treasurer, presented his accounts for the year ending 30th September 2018.

Proposed by John Rhodes and seconded by Dave Bell.

The accounts were passed *nem con*.

#### **6. Reports – as per booklet with some additions**

##### **a) Chairman's report**

##### **b) Secretary's Report**

Email System – Charles de Podesta asked if anyone would like to be involved in the emailing system, comments and suggestions are welcome. All emails will be of interest to walkers, not just a forwarding of unwanted information.

##### **c) Footpath Secretary**

Charles explained that The Walking Strategy involves planning to prioritise and encourage walking, also the ways in which people travel into the City. Money may be available from government to support these projects once the Walking Strategy is developed.

Jenny Freeman asked if there was a Walking Strategy for Leicestershire, Charles replied that it was just the City Council that is involved.

Terry Bates thanked Charles for all his hard work.

#### **d) Walks Programme Reports**

#### **e) Membership**

There was 1 new member this week.

At present an email is sent each week to update membership details but in future Ray could log on each day to get these details if he chooses to do so.

Evidence suggests that about 2,000 members were lost last year nationally. 1,500 were lost the year before that.

#### **f) Coach Rambles**

Of the 36 walks planned for next year there are still 6 without a leader.

The new contract with Roberts was a 5% increase on last years' quote, John would not accept the 5% rise and after deliberation it was brought down to 2%

Attendances this year were down to an average of 41, a cancelled trip due to snow and The Beast from the East being responsible.

From December 2007, when John became Coach Secretary, the coach fare was £12, to present time with a coach fare of £14. Fluctuations in coach fare shown below –

July - November 2007 £12 JJ

December 2007 - May 2009 £12 JR

June 2009 - December 2009 £11

January 2010 - June 2010 £10

July 2010 - December 2010 £ 9

January 2011 - October 2011 £10

November 2011 - July 2012 £12

August 2012 - July 2013 £11

August 2013 - January 2014 £10

February 2014 - July 2014 £11

August 2014 - July 2015 £12

August 2015 - December 2016 £11

January 2017 - October 2017 £12

November 2017 - February 2018 £13

March 2018 - November 2018 £14

John Rhodes thanked Howard and Charlie for advertising coach seat vacancies on the website and by sending out emails to members.

### **g) Maps & Statistics**

Walk reports not always being sent in, particularly by Saturday morning leaders.

### **h) Publicity & Website**

John Jackson has concerns about Central Office website displaying different information to that on our website. This issue has only arisen with one set of walks. Howard Freeman has discussed this with Central Office and he is hoping this will be sorted out this year. This problem came to light after a member from another area complained to Central Office.

John Jackson suggested a note be put on the website to suggest ringing the walk leader to check before travelling.

### **i) Social Secretary**

## **5. Election of the Committee**

Terry Bates asked if there was anyone who would like to join the committee – no one wanted to join.

A block vote was taken for those wishing to continue as committee members. Proposed by Ian Gamble and seconded by Jane Linnett.

Chairman	Terry Bates
Vice Chairman & Area Representative	Howard Watmore
Hon. Secretary	Charles de Podesta
Hon. Treasurer	Bob Collins
Programme Secretary	Dave Siddons
Footpath Secretary	Charles de Podesta
Coach Secretary	John Rhodes
Maps & Statistics	Jenny Freeman
Publicity & Website	Howard Freeman
Membership Secretary	Ray Phipps
Social Secretary	Frank Russell
Minutes Secretary	Anne Bates
Member without portfolio	Eileen Pott

Honorary Auditor – Alan Mawby willing to continue.

Proposed by Howard Watmore and seconded by John Rhodes.

## **8. Matters previously notified**

No comments were received.

## **9. AOB**

Howard Watmore informed us that the Area AGM is on Saturday 26th January, being hosted by the Leicester Group at The Linford in Newtown Linford.

Howard Watmore also said that in memory of Alan Loasby, Area were proposing a seat, with a plaque, be placed in Swithland Woods. Price of the seat is £250 and for the plaque £50. All groups have been asked to contribute, Leicester have agreed to give £50 towards the cost.

Howard Watmore reminded everyone to keep claiming their walkout expenses and, if they wished, to ask for the money to be donated to the Air Ambulance.

Terry Bates gave a reminder to leaders that Walk Leaders' Reports must be sent to Jenny Freeman or given to the walk organiser.

New Years' Day Walk – Terry Bates said that no booking of meals is needed this year, order on the day. The Bradgate Arms have an offer of 2 meals for £10 or order off the full menu.

Terry Bates told the group about Stan Warren's health problems.

Bernard Underwood asked Ray Phipps if the joint membership number is for 147 joint or individual members, if individual members then the number is odd. Dave Siddons suggested it could be in the case of one of the joint members having passed away. Ray could not explain it but will look into this further.

Dave Siddons thanked Terry Bates for organising the buffet, the members thanked Claire at The Linford for preparing the food.

Terry Bates asked if everyone is happy for us to keep using The Linford for our AGM – a positive response from those present.

Meeting closed at 3.37pm.