

Minutes of Warwickshire Ramblers Area AGM
Hosted by Coventry Group
10.30 am 10th February 2024

Present Sandra Sutton - Chair, Nick Hillier - Membership Secretary, Janet Lockett - Secretary,
Paul Drake - Treasurer, Michael Bird - Footpaths & Countryside Secretary,
Malcolm McDonnell - Ramblers Trustee, Julia Singleton-Tasker – Rail Trails
as well as group members from across the area. There was a total of 67 attendees (down from 89 in 2023).

Groups represented: COBRA, Coventry, Mid-Warwickshire, Rugby, Stratford, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield, Southam, Castle Bromwich, South Birmingham, Bear and WMWG

Groups not represented: WMWG 40+

37.1 Welcome: Sandra Sutton (Area Chair) welcomed everyone to Bedworth and Janet Lockett (Coventry Group Secretary) explained the housekeeping arrangements for the day.

37.2 Apologies: Haroon Mota (Active Inclusion/Muslim Hikers), David Shaw (Rugby), Dr Peter Rookes (South Birmingham), Derek Smith (WMWG), Les Harrison (Solihull), Bill Burton (Mid Warwickshire), Claire Watkins (Regional Engagement Team), Luke Rolls (Don't Lose Your Way Researcher)

37.3 Minutes of the last AGM: Sandra assumed everyone had read the minutes of the last meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes. Celia Howell-Jones proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and Paul Drake seconded this. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.

37.4 Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts.

Paul Drake (Treasurer) drew everyone's attention to page 7 of the Annual Report which contained the accounts for the year 2022/2023.

He explained that the income for the year (just over £3000) was more than in the previous year. He had declined the fourth quarter funding from Central Office. The total expenditure for the year was over £5000, so there was a deficit of nearly £2000. Perhaps surprisingly he considers this a good thing. Paul's mission for the last 6 years has been to reduce the amount of money held by the Area, reasoning that it could be put to better use by Central Office. He is close to achieving his target of having less than £3000 in the bank.

We have £250 that has been ear-marked for Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) projects that was not used during 2023, but two DLYW researchers have now been in touch with Area and will be requesting some funding.

Sandra asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the Area Annual Accounts as true and accurate. The Proposer was Nick Hillier and the Secunder was John Chapman. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.

37.5 There were no **matters arising** from the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts

37.6 Motions received by the Area Secretary: None

37.7 Election of Officers:

Sandra explained that she was stepping down from the role of Chairman and asked Janet to conduct the elections.

Ann Hebden, the Treasurer elect, introduced herself saying that she had been the treasurer for City of Birmingham group (until 2004), and more recently treasurer of the Black Country young walkers' group. She

has worked as an internal auditor but has recently retired. She still has her own company so has to keep the accounts for that.

Dr Peter Rookes, Chair of South Birmingham group, was not present but had previously said he was willing to stand as the Area Chairman. He has been a Ramblers trustee in the past. There were no other volunteers to be a candidate so Pat Bird proposed that Dr Peter should become the Chair and Sara Taylor seconded that; the meeting agreed unanimously.

Janet Lockett said she had been the Area Secretary for 3 years and was willing to continue in that role. Sandra Sutton proposed that Janet should continue, Chris Evans seconded this, and the meeting agreed unanimously.

Paul Drake proposed that Ann Hebden should become the new Treasurer, Roger Gibbs seconded this, and the meeting agreed unanimously.

The remaining officers were all willing to continue in their current roles.

Membership Secretary: Nick Hillier	Proposed by Pauline Lindo, seconded by Sandra Sutton
Footpaths Secretary : Michael Bird	Proposed by John Chapman, seconded by Nick Hillier
Countryside Secretary: Michael Bird	Proposed by Alan Cumming, seconded by John Chapman
Publicity Secretary: Andy Page	Proposed by Julianne Negro, seconded by Nick Hillier

The meeting agreed unanimously to all four appointments.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

John Phillips is the existing Independent Examiner of the accounts and is willing to continue in that role. Paul Drake proposed and Nick Hillier seconded the motion that John be voted in as Independent Examiner. He was appointed unanimously.

37.8 Any other business

Sandra said that she had enjoyed her time as Area Chair and closed the meeting at 10.50 a.m.

The meeting was followed by a talk from Malcolm McDonnell (a Ramblers Trustee), a talk from Julia Singleton-Tasker (from the Heart of England Community Rail Partnership), a buffet lunch and a choice of two walks.

Southam group will plan the next AGM.

Janet Lockett
Area Secretary
February 2024