Ramblers' Association, Oxfordshire Area
Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting
14.45 hours
21 January 2023

The Vice Chair introduced the guest speaker Helen Tranter of the Board of Trustees who gave a presentation which explained the new structure of the Ramblers under the new CEO together with a summary of what the Ramblers hope to achieve in the forthcoming year. This includes campaigns including the DLYW Project and Green Routes.

This was followed by a short question-and-answer session where the following items were mentioned.
Richard queried when the new WalksManager in place of the existing GWEM would be launched.
Wendy stated that she was unable to obtain the figures of members recruited from the National Recruitment Team.
Alie stated that there was a general lack of communication between Central Office and Areas.
Steve W enquired whether Central Office were going to continue with bespoke First Aid courses which were cancelled due to lockdown.
Helen agreed to report the concerns of Oxfordshire Area to the BOT.

Our President Professor Sir Muir Gray gave a short presentation about how to live well longer.

The Vice Chair thanked Helen and Muir for their talks and welcomed everyone to the 45th Oxfordshire Ramblers AGM. He explained that he was chairing the meeting due to the recent passing on Christmas Day of the previous Chair Jim Parke and summarized the large contribution Jim had made for the Ramblers.

Attendance: Present: John Gordon (Vice Chair), Rosemary Williams (General Secretary), Richard Birch (Treasurer and Walks Programme Coordinator) and 45 members of the association.

1. **Apologies for absence.**) Jane Foster (OX) Pat Lonergan (Website) Callie Rose (HO) Linda King (TW), Mary Gough (B&K) Ian Macpherson (WW) Michael Bloom, Patrick Rosum, Jan Knight & Joan Wyatt (Vale)

2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous 2022 AGM**.
Proposed by Steve Walde, **Seconded** by. Wendy Mannix The minutes were **APPROVED**

3. **To consider matters arising from the minutes.** **Point 12:** John summarized the discussion in the previous AGM regarding the future of the walk's Programme. This resulted in groups receiving the monthly walks via Email. Those not on email, and who had "opted in", would receive hard copies of the walks and details of the AGM.

4. **To receive the Annual Report:** The annual report contained reports by the following officers

4.1. **Chair: REPORT APPROVED**
4.2. **General Secretary: REPORT APPROVED**
4.3. **Footpath Secretary: REPORT APPROVED**
4.4. **Membership Secretary:** Numbers have improved albeit slowly **REPORT APPROVED**
4.5. **PPW Coordinator: REPORT APPROVED**
4.6. **Publicity Officer: no person in post**
4.7. **Walks Programme Coordinator:** Richard mentioned a recent survey on Walks Manager being carried out by Staffordshire Area. So far more than 100 groups have responded. The survey asked which functions Groups considered to be essential before Walks Manager could go live.
Top of the list (~66% of respondents) was for Groups to be able to create new Walk Leaders on the database, closely followed by Groups being able to edit contact details and permissions. Groups believe that at present the system will not allow Groups to edit Walk Leaders details and will require the Walk Leaders themselves to make the changes. Most Groups consider this to be unworkable. The perception is that the development team is not listening to the requirements of the users. Richard asked what the Board of Trustees could do to influence the development team. Helen Tranter agreed to feed back the views to the Board of Trustees. **REPORT APPROVED**
4.8. **Website Officer: REPORT APPROVED**
4.9. **Walking Environment and Access Officer: REPORT APPROVED**

4.10. **Group Reports: ALL REPORTS APPROVED**
Proposed Terry Pollard **seconded** Alie Hagedoorn **nem com**

5. Treasurer's report: To receive and approve the accounts for the year to 30 September 2022.
Richard stated that Dave Cavanagh acted as an independent examiner due to the illness of Stuart Kenner. Stuart is willing to inspect them next year.
During the presentation the following was queried

- Q Why are the values listed on the slide different to those given in the Accounts handout?
  - **A** Values are given on the slide for specific items. For the Ramblers accounts these items are summed together into different categories specified by Ramblers. eg the South East Walker is included in the Newsletters/Publicity category along with advertising and attendance at shows.
- Q How is South East Walker paid for?
  - **A** South East Walker is correlated by Ramblers Surrey Area. The printing/mailing costs are divided amongst all Areas contributing based on numbers of member addresses.
- Q Was the Ramblers funding of £4129 all we asked for?
  - **A** We originally asked for about £8k but this included the cost of producing the Walks Booklet. After the Area Council decided that we would cease producing the Walks Booklet we cancelled the final two quarterly payments.
- Q Was there any funding for the Wellbeing Walks?
  - **A** Funding for Wellbeing Walks does not pass through Oxfordshire Ramblers accounts.

Treasurer's report APPROVED Proposed Steve Walde **Seconded** David Baker **nem con**

6. To elect the officers of the Area Council:
6.1. **President**: Professor Sir Muir Gray: **Proposed** by John Gordon **Seconded** by Terry Pollard **elected** nem con
6.2. **The following officers were proposed by** Audrey Parsons **seconded by** Elaine Steane **and elected** nem con

Chair Richard Birch**; General Secretary** Rosemary Williams**; Treasurer** Dawn Pezzella; **Footpaths Secretary** David Godfrey; **Website Officer** Pat Lonergan**; Walks Coordinator** Richard Birch; **Membership Officer** Wendy Mannix**; Walking Environment & Access Officer** Terry Pollard; **Members' Representatives (without portfolio);** Steve Walde.

It was noted that the following positions of **Publicity Officer,** and a **Membership Representative** are vacant.
6.3. **Delegates to General Council (2):** Richard Birch , Russell Thompson
Proposed by Wendy Mannix **Seconded** Terry Pollard **Approved** nem com
6.4. **Group Representatives on Area Council**: These persons have been nominated at their own AGMs:
Banbury & North Oxford, Steve Cox: **Bicester & Kidlington**, Russell Thompson: **Blitz & Klean**, Ian Baldwin: **Didcot & Wallingford**, David Baker: **Henley & Goring,** Alie Hagedoorn: **Hike Oxfordshire**, Matthew Hutton: **Oxford**, Jane Foster; **Oxon Weekend Walkers**, Nicola Copeman: **Thame & Wheatley**, Mike Smith: **Vale of White Horse**, John Gordon: **West Oxfordshire**, Rosemary Clegg:
At the previous Area meeting David Tole had been coopted as PPW Co-ordinator
Proposed Richard Birch by **Seconded** by Steve Walde **Approved** nem com

7. To appoint an Independent Examiner: Stuart Kenner **Proposed** by Richard Birch **Seconded** by Steve Walde **Approved** nem com

8. To consider motions: notice of which have been given in writing to the General Secretary in accordance with Rule 12vi of the constitution. **No motion had been received.**

9. To consider proposals, which have been sent in advance of the meeting: none were received

10. To conduct any other permissible business: there was none

11.A few words by the new Chair. Richard thanked members for electing him as Chair. He gave a brief history of his background in Ramblers - 10 years on the Oxfordshire Area Council as Area Walks Co-ordinator and 7 years as Area Treasurer.

Richard thanked the Vale of White Horse Group for hosting the AGM; Bob Evans for a very informative walk around Boar's Hill in the morning; and to all those providing the refreshments. Richard gave particular thanks to John Gordon, our Vice Chair, for stepping in and leading the AGM.
Richard said that Jim Parke had left Oxfordshire Ramblers in a strong position and his aim was to maintain that success. Finally, he thanked all members present for attending to the AGM.

12.AOB: Alie has a number of flasks to be distributed to groups.
The meeting closed at 15.20

Signed ………………………………………. Date………………………………………