



RAMBLERS

Oxfordshire

Ramblers' Association, Oxfordshire Area
Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting
13.30 hours
25 January 2025

The Chair introduced the guest speaker Clive Sanders, Ramblers Chief Commercial Officer, who gave a short talk which was followed by a Q&A session.

Clive informed us that 37% of Ramblers' income comes from membership, which currently stands at a six-year high of 103,000 members. The rest of their income is from fundraising, donations, and lottery funding. Their goal is to promote walking in low-income areas, enhance their digital capabilities, and grow membership to strengthen their campaigns.

The Q&A session covered the following topics:

Walk Magazine – Clive stated that Walk Magazine is now produced digitally once a year on a trial basis, with mixed reviews. Due to the rise in membership and the associated costs of distributing the magazine four times a year by post, it has been decided that making Walk Magazine available online and in digital format (once a year) will allow it to reach a significantly larger audience.

Help Desk – Clive noted that since removing Assemble, there have been IT system issues affecting the Help Desk. Members can now email Zendesk for more efficient assistance.

IT – Future plans for the Walks Manager include developing the programme and enhancing its usage.

Unallocated members – He noted that the rise in unallocated members was partly due to a computer glitch. Ramblers will survey these members to understand their choice. The central membership team informs them of group benefits.

The Chair thanked Clive for his talk and welcomed everyone to the 47th Oxfordshire Ramblers AGM.

Attendance: Present: Sir Muir Gray (Oxfordshire Ramblers President), Richard Birch (Chair & Walks Programme Coordinator), John Gordon (Vice Chair) Rosemary Williams (General Secretary), Dawn Pezzella (Treasurer), and 46 members of the Association.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jane Foster (OX), Ruth Cornish (T&W)
2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM**
Proposed by Pat Lonergan, **Seconded** by Steve Walde The minutes were **APPROVED** nem con.
3. **To consider matters arising from the minutes** – there were none.
4. **To receive the Annual Report:**
The Chair noted that the full Annual Report, including reports from each of the Groups, was available on the Oxfordshire Ramblers website. The Chair gave a powerpoint presentation giving an overview of the work of Oxfordshire Ramblers over the past year.
5. **To receive the Treasurer's Report:**
The Chair presented the annual accounts for the year ending 30 September 2024. There were no questions.

Minutes AGM 25/1/25

The Annual Report (including the Treasurer's Report)

Proposed by John Gordon **Seconded** by Pat Lonergan were **APPROVED** nem con

6. To elect the officers of the Area Council:

Before the election, Sir Muir Gray discussed a Hertfordshire trial offering "walking prescriptions" to some patients, encouraging outdoor activity instead of drugs, to reduce dependency and side effects.

6.1. **President:** Professor Sir Muir Gray: **Proposed** by Steve Walde **Seconded** by Elaine Steane **elected** nem con

6.2. **Officers:**

The Chair thanked members of Area Council during the past year, who were not seeking re-election.

The following officers were **Proposed** by David Baker **Seconded** by Steve Cox and **elected** nem con:

Chair Richard Birch; **Vice Chair:** John Gordon; **General Secretary** Rosemary Williams; **Treasurer** Dawn Pezzella; **Website Officer** Pat Lonergan; **Walks Coordinator** Richard Birch; **Membership Secretary** Pat Lonergan; **Members' Representative (without portfolio)** Steve Walde.

It was noted that the positions of **Footpath Secretary**, **Publicity Officer**, **Walking Environment & Access Officer** and a second **Members' Representative** are vacant.

David Tole, Parish Path Warden Network Co-ordinator, is co-opted to the Area Council.

6.3. **Delegates to General Council (2):** Dave Cavanagh (VoWH), Catherine Ewart (H&G) **Proposed** by Alie Hagedoorn **Seconded** by John Gordon **Approved** nem com

6.4. **Group Representatives on Area Council:** These members have been nominated at their own AGMs:

Banbury & North Oxfordshire, Steve Cox; **Bicester & Kidlington**, Russell Thompson;
Didcot & Wallingford, David Baker; **Henley & Goring**, Alie Hagedoorn; **Hike Oxfordshire**, David Homer;
Oxford, Jane Foster; **Oxon Weekend Walkers**, Jane Pearson; **Thame & Wheatley**, Ruth Cornish;
Vale of White Horse, John Gordon; **West Oxfordshire**, Rosemary Clegg.

Proposed by Rosemary Williams **Seconded** by Steve Walde **Accepted** nem com

7. **To appoint an Independent Examiner:** Stuart Kenner **Proposed** by Dawn Pezzella **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 motions had been received.

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

10. **AOB:** There was no other business

11. **Closing Remarks:** Richard thanked Clive Sanders from Ramblers Central office, Oxon Weekend Walkers Group for hosting the AGM, and to Nicola for leading the walk in the morning; and all those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 14:46

Signed

Date.....