

## **Ramblers Association - North Hampshire Downs Group**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the AGM held on 17th October 2016 in Christ Church, Chineham

#### **Attendees:**

Committee (2015): Maurice Ward, Pauline Davis, Tony Baker, Sarah Smith, Fleur Piercy, Jonathan Tinkler

Members: John Davis, Glynis Baker, Barbara Jones, David Ellrich, Diane Ellrich, Ken Phipard-Shears, Stuart Shurlock, , Lynn Steanson, Gerry Steanson, Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Eve O'Shaughnessy, Richard Keast, Elspeth Lee, Margaret Thair, Stephen Thair, Ryland Lee, Tony Chuter, Nick Waring, Richard Bedford

1. Maurice welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the 2016 AGM. He proposed that although all the reports had been circulated by email that each committee member would give a brief overview.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Steve & Avril Hudson, Mabel Chuter, Sue & Richard Stedham, Mike & Maureen Fairbanks, Marion Sharp, Viv Phipard-Shears, Sue & Ed Juon, Trevor Woodget, Paul Cluett, Sheila Hindshaw, Sue Davies.

3. The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Richard Keast and seconded by Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

4. Brief overview of reports:

#### **Secretary** - Pauline Davis

- The Hampshire Rambler has not been printed on two occasions this year due to lack of articles. The meeting seemed ambivalent as to whether it should continue to be printed or not in the future. Pauline to update David Nixon on our thoughts.
- Our Committee now meets three times a year and at the AGM.

#### **Treasurer** - Tony Baker

- We have £558.08 in the bank as of 30/09/2016 - the money is always spent wisely.
- Our current auditor Alistair Jones does not wish to continue so we need to find a replacement.
- The NHDG committee has decided to keep the Group Full Basic Allocation for 2016/17.

John Davis asked how much money we get back from each member. This is thought to be £100 plus £1 per member.

### **Membership Secretary** - Sarah Smith

- Membership in October 2015 was 258 and has now dropped to 249 ( some changed groups, some infirm, some deceased and some lapsed)
- Lapsed members always get a reminder letter and a few return.
- Probably between 60 & 70 of the membership walk regularly.

### **Footpaths & Access Secretary** - Jonathan Tinkler

- Path Patrol Volunteers continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month working with Hampshire County Council Countryside Team.
- HCC rights of way team has employed three Community Engagement Rangers whose role is to engage with the community and promote voluntary work. We work with Emma Broadbent.
- Quite a lot of our work has been in the Hannington / Kingsclere area, working with one of the Parish Councillors, Jan Hertz. HCC has recently produced a video for the benefit of Parish Councils, spotlighting good examples of working with HCC. On this video Jan talks about the work in Hannington, crediting the Ramblers, and there are pictures of some of us working. The video is intended to go out to all Parish Councils in Hampshire. It is currently embargoed, but will be available later.
- There are still some vacancies for Parish Footpath Representatives: Ecchinswell, East Woodhay, Tunworth, Winslade, Old Basing, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Upton Grey, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick, Mapledurwell and Up Nately

There is some duplication where an area is covered by both a PFR and the Parish Council e.g. Silchester

### **Walking Environment Officer** - Maurice Ward

- Maurice is standing down and felt that it was not necessarily a position worth continuing (Stuart Shurlock felt it was important) Pauline will email the membership to see if anyone is interested to take this position on.
- Some planning applications are relevant to the Ramblers (wind turbines, solar panels, bio digester plants) but generally in Basingstoke there is no impact on Rights of Way

### **Walk Co-ordinator** - Fleur Piercy

- So far this year we have completed 88 walks covering 625.5 miles with twenty eight different walk leaders - only three days without a walk.
- Walk Leader Trophy will be awarded at the Christmas lunch (Edi & Fleur in the lead at present).
- Walks with the Woking Ramblers to check a pre-1995 publication of thirteen circular walks have been very enjoyable and successful - more are to be completed and these are on the calendar.

- Next summer we hope to put in some reasonably fast evening walks - 6 miles in 2 hours.
- We aim to participate in a sponsored marathon canal walk - more details to follow.

**Social Secretaries** - Mike & Maureen Fairbanks

- Members have enjoyed a very successful and enjoyable programme this year, including:
  - Christmas lunch,
  - Boys lunches 1st Thursday every three months,
  - Four nights Minehead trip (very successful),
  - Girls' walk and tea,
  - Grand Picnic
- Still to come :
  - Ladies Lunch - Fri Nov 4th at the Chineham Arms and
  - Christmas Lunch at the Hampshire Court Hotel on Sunday Dec 11th.

**Publicity & Web Officer** - Marion Sharp

- There is now a Facebook page - please add photos etc
- All calendar information has been transferred to a new site CalendarNHD

**Chairman's Report** - Maurice Ward

- There has been a great variety of walks
- We still need to source some labels for gates - Ken suggested aluminium stamping as a cheaper option to engraving. Maurice will contact the West Berks Group and do some research into this.
- Maurice appealed to everyone to give Barbara articles for the magazine as she has still got spare capacity.

5. The accounts were approved by Tony Chuter and seconded by Stephen Thair

6. Any suggestions for an auditor please contact Tony Baker

7. Re-election of Officers

The committee was re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Tony Chuter and seconded by Ken Phipard-Shears. All accepted.

**Officers for 2016-2017**

**Chairman:** Maurice Ward.

**Secretary:** Pauline Davis.

**Treasurer:** Tony Baker.

**Membership Secretary:** Sarah Smith.

**Footpaths and Access Officer**

**Social Secretary:** Mike & Maureen Fairbanks.

**Walking Environment Officer:** Position vacant

**Publicity & Web Officer:** Marion Sharp.

**Walks Co-ordinator:** Fleur Piercy.

**8. Any Other Business**

Stephen Thair thanked all the walk leaders for the interesting and varied walks that have been entered.

**9.** The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

**10.** Refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. (thanks to Glynis & Tony for organising this)

**11.** Ryland Lee gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Items were on sale at the end of the evening in support of the Air Ambulance and the NHDG made a donation to the charity'.

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