

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

### **Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the AGM held on 26th October 2017 in Christ Church, Chineham

#### **Attendees:**

Committee (2016): Maurice Ward, Pauline Davis, Tony Baker, Sarah Smith, Fleur Piercy, Jonathan Tinkler, Stuart Shurlock, Mike Fairbanks

Members: Margaret Thair, Stephen Thair, Sue Juon, Ed Juon, Maureen Fairbanks, Glynis Baker, Viv Phipard-Shears, Stuart Hawkins, John Evemy, Paul Taylor, Tony Chuter, Mabel Chuter, Barbara Jones, Jenny Ridgley, Nick Waring, Peri Waldron, David Ellrich, Diane Ellrich, Ken Phipard-Shears, Lynn Steanson, Gerry Steanson,

1. Maurice welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the 2017 AGM. He thanked everyone for their support and interest when he was unwell recently.

2. Apologies for absence were received from John Davis, Marion Sharp, Steve & Avril Hudson, Cath & Colin Hunsley, Val Parker, Sue Davies, Barry Taylor, Pat Booth, Peter Hayes, Richard Keast,

3. The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Tony Chuter and seconded by Paul Taylor.

4. Brief overview of reports:

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

- the Hampshire Rambler is unlikely to be published again. The group are happy for Area newsletters to be emailed to Pauline for onward transmission to the group (only items of interest or relevance)
- NHDG is to host the Area AGM on Saturday 10th Feb 2018 at Kempshott Village Hall. It is booked from 10am until 5pm. A walk at 10.15 of 6+ miles will be followed by lunch (self catering) and teas and coffees (provided by NHDG) and then the meeting to start at 2pm. Closer to the time the committee will ask for support from the group.
- The 'newsletter' on the website has been changed to 'Members Contributions'; all contributions to be sent directly to Marion Sharp

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

- We have £609.15 in the bank as of 30/09/2017
- The NHDG committee have decided to keep the Group Full Basic Allocation for 2017/18
- Expenditure included, Air Ambulance contribution, Christchurch Hall hire + refreshments, Vyne school for committee meetings, OS maps annual cost, Deposit on Kempshott Village hall, Longparish Hall for picnic, Bourton on the Water coach trip
- Group are in a healthy position financially

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

- Membership in October 2016 was 250 and has now increased to 256 (many groups are losing members )

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

- Path Patrol Volunteers continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month working with Emma Broadbent from the Hampshire County Council Countryside Team.
- Since the last report a lot has been achieved re putting in kissing gates, replacing / building sleeper bridges and vegetation clearance. A special thanks to Sheila Hindshaw who has done a lot of work for the group but is now moving to Edinburgh.
- The Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) survey was completed by Stuart and Jonathan. These are the responsibility of the County Council, but in Hampshire the Ramblers do it for them.
- There are still some vacancies for Parish Footpath Representatives: Ecchinswell, East Woodhay, Monk Sherborne, Tunworth, Winslade, Wootton St Lawrence, Old Basing, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Upton Grey, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick, Mapledurwell and Up Nately, Highclere, Burghclere, Laverstoke, and Newtown.
- The checking of problem reports on the HCC rights of way system is just about sorted
- Labels for gates have been bought.
- A powered hedge trimmer and brush cutter would be useful - some of the cost will be met by HCC under the small grants scheme (including training)
- Brenda Parker temporarily disappeared off the OS map, but has been re-instated on OS maps application but not fully complete on the OS map finder.

### **Social Secretary** - Mike Fairbanks

- Maureen stood down and the responsibilities are now shared between a variety of members (as per Mike's report)
- Next year's summer walking break may be in Lincolnshire
- Christmas lunch - organised by Fleur & Sue L is the next big event

### **Walking Environment Officer** - Stuart Shurlock

- Took over in December
- 46 planning applications, mostly small developments
- 3 cases where objections on behalf of the Ramblers have been raised:

Sherfield on Loddon (housing development - application withdrawn)

Sherfield School (all weather sports pitch- backed by HCCS)

Old Basing (housing development - land owned by HCC so probably will go through

**Publicity & Web Officer** - Marion Sharp

- Facebook page is well used
- Picture Gallery on the website is not used so much as a consequence of Facebook - please send photos to Marion

**Walk Co-ordinator** - Fleur Piercy

- So far this year we have completed 96 walks covering 693 miles with 30 different walk leaders - an increase in all areas on last year
- Walk leader trophy to be awarded at the Christmas lunch category to be announced at Christmas lunch
- Tony Stoney has already put in 17 walks
- Basingstoke Canal publication on sale
- Completed 6 evening walks
- 1000 mile challenge - hopefully achieve this next year
- Maurice commented on Fleur doing a brilliant job as usual

**Chairman's Report** - Maurice Ward

- A big thank you to everyone for supporting him as Chair
- Requested offers to take over but as no one was forthcoming Maurice is happy to continue for the moment and an extraordinary AGM would be held during the year if a candidate comes forward
- Thank you to Maureen for all her hard work
- Thank you to Stuart and Jonathan who are rarely seen but do a lot of hard work

5. The accounts were approved by Maurice Ward and seconded by Pauline Davis

6. The committee was re-elected en bloc (Maurice Ward accepted to stay on as Chairman)

Proposed by Barbara Jones and seconded by Stephen Thair. All accepted.

**Chair:** Maurice Ward.

**Secretary:** Pauline Davis.

**Treasurer:** Tony Baker.

**Membership Secretary:** Sarah Smith.

**Footpaths and Access Officer:** Jonathan Tinkler

**Social Secretary:** Mike Fairbanks.

**Walking Environment Officer:** Stuart Shurlock

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

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

**7. Any Other Business**

- Maurice proposed that we have a vice chair (committee to discuss)
- Barbara thanked Maurice for the great job he has done
- John Every wondered if there was spare money for social events (committee to discuss)
- Maurice Ward reminded us that we are a charity and not a social group

**8.** The meeting closed at 8pm.

**9.** Refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. (thanks to Glynis for organising)

**10.** Stephen Thair gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the Aspects of Papua New Guinea.