

Annual General Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Group Ramblers' Association
held at 10.30am on 5th November 2022 at Southgate Community Centre.

Attendance 56

1. Welcome:- Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence:- Some apologies have been received and listed..
3. Minutes of AGM 6th November 2021:- Were agreed and signed. Proposed by Dave Curtis seconded by Tony Rowe.
4. Matters Arising:- None
5. Acting Chairman's Annual report:-

Dave paid tribute to Julia for her work as Programme Secretary, encouraging ramblers to become walks leaders and stated that walking brings health benefits. Dave also said there has to be structures in place for the group to operate. Dave mentioned the risk assessment form, walk leaders should not be concerned by it, it is quite easy to complete and is a requirement. Dave thanked all walks leaders. Committee Meetings, we had five during the year. Topics discussed include, footpaths, membership, finance, walks programme, social events, communications and AGM planning. Communications with Members, 3 updates (newsletters) this year, 371 via Mailchimp and 41 by post also 6 about cancelled walks and 4 advisory messages. Social Events, Pancake Day walk 2023 booked, Flexi Break 2023 requires an organiser, Southwold coach Trip 2022 fully booked, Long Distance walk was being planned for next year. The Social Secretaries are retiring, require someone to come forward if more events are to take place. Rosie spoke about the April Breaks over the years. The delayed Isle of Wight trip was successful, next year Llandrinod Wells one twin/double room now available. Planning for Minehead and Exmoor in 2024, 8-12th April. Rosie paid tribute to Richard and Shirley for their work on past April Breaks, these had tended to alternate between coast and inland. Suffolk Area Committee Meetings, Jenny Bradin is Bury's representative, next Area AGM is in February 2023 at Stowmarket, last year only 19 attended via zoom. There are vacancies on the Area Committee including, Technical officer, Deputy Chair and Chair, only 2 meetings held this year. Topics discussed include, footpath maintenance, coastal access, membership, finance, campaigns, and publicity. Central Office, new website and brand were launched in Spring but not yet fully completed. The replacement of GWEM (group walks & event manager) is still under development. General Council is on 1st April 2023, candidates are appointed by Area Committee.

6. Membership report:-

Chris Flood, Membership, is 384 1 less than last year includes 14 affiliates 46 joined and 47 left. Chris talked about the Insight Hub which holds Membership information. The Facebook group has 155 members and 136 are actively engaged. Members put photos on from walks, most frequent contributors, Cath, Rosalind and Mike. Bury were 9th highest in the country for number of walks on programme from July to September and 3rd in October amongst groups that use the Ramblers App. Insight Hub can give names of top walkers in the year for number of walks walked and on what days. Three members had died during the year, Murray Rae, John Gateshill and Graeme Gosling. Dawn led a memory walk for Graeme, we hope to do more in the future, some photos of them were shown. Rosie mentioned Murray and John and the walks they led in the past. Mailings, the majority of the group are now signed up for Mailchimp updates and now only 41 need to be printed and posted.

7. Treasurer's Annual Report:-

Richard presented on screen charts of financial accounts up to 30th September 2022. Both accounts were agreed and signed by Paul Harrison, Accounts Examiner. Main Account, Income, Central Office allocation £200, Donations £28.55, The Walking Partnership £60 with the last 3 years total of £340 has been ringfenced and could go towards a St Edmunds Way finish point / information in Brandon. Total income £288.55. Expenses, Postage £127.92, Hi-Viz jackets £16.85, AGM £83.40, zoom meeting £14.39, Bank charges £0.50. Total expenses £243.06. Bank balance £732.40. Social Account, 3 events, Pancake Day 47 ramblers £454 money in money out. Southwold Coach Trip including Coast to Cloisters walkers, 50 ramblers surplus £50, Bunbury Arms cancelled £502.50 refunded. Other expenses £90.80. Isle of Wight April Break 58 ramblers income £24,560.00, expenses £24,520.01 surplus £39.99. Events surplus £89.99. net minus £0.81. Mid Wales April Break 2023 income £2,800, Expenses £256.04. Bank balance £3,983.86, committed funds £2,543.96 working balance £1,439.90, surplus at that level no longer required with new April Break booking system. Proposed by Rosie Perham seconded Cath Anderson.

8. Group Footpath Secretary's Report:-

Jenny gave detailed on screen report of outstanding footpath issues for Footpath area 1A including, planning application for 1,375 dwellings north of Bury, pedestrian bridge at Cattishall junction, Mallards bridge Mildenhall now completed, Great Barton FP 21 widened still a cul-de-sac, Ingham FP2 now cut, diversion of Wortham FP21/22, Hinderclay FP17, Hepworth FPs 10/11, All Saints Hotel & Golf Club FP issues, Ixworth Abbey bridge, Ampton Water bridge closure, Pakenham FPs 21 and Great Barton FP22 problems, Solar Farm planning applications.

Lynne gave detailed on screen report of outstanding footpath issues for Footpath area 2B including, Rushbrooke FP4, Hessett FP5, Denham FP10 and Dalham FP18, Hawstead FP1. Lynne also spoke about the new West Suffolk Hospital and plans for staged demolishing of the WSH old buildings. Gypsy Lane will be used for building site access. Lynne also mentioned a new Water Pipeline which will run through Bury's area to Essex, it will affect 69 paths and 10 walking groups. Lynne has requested that local Ramblers Groups have advanced notice.

Full reports from both Footpath Secretaries will be published on the web site.

9. Elections / Appointments (slight change of order):-

- a. Appointment of Area Council Representatives:- Jenny Bradin has agreed to stand again, proposed by Chris Flood and seconded by Gavin Monk.
- b. Appointment of Accounts Examiner:- Paul Harrison has agreed to continue. Proposed by Carole Cannell seconded by Ralph Brighton.
- c. Election of Officers and Committee:- No nominations received for Social Secretary. The other remaining committee members were voted on en bloc, Lynne Bambury, Chris Flood, Julia Bradbury, Jenny Bradin, proposed by Elizabeth Spalding seconded by Paul Harrison. Nominations for new members were all proposed and seconded before the meeting and were voted on separately, Tony Rowe Minutes Secretary, Sue Hawthorn Communications Secretary, Mark Broughton Group Treasurer and Val Conaboy as Chair.
- d. Val said a few words as new Chair. She encouraged members to keep walking and said there was a new committee with new ideas with the first committee meeting on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Chris Flood acknowledged the work put in by Jenny and Lynne as Footpath Secretaries. Ron thanked Dave Hodgkinson for his work this last year as Acting Chair and over many previous years. Jenny Bradin thanked Chris Flood for all the work she has put in and Dave Bennett thanked all the committee.

10. Any Other Business:- Rosie mentioned there are Lark Valley books available and also John Andrews St Edmunds Way walk guide books available for a £2 donation.

11/12. Lynne thanked Sue Huxtable and Elizabeth Spalding for all they had done as Social Secretaries and presented them each with card and gift. Rosie spoke about Richard and Shirley and their contribution to the committee over many years, some photos were shown. Rosie then spoke about Dave Hodgkinson for his contribution to the committee over many years and who was retiring as the longest serving member of the committee, some photos were shown. Lynne thanked Richard and Shirley Stammers for all they had done as Treasurer and Minutes Secretary and presented them each with card a gift. Lynne thanked Dave Hodgkinson for all he had done as Web Site Manager and as Acting Chair this last year and gave him a card and gift.

Meeting closed 13.05pm