

AVON AREA AGM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2009

In the Hall of Redland Church, Bristol

Hosted by Bristol Group

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the AGM and thanked the Bristol Group who had provided the refreshments.

Present:

Peter Gould, President	Sylvia Popham, Vice President
Peter Mills, Vice President	Jill Fysh, Secretary
David Waterstone, Chairman	Adrian Noyes, Treasurer
Maureen Johnson, Information Officer	Bob Hall, Countryside Officer
Marietta Starbuck, Membership Secretary	Ken Mill, Severnside Group
Ron Phelps, Access Officer	Julie Boston, Bristol Group
Mary Cross, Bristol Group	Margaret Ruse, Bristol Group
David West, Severnside Group	Silvi Garret, Severnside Group
Audrey Harman, Bristol Group	Chris Sanders, Bristol Group
Madeleine Pingstone, Bristol Group	Glenda Hewertson, Severnside Group
David Pingstone, Bristol Group	Tom Ellson, Brunel Group

1. Apologies: Jean Aellen, Severnside Group, John Lewis, Severnside Group. Jennie Aspinall, Severnside Group.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 9 February 2008
Accuracy - Julie Boston should not have been listed as Press Officer.

3. Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

4. Reports:
Access Officer – JLAF is now on website.
General Council – Motion 8, Footpaths – Last paragraph was lost.
B&NES – New footpath on Lansdown up from Chelscombe Farm is open.
Countryside matters – Team to be created.
Press & Publicity – Bob Hall lives in Thornbury, needs someone who lives in Bristol.

4. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts: This Adoption was passed by the Meeting.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Geoff Harman was proposed by Jill Fysh and seconded by Sylvia Popham.

6. Election of Officers
Peter Gould was proposed as President by Margaret Ruse and seconded by Ken Mill and was duly elected.
Vice-Presidents: Peter Mills, Sylvia Popham and Kathleen Bullen were proposed by Jill Fysh and seconded by Ron Phelps and were duly elected.
Chairman: David Waterstone was proposed by Sylvia Popham and seconded by Maureen Johnson and was duly elected.
Secretary: Jill Fysh was proposed by Julie Boston and seconded by Silvi Garrett and was duly elected.
Treasurer: Adrian Noyes was proposed by Chris Sanders and seconded by Julie Boston and was duly elected.
Membership Secretary: Marietta Starbuck was proposed by Julie Boston and seconded by Mary Cross and was duly elected.
Footpath Secretaries: Peter Gould (Bristol) was proposed by Ron Phelps and seconded by David Waterstone and was duly elected. David Waterstone (B&NES) was proposed by Peter Mills and seconded by Margaret Ruse and was duly elected.
Access Officer: Ron Phelps was proposed by Bob Hall and seconded by Peter Mills and was duly elected.
Countryside Team: David Waterstone, Bob Hall and Susan Carter were proposed by Jill Fysh and seconded by Sylvia Popham and were duly elected.
Press officer: Vacancy
Minutes Secretary: Marietta Starbuck was proposed by Maureen Johnson and seconded by Sylvia Popham and was duly elected.
Information Officer: Maureen Johnson was proposed by Margaret Ruse and seconded by Jill Fysh and was duly elected.
Webmaster: Ken Mill was proposed by Silvi Garrett and seconded by Julie Boston and was duly elected.

6a Election of Representatives of Individual Members who bring to Area Council any matters brought up by members not on Committee. Up to 6 members can stand. Alan Duckett was proposed by Jill Fysh and seconded by Ron Phelps and was duly elected.

6b Election of Delegates to General Council 2009, 3rd/4th April: Peter Gould and Jill Fysh were elected to attend.

7. Any Other Business

- (i) Jill Fysh pointed out that "Get Walking Day" is on Saturday 30 May. Urban walks are suggested. Maureen Johnson will publicise these walks.
- (ii) Moyra Evans said that phone numbers for leaders are needed for Severnside Saunters and Wessex Wanderers.

- (iii) Area Walks Festival: Peter Gould said that Bristol Group will co-ordinate this, to advertise in Walk Magazine next September. Then in 2010 to celebrate 75 years of Ramblers Association.
- (iv) Julie Boston said that the new display boards are good.

Next Area AGM will be on 6 February 2010 in Warmley Community Centre – Kingswood Group to host.

The Chairman introduced the Speaker, Paul Butler from Central Office, London, where he is involved in Finance, Operations and IT. He has been at Ramblers since April 2008.

He spoke about working with volunteers, working closely with CEO Tom Franklin.

Long history since 1935. To encourage people to take a walk and enjoy the countryside.

Right to roam – to make sure that this does not lapse.

Membership is stable at 130,000 which produces £3 million, but Central Office spends £6 million and has reserves of £7 million.

It is a challenge to keep members – widening campaign, remain relevance, for public benefit.

Campaign to get people walking for health – new money for new campaigns, more urban walking.

Membership package to appeal to more people. Change in Walk Magazine, RA Walk Book – where to stay.

CRM in hands of Head of Department and 6 part-time workers. Previous data was a mess. This new database has cost a lot of money.

Questions:

- (i) Bob Hall said maps on NS Satellite are very expensive. Googleearth is in competition.
- (ii) Julie Boston said that walks should be more environmentally friendly as bus or train walks.
- (iii) Sylvia Popham said that Walk Magazine should tell us about other Areas, possibly insert sheets to tell of local news. More on web. Image of Ramblers – consultants to produce new logo, but not changing name.
- (iv) Tom Ellson spoke about Groups for under 40s, under 50s and over 60s. Target membership is under 40s –family walks and fringe activities.
- (v) Julie Boston – campaigning about speed of motorists, investigative journalists, energy of volunteers,
- (vi) Margaret Ruse – losing members, exit questionnaire.
- (vii) Bob Hall – well maintained footpath network.
- (viii) Adrian Noyes – 2000 members at Area level – lots of paperwork, suggests only one bank account at Area level. Paperwork coming out of Central Office.
- (ix) Peter Mills said that administration is 14% - will go down to 10%.

The Chairman thanked Paul Butler for his talk and for attending our AGM.

The Meeting closed at 3.45pm.