

Avon Ramblers Area AGM

1.45 pm Saturday 22 February 2020, Camerton Community Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: 24 Avon Ramblers, plus Ramblers trustee Aynsley Jardin.

1. Welcome from host group:

Kathy Thomas, Chair of Somer Valley Ramblers welcomed everyone.

2. Welcome from Area Chair:

Jeff Rowland, Area Chair welcomed everyone, and presented Kathy with flowers for the sterling job she and fellow Somer Valley members had done providing lunch and refreshments and setting up the hall. Jeff thanked Tessa and David for finding a walk route, and Tessa for leading it.

Thanks were also extended to Tessa for launching the process of Norton Radstock Ramblers changing their name to Somer Valley Ramblers and expanding their area.

Jeff thanked Joy Harrison and Kathy Thomas for their valuable work - Kathy as Area Membership Secretary and editor of Avon Area News; and Joy as Area Treasurer and Co-ordinator for Wessex Wanderers Railway Walks (with Sylvia).

Jeff said there was a lot of satisfaction and friendship to be gained from helping to run a Ramblers group, or area, and he asked members who didn't already support their group or area, to think about leading a walk, or filling a vacancy on their group committees, or on the Area Council.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Young and Sue Shewan.

4. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Approved.

5. Adoption of the Annual Report and 2018/19 Accounts

Approved.

6. Motions

There were no motions for General Council.

7. Elections to Area Council

Elected: Jeff Rowland (Chair); Joy Harrison (Treasurer); Kathy Thomas (Membership Secretary); Graham Horn (Webmaster); and Sylvia Popham (representative of individual members).

Vacant: Area Secretary and Publicity Officer.

8. Delegates at General Council (national AGM), Bristol, 4th-5th April:

Approved: Keith Weller (Bath) and Paula Cannings (Bristol).

9. Appointments:

Continuing in post:

9a. Avon Footpath Secretaries: Bill Tate (Clevedon), Brian Wilson (B&NES) and Roger Britton (Bristol).

9b. Environment and Planning representatives: Bill Tate (Clevedon), Kathy Thomas (B&NES) and Susan Carter (Bristol, and Chair of Area Environment and Planning Committee).

9c. Path Volunteers Committee Chair: Keith Weller.

New appointment:

9d. Independent Examiner: Mary Young.

Vacant:

9e. Area Footpath Secretary for South Glos; and Environment and Planning representative for South Glos.

10. Any Other Business:

Julie Boston asked if Central Office could publicise Ramblers events. Aynsley said ideally each group should have a publicity officer. Tessa mentioned using 'MeetUp' for publicity.

Action: Jeff to add 'publicity' to agenda for March Area Council meeting.

Keith Weller asked if the General Council meeting could be publicised in the local press.

Action Jeff to discuss with Central Office.

11. Talk by Aynsley Jardin:

Aynsley gave an interesting talk about the work being done in Britain by Ramblers trustees, staff and volunteers.

Keith Weller asked if the Ramblers would consider setting up a scheme on similar lines to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Action: Aynsley agreed to discuss this with Central Office.

Tessa mentioned that it would be good if Central Office could issue a recruitment presentation pack volunteers could use when giving talks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30 pm.