

Avon Ramblers Area AGM
2.00 pm Saturday 12th February 2022, on Zoom
DRAFT MINUTES

1. Attendance:

17 members: Anita Dale, Brian Wilson, Ed Lifton, Graham Horn, Heather Toyne, Jeff Rowland, John Forrest, Joy Harrison, Kathy Thomas, Keith Weller, Ken Mill, Lynda Brine, Mary Young, Sharifa Naqui, Sue Shewan, Susan Carter, and Sylvia Popham.

2. Welcome from Area Chair:

Mary Young welcomed everyone.

3. Apologies

No apologies were received.

4. 'The Forgiving Path' film

The meeting enjoyed this short film, shot in Bristol, and produced by Slow Ways.

5. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The minutes were approved without amendment.

Jeff Rowland said he hadn't heard if Central Office had discussed Keith's proposal, (made during the 2021 Area AGM), that the Ramblers 'consider setting up a scheme to assist with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme'. However, Jeff had recently asked staff for an update, and he hoped to receive a response shortly.

6. Adoption of the 2020/21 Annual Area Report and Accounts

Mary asked group reps to encourage other members of their committee to consider attending a future Area Council meeting as an observer, as that could help us find new people willing to be a group rep, or Area officer, in future.

Mary referred to various national initiatives to raise awareness of the Ramblers and encouraged groups to post walk listings catering for people who've never walked with us before. For example, if muddy conditions were expected, it would be worth encouraging new walkers to wear walking boots, or walking shoes with good grip, and maybe to bring a walking pole. Also, worth mentioning any proposed refreshment stops, so that new walkers had a prompt to bring a flask, sandwiches etc.

Mary hoped that groups would make good use of *Walks Manager*, for example by including some attractive photos in their walk listings.

Jeff said that the next Members' Newsletter would give details of the forthcoming 'Let's Walk Together' publicity campaign, and of forthcoming online 'Walk Leader Conversations' aimed at helping new walk leaders increase their walk leading skills.

Keith Weller said that he and Ken Mill would be attending a meeting with South Glos councillors, to explain what Avon Ramblers did to protect and maintain paths

There were no questions about the Annual Report and Accounts, and both documents were approved.

7. Motions for General Council

No motions had been received by the deadline of Saturday 29 January.

8. Elections to Area Council

8a. Officers (obligatory) - elected: Mary Young (Chair); Jeff Rowland (Secretary); and Joy Harrison (Treasurer).

8b. Officers (discretionary) - elected: Mary Young and Jeff Rowland (Joint Membership Secretaries); and Graham Horn (Webmaster). Publicity Officer post not filled as no one stood for that vacancy.

8c. Two representatives of individual members (discretionary) - elected: Sylvia Popham. Second post not filled, as no one stood for that vacancy.

9. Bank Account Signatories - as Treasurer, Joy continues as the main bank account signatory. The meeting approved Jeff and Sylvia as secondary signatories.

10. Election of Independent Examiner of the Annual Accounts - Carew Reynell elected.

11. Election of Delegates to the General Council (national AGM), Sat 9th April - elected: Ed Lifton (Brunel) and Laura Postlethwaite (Brunel).

12. Area Council Appointments:

The January Area Council had made the following appointments: Bill Tate (Area Footpath Secretary for Clevedon Group area); Kathy Thomas (Area Footpath Secretary for Bath and North East Somerset); Keith Weller (Avon Path Volunteers Committee Chair); and Roger Britton (Area Footpath Secretary for Bristol).

No candidates had come forward for the posts of Area Footpath Secretary for South Glos, or Avon Area Environment Protection Volunteer.

13. Central Office appointments:

Central Office had appointed Bill Tate as DLYW (Don't Lose Your Way) Coordinator for North Somerset, and Roger Britton as DLYW Coordinator for Bristol.

Vacancies for DLYW Coordinators for B&NES, and for South Glos, were being advertised on *Assemble*.

14. Any Other Business:

Mary thanked all existing Area volunteers and group reps and asked them to take back to their groups and teams that 'all volunteers are so appreciated and that we really do value what you do'. Mary hoped that current volunteers would continue for a few more years, but also encourage others to step forward, to help ensure we had some new volunteers in future.

Mary gave special thanks to Brian, who had stood down after seven years as Area Footpath Secretary for B&NES. In response, Brian thanked area and group volunteers, especially Keith, for their encouragement and support.

15. Date and venue for February 2023 Area AGM:

Date and format to be confirmed late 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.42 pm.