



Minutes of the AGM of the Isle of Wight Ramblers Area.

Arreton Community Centre Saturday 4 February 2012.

The AGM commenced at 12.00. There were 50 people present.

The meeting was chaired by the Area Council Chairman, David Howarth. David opened the meeting by thanking Mr Rodney Whittaker (Chairman of the Ramblers Trust) for attending as well as thanking all the members of the Area Council, Group Committee and Footpath Sub-Committee for their work during the year and in particular Sue Oldham who has now retired from Membership Secretary.

David gave his thanks to Joan Deacon for 44 years of work for the Ramblers on the Isle of Wight. This was followed by a presentation to Joan by Rodney Whittaker of gifts of paintings by an Island artist of Island scenes as well as a cheque subscribed to by members of the IoW Ramblers.

1. Apologies for absence – Peter Everett, Julia Rudd, Ann Parker, Mac and Linda Sheasby, David and Wendy Skelsey, Eric and Anne Gilbert, Like and Marie Slater, Brian Ould, Carol Crawford, Toni Goodley, Margaret Black, Adrian and Shirley Burns, Liz Brammall, Steve Williams, Bobby Carlin, Mike Slater
2. Minutes of the AGM of the 29 January 2011 were agreed unanimously by those present.
3. Matters arising from the minutes – none.
4. Chairman's Report.
 - 4.1 The Chairman provided a summary of events which took place during the year by the IoW Ramblers using visual aids for the audience.
 - 4.2 It showed the Wight Sole group to be expanding slowly although overall there was a reduction in members of the main group on the Island.
 - 4.3 Walks had been arranged in conjunction with the IoW Steam railway organisation resulting in donations to the IoW Ramblers indirectly from the participants.
 - 4.4 General footpath work undertaken by the Ramblers Work Party had continued successfully with the addition of signage fingers onto posts throughout the Island, new boardwalks and steps. A new footpath had been installed by the Rights of Way at Tapnell removing the need to walk along a busy road to join an adjacent footpath.
 - 4.5 Finance had been obtained through the work of John Hague to enable new boardwalks to be installed by a professional company at Alverstone and Youngwood's Copse.
 - 4.6 The Donate-a Gate scheme had continued successfully with 42 gates at present financed by benefactors, a few of which still had to be installed.
 - 4.7 Walks information had been provided on a regular basis to the County Press
 - 4.8 The IoW Ramblers Newsletter, Walk Talk, edited by Steve Williams and sponsored by WightLink and others had proven to be successful in its new format

- 4.9 The Chairman thanked Jacqueline and David Brook for assistance in putting together the loW Ramblers website and adding photographs and updating information when requested. Jacqueline prepared a slide show which ran during the lunch and tea break showing these photographs.
- 4.10 Walk and Talk events were held during the year and more are scheduled for 2012.
- 4.11 The loW Ramblers won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the MBE for charities- during 2011 and a presentation was held at Carisbrooke Castle where the award was presented by Prince Edward. Later in the year four Ramblers attended the garden party at Buckingham Palace. A special event was held for all members when the Lord Lieutenant was present.
- 4.12 The Baton walk on the 9 November was part of the countrywide Ramblers initiative to celebrate the 75th anniversary. John Hague received an award for campaigning on behalf of the Ramblers.

5. Treasurer's Report.

- 5.1 The finance obtained from our booklet sales of walks on the loW was considerably reduced due to the closure of all the Tourist Information Centres on the Island. It is hoped this reduction in sales might be offset somewhat through on-going discussions with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs regarding gift aid.
- 5.2 The Trappitt Fund has assisted in funding various projects sometimes being used as matched funding to obtain additional funding from other sources.
- 5.3 The Annual report and financial statement was accepted by the meeting, Proposed Pam Dana and seconded by John Hague.
- 5.4 Future challenges include methods to get more Ramblers members particularly when there are other organisations putting on walks in the countryside which do not always require a participant to be a member of that organisation.
- 5.5 There were a number of questions asked about how to improve the membership including 'why do people leave the Ramblers', 'why is there a misconception people cannot bring along a dog on the walk' (this resulted in a suggestion a walk is organised specifically for dog owners), 'Can we have a list of the shops on the loW which provide discounts for members of the Ramblers' (suggested a list is placed in the Walk Talk Newsletter).

6. Election of Officers.

- 6.1 The present Chairman, David Howarth, stood down for this election and Mike Marchant chaired the meeting briefly for the election of Chairman. David Howarth stated he was prepared to continue in the role of Chairman. There were no nominations from the floor so on a proposal from John Gurney-Champion, seconded by Carol Hamilton, David was elected as Chairman and continued in this position for the remainder of the meeting.
- 6.2 The following positions had just one nomination each approved en bloc by the meeting
- Vice Chairman - Mike Slater
 - Area Secretary – David Howarth
 - Treasurer – Liz Brammall
 - Newsletter Editor – Steve Williams
 - Publicity Officer – Howard Duffus
 - Area Access Officer – Mike Slater
 - Area Membership Secretary – Bobbie Carlin
 - Area Footpath Secretary – Mike Marchant

7. Election of Members of the Area Council.

- 7.1 Of the present three ordinary members of the Area Council, one member, Joan Deacon has retired and there were no nominations from the floor so this position remains vacant. John Gurney-Champion and John Hague are the remaining members who are both willing to continue.

8. Appointment of External Examiner.

8.1 Doug Kelman (Proposed Howard Duffus and seconded John Hague)

9. Appointment of members to the General Council 2011.

9.1 The Chairman asked for nominations from the floor to attend the General Council meeting in 2012 and Robert Izzard and Mike Slater agreed to attend.

10. Motions for General Council 2012.

10.1 There were no motions from the floor and none were submitted prior to the AGM.

11. Any Other Business.

11.1 Leda Miller was concerned the IoW Ramblers were not taking into consideration the number of solar panels being installed in the countryside on the IoW.

11.2 The Chairman was thanked for his hard work, assisted by colleagues, on all the many new developments over this and previous years.

12. The meeting closed at 13.15.