

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RAMBLERS TRAFFORD GROUP (RTG)

Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 19:30 hours via Zoom video conferencing.

Present:

Committee members - Richard Longbottom (Chair), Kath Thorley, Rosie Hurley, Phill Connolly, Frances Bennett, Jan Moore

Members: Malcolm Hunter, Judith Hunter, John Hurley, Alison Carey

Apologies: None received

Minutes of the AGM for the year ended 30 September 2022

Minutes from the AGM held on Monday 23 November 2022 were circulated and accepted as a true record following confirmation that reports from the Social Secretary and Publications Officer had not been received.

Chair's report for the year ended 30 September 2023

A written report was circulated. A more varied walks programme has been offered in the past year including the successful trip to The Lakes. Richard thanked Kath and Phill for organising. He acknowledged the work that Rosie had undertaken to resolve issues arising from the introduction of Walks Manager. Richard then highlighted June Mabon's contribution to RTG and in particular the recognition of the PROW on the path alongside the Bridgewater Canal in Brooklands.

Presentation of the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023

Frances spoke to her written report. The accounts have been audited and approved. Due to June's resignation as Footpath Officer, there has been very little expenditure. The year-end balance is £1681.23. As no pathway maintenance is planned, there are sufficient funds for the forthcoming year and no additional budget will be requested from Greater Manchester and Higher Peak (GMHP) Area Ramblers. Alison asked how administration costs were met. Kath explained that virtually all communication with members is now online while Malcom added that if there was need for further funding during the forthcoming year, a request can be made to the Area committee. On previous occasions these have always been granted.

Reports from Committee Officers for the year ended 30 September 2023

Each committee member summarised their written report. These are now on the RTG web site at <https://www.ramblers-trafford.co.uk/contacts/committee.html>

Walks co-ordinator Rosie re-iterated that more walk leaders would be welcome so that our programme can be developed further. Walks on Saturdays will be trialled this winter. Rosie also referred to a consultation paper regarding draft guidance for walk leaders that has recently been issued by National Ramblers. The key issues are:

- A minimum ratio of one leader to 8 walkers on leisurely and moderate walks, though this can include backmarkers or similar.
- Tightening up of 'In Case of Emergency' safeguards

- First aid kits available on all walks
- Leaders ideally to have knowledge of CPR
- Minimum standards for risk assessments
- More extensive training for leaders

Richard was confident that RTG already complies with these suggestions and Rosie felt all the new leaders have either attended face to face training or completed online modules.

The consultation is open for feedback until 28th November.

Membership secretary Kath reported membership is stable but commented on turnover which is seen principally amongst members who have joined post-Covid. The move to online communications has been completed. Only 18 members remain unaccounted for.

Secretary Jan stated the update from other GMHP Ramblers groups at Area meetings had provided useful information for developing our programme. The night of the area meetings is however going to change to Thursdays which will have a potentially negative impact on her ability to get Area meetings in future.

Publicity Officer Phill highlighted the high number of RTG followers on Facebook which now stands at 602. Five of these are international. There is no obvious reason for this. He advised the committee that there are 68 members of the Whats App Walks Group and 55 on the Social Group. All the members in the Social Group are also signed up to the Walks Group so any messages that would be relevant to the Walks Group do not need copying over. Meanwhile, merchandise has paid for the flasks used during the mince pie walks and other social activities.

Footpath co-ordinator Edgar Ernstbrunner has offered to cover the Footpath Secretary's role on an interim basis for the coming year. Richard stated that Edgar has been very effective already despite the constraints of the current situation. Phill reported that he still has valuable equipment stored in his garage and would appreciate alternative space being found. Alison suggested a storage unit and Phill thought maybe a self-storage unit. Richard thought that the equipment could be welcome to other groups in GMHP

ACTION: Richard will contact Area Ramblers suggesting that the equipment might be passed on/loaned to another group

Social secretary No report tabled

Nominations for Honorary Officers

Richard stated that he is prepared to continue as Chair but only for one more year. Phill stated that he is willing to carry on the tasks that he currently undertakes for RTG but does not wish to come to meetings. It was felt he could be an honorary committee member attending meetings only when relevant.

Chair: Richard Longbottom proposed by M. Hunter, seconded by P. Connolly

Treasurer: Frances Bennett proposed by J. Moore, seconded by R. Longbottom
Secretary: Jan Moore proposed by F. Bennett, seconded by J. Hunter

Nominations for Committee Members

Walks Co-ordinator: Rosie Hurley proposed by M. Hunter, seconded by R. Longbottom

Membership Secretary: Kath Thorley proposed by P. Connolly, seconded by F. Bennett

Social Secretary: Vicky Longbottom proposed by R. Hurley, seconded by K. Thorley

Nominations for other officers:

Footpath Officer: Edgar Ernstbrunner to continue on an interim basis.

Auditor: Malcolm Hunter proposed by F. Bennett, seconded by R. Longbottom

Appointment of representatives to the GMPF Area governing body:

Jan to attend.

Motions received : None

Any Other Business:

Phill asked if it would be possible for monies received for social events taking place during the Lakes trip be handled through the RTG account. If so, the treasurer would need to track payments raising GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) issues.

Agreed: the RTG account will be used to track monies but everyone going on the trip will be expected to sign up to The Lakes Whats App group so that Frances can keep in contact with individual members as necessary.

Kath asked that a meeting to start planning for the Lakes trip be held in the new year.

Agreed: Meeting to take place on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at Kath Thorley's commencing 7.30pm

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 8. 15pm

Chair _____ Date _____