

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers Association (Lancaster Group) held on Tuesday 20st November 2018.

Present:

27 members attended.

Apologies:

Deborah Lovett, Sue Pope, Gordon and Dorothy Phillips, Libby Hacking.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Approved.

Matters arising:

None.

Treasurer's report (David Todd):

The treasurer presented the balance sheet (attached). He reported a deficit overall, partly due to the printing on new books and donations towards improvements to bridges. He stated that if everyone claimed travel expenses for walk recces the situation would be much worse.

David thanked the independent examiner, Anne Donnelly, and Phil Wraith for help with some technical aspects of the accounts and Sheila Jones for organising the selling of books. He reminded members of the income available through the Walking Partnership (Ramblers Worldwide Holidays).

Secretary's report (David Johnson):

The secretary delivered a brief report (attached) highlighting the year's events. Joy presented a report on Lost Ways, also attached.

Footpath Secretary's report (Neil Herbert and Jean Walker):

Neil presented the Footpath Secretary's report (attached). Maureen suggested checking walks on a different day. Jean will ask participants and bring it to committee.

Chairman's report (Brian Jones):

Brian thanked the officers and members of the committee and all other members who contribute their time and experience - not naming names this year. The Group has never taken our allowance from Central Office in the past, but with the income from book sales declining, we will have to consider it. Phil Wraith (Area Treasurer) explained that the allowance would cover running expenses. He recommended that we apply for it.

We are considering ways to celebrate the Group's 50th anniversary in 2019 and welcome suggestions. An updated Group history booklet has been produced and was available at the meeting.

The English Coastal Path will hopefully open in our 50th year. We anticipate a draft route next spring.

Election of Officers:

There were no new nominations to the committee. A Group Chalet representative is needed. Jennifer Kingsley proposed that the existing officers and committee members be re-elected, seconded by Maureen Leach. This was agreed unanimously.

The meeting unanimously agreed that Anne Donnelly should be asked to continue as Independent Examiner.

AOB:

None.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm and was followed by a presentation given by Clive Shelley, Treasurer of the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. He gave an interesting insight into the work of the team, the equipment they use, the training they receive and examples of incidents they have attended.

During refreshments we were able to watch a slide show of photographs, old and new, of people and places through our Group's history.

Ramblers Association Lancaster Group
Income and Expenditure for Year ending 30th September 2018

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Sale of books	634.00		
Plus stock increase	<u>594.89</u>	Walks related	114.40
	1228.89		
Less publication costs	<u>1216.99</u>	Walks Leader Training	213.00
Profit on sale of books	11.90		
Walking Partnership	120.00	Campaign/Casework	10.00
Refunds from Area (Lost Ways)	63.00	Practical Work	1000.00
Donations	600.00	Meetings	165.95
		Fundraising costs	
		Admin	139.21
		Other	278.00
			—
		Less Expenditure over Income	<u>1125.66</u>
			<u>£794.90</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2018

Accumulated Fund as at 30.9.17	4085.50
Deficit for year	-1125.66
	<u>£2959.84</u>
	1953.05
	<u>1006.79</u>
	<u>£2959.84</u>

Audited and agreed.

9/11/18

A. Donnelly

The Ramblers, Lancaster Group, Secretary's Report to AGM 2018

Walks

The Group organised and ran twice-weekly walks throughout the year, with additional weekly evening walks in the summer months, and also some on Sunday afternoons. Having a choice of two walks on some walk days is popular with walkers but requires the continued support of leaders. Volunteers, please!

The Group walk booklets "Walks from the Limestone Link" and "Walks in the Lune Valley" have been reprinted after volunteers checked all the walks. Thanks to you all.

In the summer Gill organised a walk & lunch event, which included a lunch financed from the generous legacy left by Joan Hibberd. Look out for more events.

Events

We celebrated walks leading and leaders in January with one of our occasional "Leaders Days". This is an opportunity to thank our leaders, appraise them of changes, explore new ideas and brush up on skills. We hope this event is enjoyed and valued by leaders.

A map reading course was held in November at Quernmore and was well attended and supported. We hope participants found it useful.

The popular Group Holiday this year was to Torquay in March, with lovely walks along the coast and inland. Gill Gale and David Todd devised and led longer and shorter walks each day - some of the coastal walks were quite challenging! Other Treks were in Derbyshire and at the Ramblers Chalet at Stair. All these events were organised by Gill.

It is 50 years next year since Lancaster Group was formed, and we are planning a series of celebration walks and events, including a treasure hunt in the summer. If you have any ideas for events, please let me know. Also, Brian has updated the Group History.

Committee work

The committee has been meeting monthly throughout the year.

A number of planning applications have been reviewed throughout the year, and responses made to those which affect footpaths or our enjoyment of them.

The newsletter is published 3 times per year. I welcome any ideas or items you would like to submit for publication.

We continue to support or otherwise became involved in a number of projects, including the English Coastal Trail and the Lost Ways project.

We also contributed to the Yorkshire Dales national Park programme to improve paths on Whernside, and to the Bowland Mountain Rescue Team for upgraded support equipment.

Fisherman's Bridge, the repairs to which we contributed, was re-opened in February, and our Group was probably the first walking party to use it!

The new General Data Protection Regulations have resulted in directives and advice from Central Office, which is still being updated. Our email distribution has been updated, but our Group is in a good position because explicit permission has already been obtained in the email sign-up process.

Other

Membership has fallen slightly to 253. We do get new members but inevitably we lose others.

Sadly we lost one of the Group's founder members, Joan Hibberd, last November. Joan left the Group a legacy to be used for social events. We used some of it for the walk & lunch (see above). Look out for more in the newsletter.

I also have to report that Muriel Rigby died a few weeks ago. Muriel was a very active member of the Group until her illness in the last few years.

The email distribution system now reaches 95 members who have signed up for delivery of Walks Programmes, Newsletters etc, saving considerable time and postage costs. Please visit our web site to register for this service, or contact me.

David Johnson, Secretary, November 2018.

Email: secretary@lancasterramblers.org.uk

. Lost Ways statement for 2018 AGM

At the 2017 AGM, the 'Lost Ways Three' revealed that they were about to start the Archive part of their investigations which would involve delving into Tithe Maps, Finance Act and Inclosure records. They thought it would be slow, and they have been proved correct.

We now have many detailed maps of a fair number of the routes under investigation, but they have to be interpreted and put in an easily accessible form, similar to that used by Lancashire County Council when preparing DMMOs for the Regulatory Committee.

This is our next challenge.

The Ramblers' Association - Lancaster Group - Footpath Secretary's Report to the AGM 2018

The year 2018 has continued in the regular routine of reporting footpath issues to LCC or to the local RA footpath secretary for paths outside our area, regular footpath check walks organised by Jean and local authority and group meetings. This year (Nov'17 to Oct'18) we reported 108 problems (up from 84 last year), broken down into 84 for Lancashire, 3 from our 6 Cumbria parishes, now part of YDNP and 21 from "other" areas, Cumbria, Lancashire south of our area and North Yorkshire. In addition a further 50 issues were noted. The most common problems were as before stiles - broken, difficult or blocked; way-marking - missing, fallen or damaged, often fingerposts from a road and over/under growth. Local authority cuts and staff reduction continue to cause problems in fault clearance and clearance reporting to the RA. For Lancashire as a whole outstanding problems are now over 5000 (5180 in Jan'18, the last date that figures were produced) up from 4525 (July '17). We have received no clearance information since June 2017, the implementation of a new on-line reporting system being the stated reason. An implementation date for this is not known.

Diversion, Creation and Stopping-up Orders issued by the Authorities have continued to be monitored and commented upon as necessary, Orders are coming through at a better rate now that an additional legal person has been employed by LCC in Preston. There has been a full programme of Footpath Check Walks organised by Jean Walker. We appreciate your support on these walks and it is a good chance to walk some local paths and to practice your map reading skills. If you have any suggestions for areas to check, please contact Jean at jw281@phonecoop.coop.

The RAs most recent Pathwatch project has continued this year but in Lancashire and Cumbria the response has been poor with just 20 complaints being logged for our area of Lancashire and Cumbria for a 2 month period (Nov'17 to Oct'18). Three of these problems had been previously reported by ourselves.

Finally thanks to those who took part in the footpath check walks and those regularly reporting path issues. May it continue next year. Please report footpath issues to Neil Herbert at footpaths@lancasterramblers.org.uk