

**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers (Lancaster Group)
19:00 on Thursday 13 November 2025 at the Friends Meeting House,
Lancaster.**

1. Present: 24 members

Apologies: Catherine Corless, Cynthia Seymour, Gillian Sheath, Gordon Phillips, Janet Purvis, John Fullalove, Judy Steele, Kate Ince, Nina Brindle, Pam Gorham

2. Minutes of previous meeting – approved.

3. Matters arising

Central Ramblers provided an article about Right to Roam and PRoW

www.lancasterramblers.org.uk/information/group/agm-2024-documents.html#presentation

4. Treasurer's report (David Todd)

Ramblers booklets – as expected, sales have dropped considerably. We made a donation to the national Slow Ways initiative. We made a donation to YDNP for the work at Cautley, but this isn't included in the accounts. We get money from Walking Partnership when members book holidays with Ramble Worldwide and mention the Lancaster Group. Thanks to Anne Donnelly for auditing the accounts. Accounts accepted unanimously.

5. Secretary's report (Sue Pope)

Thanks to Jean Walker and Judy Steele for organising the walk leaders' day in March. Thanks to Sandra Todd (webmaster) and David Johnson (Technical Support) for all their support.

6. Programme Secretary's report (Judy Steele)

Thanks to Judy for all her work on the walks programme. Reminder of the mentoring scheme for aspirant walk leaders. Reminder to complete the central Ramblers training if you're a walk leader.

7. Footpath Secretary's report (Neil Herbert & Jean Walker)

When reporting problems, please don't forget to include the grid reference along with a photo and date. Huge thanks to Neil for all his work for the committee.

8. Chair's report (Brian Jones)

The AGM was informed that longstanding member, Christine Scott, sadly passed away this week.

Members were encouraged to consider joining the committee to help ensure all the things members enjoy continue. Thanks to everyone for their activity: secretary, programme, website, newsletter, social media, book sales, refreshments, planning applications, footpath activity, ease of use surveys of footpaths in South Cumbria, group holidays, publicity.

9. Election of the committee

Current members: Brian Jones, Catherine Corless, David Todd, Jean Walker, Judy Steele, Mary Garner, Neil Herbert, Sue Pope. All are willing to be re-elected except Neil Herbert. Agreed unanimously.

Thanks to Neil for all his work on the committee over the last 11 years. Neil has been footpath secretary, representing Lancaster Ramblers on various local organisations, reporting footpath concerns, supporting parish councils with path maintenance and monitoring local planning that affect footpaths. He has also kept the walk leader handbook and the walker handbook up to date.

10. Appointment of chair, treasurer and secretary

Brian Jones (chair), David Todd (treasurer), Sue Pope (secretary) are willing to be reappointed. Agreed unanimously.

11. Appointment of independent examiner – Anne Donnelly – Agreed unanimously.

12. AOB – shorter walks (Libby Hacking). The length of walks depends on what walk leaders are prepared to offer. The walk leader can have start times and start points that suit them.

AGM closed at 7:35 pm

13. Ian Saunders gave an excellent talk entitled 'The curious case of the anonymous mapmaker'.

14. Thanks to Sheila Jones for organising refreshments and to all who brought food to share.