

# Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

## Dorset Area of the Ramblers' Association

Held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the Stourpaine Village Hall

### 1 Introduction

The meeting was hosted by North Dorset Group and was opened by the Area President Laurie Fairhurst. He welcomed the members present, the guest speaker Dave Stewart and Trustee Christine Boston

### 2 Present

There were 33 persons present.

### 3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jan Wardell and Martin Hibbert

### 4 Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> AGM

These had been circulated to all present at the start of the meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Bruce Marriott and seconded by Steve Ryder They were accepted as a true record of the meeting with no objections and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

### 6 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

Laurie Fairhurst introduced the 42nd Annual Report for the Ramblers Association Dorset Area for 2015/16

The Secretary gave a brief summary of the report and added a comment about the success of the Area Picnic which had been omitted.

#### Comments and Matters Arising

The reference to the Jubilee Trail "match funding" from Dorset County Council was addressed in that efforts are being made via the Area Footpath Committee to address the problem

#### Income and Expenditure Accounts

Mike thanked the Group Treasurers for submitting their budgets and annual reports on time and the independent examiner Martin Ford-Horne.

Special mention was made to the Priscilla Houstoun Memorial Plaque on Ibberton Hill, which included a £150 donation from the East Dorset Group.

Priscilla was Secretary of Dorset Area in the 1980/90 period and author of "Walk the Wessex Ridgeway in Dorset" with royalties donated to Dorset Area.

The substantial surplus last year was because the budget for the Area Website redesign wasn't used.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Rosemary Bramah and seconded by Peter Evans. They were approved with no objections.

#### Coastal Access

Brian Panton gave a brief overview of the state of Coastal Access in Dorset advising that the Public Inquiry into the section east of Abbotsbury in November was adjourned until December as it was only half completed due to objections by the Ilchester Estate

Peter Evans commented that Ilchester Estate were spending significant sums on their objection and asked if there was an appeal process following the publication of the report. Brian advised that there wasn't an appeal procedure unless there was a legal error.

## **Presentation by Graham Stevens of North Dorset Group**

Graham Stevens gave a short introduction to North Dorset Group and advised that Stourpaine was actually at the crossroads of three long distance paths in Dorset (Stour Valley Way, Jubilee Trail and the North Dorset Trailway). He finished with the customary reading from a poem by William Barnes

### **7 Election of Members and Officers**

In accordance with the Constitution all posts are open to nomination at the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman advised that the following had advised their willingness to continue in office and asked if there were any other nominations. As there were none he asked that they be approved en bloc.

This was proposed by Bruce Marriott and Seconded by Graham Stevens and was approved without objection

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Secretary	Jim Scott
Treasurer	Mike Heckford
Area Footpath Secretary	Jan Wardell
Newsletter Editor	Douglas Pigg
Coastal Access Officer	Brian Panton
Web Master	Derek Watkinson

There were no nominations for the following

Chairman, Publicity Officer, Countryside Secretary and Individual Members (3) so these positions remain unfilled

### **8 Representative of Affiliated Clubs**

Ian Mackenzie a member of the Swanage Walking Group has agreed to continue and in the absence of any other nominations was duly appointed

### **9 Area Delegate for General Council 2017**

Jan Wardell was proposed by Kate Gocher and seconded by Brian Panton

### **10 Appointments**

Martin Forde-Horne has agreed to continue as Independent Examiner and as there were no objections or alternative proposals he was appointed.

Laurie Fairhurst agreed to continue as President and this was agreed unanimously

### **11 Talk by Dave Stewart a local archaeologist on Hod Hill**

This was a really interesting talk covering the early history of the fort from the Iron Age to the Roman Occupation showing how large sections of the site had been ploughed in recent times so making investigation of the archaeology somewhat difficult.

A comparison of the various geophysical systems - electrical resistance, electromagnetic conductivity, magnetometers, magnetic susceptibility and ground penetrating radar – all of which show various different aspects. When combined with aerial photography and limited on site excavation can give a good idea as to the history.

### **12 Votes of thanks**

Laurie Fairhurst thanked Dave for a really interesting and informative talk

### **13 Questions to the Representative of the Board of Trustees**

Question from Jan Wardell (by proxy)

How is the Stakeholder Working Group progressing with their talks with DEFRA on implementing the Deregulation Act (the act received Royal Assent of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and the relevant sections for us are 20-26 and schedule 7)

Answer – we are still having discussions on the way forward

Comment from Peter Evans re General Council with respect to the lack of time for discussing Motions

This was also supported by Mike Heckford

There were various comments with respect to declining membership and the reasons why people actually join the rambblers

**14 Vote of thanks**

The Chairman thanked the North Dorset Group for the organisation of the AGM and the refreshments.

Signed ..... Date.....