

# Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Dorset Area of the Ramblers' Association

Held via Zoom on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 2.00 pm

Due to restrictions on meetings during pandemic

## 1 Introduction

Before the official business of the meeting, a short welcome video from the Ramblers chair, Kate Ashbrook, and the interim Chief Executive, Tanya Curry was played. The meeting was then opened and chaired by the Area President Laurie Fairhurst. He welcomed the members present, the guest speaker Ronnie Forbes of the Ramblers' Board of Trustees, and guest Nicky Wilson, Ramblers' Area Support Officer for the South. He then briefly explained the conduct of the Zoom meeting.

## 2 Present

a) There were 28 persons present.

### b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rosemary Bramah, Brian Panton. David Price and a representative of Beaminster Ramblers.

## 3 Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> AGM

These had been circulated to all present, and the wider membership in advance of the meeting.

They were accepted as a true record of the meeting with no objections and were duly signed by the Acting Secretary pp the Chairman.

### a) Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

## 4 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

### a) Annual Report

Laurie Fairhurst introduced the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Report for the Ramblers Association Dorset Area for 2019/20, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He asked if any of the contributors wished to add anything to their reports and if there were any comments or matters arising. Kate Gocher, Area Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.

### b) Income and Expenditure Accounts

The accounts for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and Mike Heckford, Area Treasurer enlarged upon his Area report, by explaining the Wessex Wanderer Walks financial support.

The accounts were approved with no objections.

## 5 Election of Members and Officers

In accordance with the Constitution all posts are open to nomination at the Annual General Meeting. The following had advised their willingness to continue in office, and for which there were no other nominations.

a) Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Kate Gocher	Mike Heckford	Bruce Marriott
Treasurer	Mike Heckford	Jill Mohiki	David Northam
Footpath Secretary	Jan Wardell	Kate Gocher	David Northam
Countryside Secretary ++	Janet Davis	Sarah Moyle	Bruce Marriott
Newsletter Editor++	Doug Pigg	Kate Gocher	Mike Heckford
Webmaster ++	Derek Watkinson	Jan Wardell	Janet Davis
Individual Member	Jan Seymour	Sarah Moyle	Kate Gocher

It was proposed by Sarah Moyle and seconded by Susan Blake that the above be elected *en bloc*. All of the above were thus elected unanimously.

David Northam remains an Independent Member for a further year.

There were no nominations or volunteers for the following:

Area Secretary, Vice chairman, Publicity Officer ++, Coastal Access Officer ++, Individual Member (2), Membership Secretary ++ or Affiliated Club Representative, so these positions remain unfilled.

(++ Officers who are not necessarily required to be Members of Area Council)

*(PMN: Mike Heckford, currently acting Membership Secretary, advised that he would be willing to continue in the role of acting Membership Secretary)*

b) Area delegate for General Council 2021 – Birmingham 17<sup>th</sup> April (TBC)

David Ryder was proposed by Bruce Marriott and seconded by Kate Gocher, and carried unanimously.

## 6 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.

## 7 Constitution Amendment

A textual amendment was needed to correct referencing in the Constitution, the details of which had been circulated prior to the meeting, to replace the numbering in Clause (5.1) with 12, as follows:

*“The organisation is part of the Ramblers’ Association (a registered charity England & Wales no. 1093577, Scotland no. SC039799 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales number 4458492), being an Area as defined in Clause 12 of the Association’s Articles of Association. The name of the organisation shall be “The Ramblers’ Association, Dorset Area”. The above bodies are hereafter referred to as “the Association” and “the Area”.”*

The change was proposed by Janet Davis and seconded by Sarah Moyle, and agreed unanimously.

At this point the chairman introduced an additional speaker Susan Blake, to talk about the Jubilee Trail, in the absence of Rosemary Bramah. Sue thanked the chairman and briefly explained the history of the Jubilee Trail, and the need to secure its legacy. (A fuller report is attached as an addendum)

**8 Questions**

There being no questions the President proceeded to introduce the:

**9 Guest Speaker**

**Ronnie Forbes, Ramblers Board of Trustees, speaking from Scotland**

Ronnie conveyed his thanks for inviting him, and before proceeding with his presentation, expressed his pleasure at being asked to pass on messages from Central Office to Brian Panton, on his retirement from his volunteering roles. These were contained in a card, which would normally have been presented in person. Jan Wardell showed all present the card, which would be posted to Brian.

Ronnie then gave a brief personal résumé, before continuing to reinforce the thanks given by Kate Ashbrook and Tanya Curry in the opening video, in what has been a difficult year. Ramblers membership had initially declined, but more recently the trend had reversed, and it was on the increase.

Ronnie then spoke about three key areas which the Ramblers would be focussed on during the year:

- i. Ramblers membership and growth:
- ii. Awareness and engagement:
- iii. being Relevant and inclusive.

Ronnie addressed questions of which he had received advanced notice, the first being membership and recruitment, and he reported that amongst other things, there is a reactivation campaign to bring back lapsed members. He then took questions from the floor about membership. Ronnie then went on to address a query about the Assemble site, and Nicky Wilson reported that there will be training sessions for volunteers. Finally a question about buying in secretarial services, which was debated at length and which would be followed up with Nicky and Ramblers central office.

There were two queries from the 'floor' about issues relating to DLYW, which Jan Wardell undertook to follow up, and report back.

**10 Vote of thanks.**

The President thanked Ronnie Forbes for attending the meeting from Scotland, and providing insight into the Ramblers plans, and answers to questions raised.

**11 The meeting closed at 3.25 pm**

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