

Ipswich & District Ramblers

AGM MINUTES

30th October 2019. Tuddenham Village Hall

	Welcome
	Committee members present: Ian Gosden, Jo Mann, Rumana Zuberi, Keith Moxon, Sandra Summers, Ann Buckles, Rob Young. Other members present : 27
	Apologies: Geoff Knight. Norman Hammond. Adrian Basham. Penny Duncan. Paul Buckles.
1	Approval of last years AGM Report
	DATE: 31 st October 2018 The minutes were agreed with no comments.
2	Matters Arising / Actions completed
	No matters arising
3	Presentation of the annual report.
	Ian Gosden, Chair, presented an account of the year. Current membership is 323, five less than last year but 40 new members over the year. There have been some new member walks to encourage those that have joined to come walking with the group. Three successful social coach trips with walks, thanks to the leaders and those who did all the administration involved in these events. The holiday to Skipton was well enjoyed, thanks to organisers and walk leaders. Soup and cake walks were also enjoyed during the year. As well as the general organisation for trips and events there is also a financial element and Ian thanked Rumana for her support as treasurer in the process. 103 regular walks during the year with high attendance on most walks. With larger groups there is a need to be aware of the safety of members and not get strung out. Walks programme is looking thin for the winter months. Of the 103 walks there were 30 leaders, however although there have been some new leaders this year it is a minority that lead the majority of walks. The committee have discussed ways to encourage; buddy up with an established leader, lead a well known favourite walk, walk ideas are available through the group who will assist. Without new walk leaders the variety and number of walks will decrease. Ramblers Central Office has updated its website which has caused some issues recently, thanks to Keith for keeping our website up to date and assisting users, and to those who upload photos of walks and events. The online programme is successful, if not some members choice, and is the way forward to get walks on the programme. Speak to Keith for guidance. Ian thanked the committee for their hard work, time and support and members for joining the walks with lots of good company.
4	Presentation of Statement of Account
	Rumana Zuberi, Treasurer. Account detailed below. Accounts were available to members to view on the tables. The accounts have been signed off and sent to Area. Thanks to Pene Frost for being the independent examiner. Online banking has been successful. The group has introduced reimbursements for travel expenses to leaders for recce of walks more than 40 miles from Ipswich. Members were thanked for booking holidays through Ramblers Holidays and Suffolk Rambling Club which resulted in a donation to the group. 30th Sept 2019 balance was £598.12. Allocation from Ramblers HO has seen a downward trend, therefore small charges may be made in future for soup and cake events. This would not apply if members had kindly made food for the event.

	<u>To appoint an independent examiner for the accounts.</u> Pene Frost has agreed to examine the accounts for next year.
5	Presentation of the Footpath Sub Committee Report
	Geoff Knight, Sub committee Chair has sent a report as he was unable to be at the meeting which was available for members to read on the tables. Ian highlighted the fact that Geoff has been heavily involved with the rights of way team regarding footpath issues. Also in Network Rail and Northern bypass campaigns, reporting as necessary. Report below.
7	Appoint Officer Holders and Committee
	At this point the meeting was handed over to the secretary. Jo Mann advised the group that there had been no nominations for any of the committee positions and therefore with all current members willing to re-stand asked for a proposer to vote the committee in as a whole. Proposed by Isla Clough Seconded by Pauline Hammond Agreed unanimously The meeting was then handed back to Ian
8	Any Other Business
	• Details of the New Year Lunch have been emailed and will be put on the website. • Isla gave thanks to Ian and the committee for their hard work during the year

The Meeting closed 12:36

After the meeting the group enjoyed a soup and pudding lunch. Thanks to all those who had cooked, helped, brought puddings, cleared away or washed up!

RA Footpath Secretary's Annual report 2018-19

My apologies for being absent.

The year ends, as it started, with no Inspector's Report on NetWorkRail's proposal to close 30 or so Suffolk Footpaths where they cross the railway. Nor is there yet a Report on equivalent proposals in Cambridgeshire or Essex. Only surmise is possible.

Footpaths are also potentially affected by plans for Sizewell C. Again, nothing has been heard officially. These 12 paths [in our patch] are much walked and held dear by walkers of all descriptions.

The Northern by-pass for Ipswich –should a route be chosen – is likely to affect many Rights of Way. This could well be several years ahead.

All have in common a desire to improve travel for everyone, except walkers. Nor is there much understanding of what Ramblers might consider an acceptable alternative. If a railway or a road does not allow pedestrians to cross it with a modicum of safety at least once in a mile of its length, that significantly affects the network of paths.

To my knowledge only one bridge has been proposed in all these proposals plus possibly an underpass – though that [at Martlesham] exists on the ground already.

The underground power lines still in course of construction have crossed about 60 Rights of Way with little effect on our walking. Some excavations, etc, have reverted to their former appearance.

There have been many communications about unavailable footpaths, many from non-members. These are welcome. I take the view that all members of the public should be able to use, value and respect footpaths. This includes landowners!

Suffolk has a good network of paths and the County Council attempts to maintain as many as it can within a limited budget. There is a growing season – and a ploughing one too, so criticism ought to take that into account. Malevolent obstruction is rare – if you are aware of it take a friend and a camera – we may yet have a result!

Coastal Footpath

It is unfortunate to report that progress has been slow on this and Suffolk could be the last link in the route. In Suffolk we need to follow many estuary paths to the lowest crossing point and for a variety of reasons landowners are resisting this. Arguments about ground-nesting birds and walkers with dogs off the leash have some merit but the Coastal Path should be completed. They managed one in Wales in about a third of the time.

Walking is good as exercise and for social interaction – meeting and greeting people if you prefer – it also brings useful income to pubs, guest houses and outdoor shops. Its value to the local economy is significant. Tell your friends you're a walker, invite them along.

Geoff Knight FP Secretary

14/10/19

Memorial for Geoff Pratt

Following the collection for a memorial for Geoff Pratt, a former member of the Ipswich group, it has been agreed with area to purchase a bench to be positioned along the Fynn Valley path. As a group we have also agreed to 'adopt' the Fynn Valley path, ensuring it is walked every year and highlighting any issues to the appropriate authority. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Line

Walks have already purchased new signage ready to be erected and will promote the path. This mornings walk covered part of the route which extends 10 miles from Westerfield to Woodbridge.

Accounts for Year Ending 30 September 2019 (AGM)

<u>Receipts</u>	2018/2019	2017/2018
RA Allocation	419.72	442.90
Donations	170	105.00
Walks Leader Training / Holywells Ranger's Walk		75.00
Self Funded Trips/Events	<u>2661.5</u>	<u> </u>
<i>Total Receipts</i>	3251.22	622.90
<u>Payments</u>		
Walks Related Socials	227.18	114.24
Walks Related Other	208.53	68.00
Walks Leader Training / Holywells Ranger's Walk		75.00
Publicity / Programmes (2018)	35.13	126.21
AGM Costs	93.6	86.20
Self Funded Trips/Events	2624.5	
Admin Costs	<u>50.31</u>	<u>44.91</u>
<i>Total Payments</i>	3239.25	514.56
Surplus / (Deficit)	11.97	108.34
	3251.22	622.90
