

Ipswich & District Ramblers

AGM MINUTES

DATE 18th November 2020

Due to Coronavirus 10am Online via Zoom

	Welcome 20 members in attendance including committee members	Actions <i>(initials)</i>
	Apologies: Sandra Summers, Pauline Hammond, Sarah Murphy, Pauline Young	
1	Approval of last years AGM Report	
	The minutes of the AGM held 30 th October were agreed as a true record	
2	Matters Arising / Actions completed	
	No matters arising	
3	Presentation of the annual report	
	Ian Gosden; Chair See report below, members thanked Ian for the report	
4	Presentation of Statement of Account	
	Rumana Zuberi; Treasurer See separate report, members thanked Rumana for the report	
5	Presentation of the Footpath Sub Committee Report	
	Geoff Knight, Sub committee Chair See report below, members thanked Geoff for the report	
6	Appoint Officer Holders and Committee	
	There have been no new nominations for office holder or committee members. All current members are willing to re stand so can be proposed and voted for en masse. Proposed by Isla Clough Seconded by Mary Knight Agreed unanimously Chair _ Ian Gosden Secretary – Jo Mann Treasurer – Rumana Zuberi Membership Secretary – Ann Buckles Footpath Secretary – Geoff Knight Webmaster – Keith Moxon 3x Co- Opted members – Paul Buckles. Sandra Summers. Rob Young	
7	Appoint an Independent Examiner	
	Pene Frost has agreed to be the independent examiner for another year	

8	GDPR	
	To record that the Committee agree for their name to appear in all future Minutes and also that they are in agreement for their personal information: name, role on Committee, email address, telephone number, to appear in the Area Directory.	
9	Any Other Business	
	• Isla Clough advised that once restrictions allow there will be a memorial walk for Barry Trevelyan covering a walk that he liked to lead for the group. • Keith Moxon advised that there will be a new walk planning tool added to the website, members watch this space! •	

Ian Thanked the members for attending a very different AGM this year

The meeting closed at 10.35am

Ipswich and District Ramblers

AGM

18th November 2020, Zoom

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to this extraordinary AGM meeting held on Zoom. Hopefully we will navigate our way through the technology without too many problems.

I will just thank Jo and Keith for their time and effort in putting this together.

Chair's annual Statement

Well what a year this has turned out to be, all the best laid plans up in the air. However life goes on and each one of us has adapted our ways to meet the changing daily routines.

Our membership, had a figure of 311 members before lockdown in March. Sadly two of our more regular walkers and walk leaders, Frank Tunstall and Barry Trevelyan passed away this year, they will be sadly missed by the group. Messages of sympathy were passed on to friends and family. During the summer and autumn we have had 22 new members join. One of the positives coming from the Covid outbreak.

This year we have managed 82 official walks of which 34 were between November 2019 and the lockdown at the end of March 2020 and 48 between July 7th and November 1st 2020. I would like to thank all the committee members, walk leaders and group members for their enthusiasm in arranging and handling the organised walks using the RA advice criteria. The committee agreed unanimously at the outset that we should make walks available using the GWEM system, in this way they were available to everyone. During Area Zoom meetings I sat in on the feed back was that many other Suffolk groups were not doing this and just did their own private groups. The committee had discounted this option as we felt it was important with many of our group living alone or unable to see family and we could offer a couple of hours exercise and social contact with our walks, in my view fulfilling one of the aims of the charity. It was decided that as the walk leaders had the responsibility we should leave to them to decide on the number they would allow on each walk. The maximum allowed under RA guidelines was 30 and we all felt this too many. We also had to be mindful of those wishing to join a walk as many would perhaps not be comfortable with too many people. We were also aware that some members were more comfortable walking with a small group of their local friends than with the organised walks. We hope they have also been able to keep in touch with other members. After the early days of a "group of 6" it has been found that peoples' confidence returned and numbers up to 15 have been achieved. On a couple of occasions seeing a walk was full we have put a second walk on for the same day and achieved a total of 30 people walking for the day. As the membership numbers show we have increased during the summer. The numbers of first and second time walkers has been quite high and again a testament to our open door policy.

Many of these were single people living alone and working from home, some have already joined and we hope to see others back when we are released from lockdown. Feed back from those who have walked during these periods was positive and many found walking and talking with the lower numbers was a pleasant and uplifting morning. With nearly

everyone having their old routines torn up walks were held on different days to the normal Wednesday and Sunday and also where social distancing allowed walks with cafe or pub stops have been popular during the fine weather. We have also managed three out of county walks, two continuing the London Thames theme of the last couple of years and one around the Dovercourt and Harwich area. These all involved travel by train and everything was well planned and organised by Sonia and Alan respectfully. All the walks were very enjoyable and informative. Hopefully we can repeat these after we have all had the jab. We look forward to welcoming all members back to the organised walks when it is deemed safe.

During the lockdown the RA advised of stricter requirements for risk assessment and walk registering for track and trace purposes by walk leaders. We have to thank Keith Moxon for his time and effort in simplifying and explaining these items to us. After some teething problems these two systems are now in use and having used them both I find them quick and easy to use now. I urge all walk leaders to use them as they are also a requirement of the RA. To those who may wish to lead walks at any time please do not be put off by the thought of the technology, if I can use it anyone can. You can also call any of us for help.

We also opened an Ipswich Group facebook account and although this type of media communication may not be to everyone's taste it now has around 50 followers and it was agreed at the outset it would only be used as place to post photographs and comments of activities held as a group or other outings members have undertaken. It has been successful in doing that. All official information about RA advice will always be posted on the website. I would remind you that photographs may still be added to the Flickr platform we have on the website. At this time you will have to contact Jo Mann, Keith Moxon or Pauline Hammond to action this.

Well it may not have been the year we planned but I would like to think we have given it our best shot and that getting people out and about talking with new and old friends has put a good feeling spark into the membership.

I really have to thank everyone for the amount of time and effort they have put into keeping us going, whether deciphering RA and covid rules, sorting out the website and forms, getting a bench bought and placed, clearing a footpath, planning and leading walks, chatting to newcomers on a walk, phoning those we know living alone and participating in our activities generally.

I am sure that the future is bright and we will find a way to handle all the changes still to come. Everyone stay safe and stay in touch any member is only a phone call away, a quick chat does us the world of good.

A final thank you to Jo for putting all this together

Footpath Report – Geoff Knight

It is my impression that during Lockdown there have been many more walkers. The paths show signs of much use. There have been quite a lot of cyclists on the paths but this may not be time to dispute with them, if they remain considerate.

There have been quite a few queries to investigate and, whether from members or not, I try to help keep paths open. Responses from Rights of Way have been sometimes disappointing. They are mostly working from home I understand. Checking out a path is not, arguably, a Covid-risky activity.

The continuing story of Westerfield remains an issue. It is important that all incidents are logged otherwise it may never be resolved. Please encourage complainants to advise the RA, ROW, the police and the Parish Council.

Coastal Access shows little progress.

No news on County railway path reports.