

Ipswich & District Ramblers

AGM MINUTES

8th November 2023

	Welcome 36 members were in attendance.	Actions <i>(initials)</i>
	Apologies: Helen Howe, Jo Mann, Mary Withell, Sarah Murphy, Penny Duncan, Frances Curwen, Sandra Summers, Peter Riley, Nora Hydes.	
1	Approval of last years AGM Report 9 th November 2022. The minutes were accepted as a true record.	
2	Matters Arising / Actions completed A buddy system was suggested for assisting new walk leaders, details were circulated and names put on the website.	
3	Presentation of the annual report Ian Gosden presented his report. Copy below.	
4	Presentation of Statement of Account Rob Young presented the accounts, copies were on the tables for members to view. Although we incurred a deficit across the 2022/2023 financial year of £340.04, this was consistent with achieving a reduction in our reserves from £697.65 as at 30 September 2022 to a balance of £357.61 at 30 September 2023. This means that our reserves as a percentage of annual expenditure fall within the guideline range (40 to 80%) prescribed by Ramblers Head Office. This reduction in balance meant that we did not require to draw down any of the Ramblers Allocation, which would have been of the order of £400, based on our membership numbers.	
5	Presentation of the Footpath Sub Committee Report. Helen Howe had given a report to be read at the meeting. There has not been a great amount of activity concerning footpaths in the year. The solar farm at Bramford Tye has finally been given planning permission. There are some footpaths in the area to be covered, but the developers have made provision for them to continue to be available. Little Blakenham Footpath 21: This path runs from the edge of Blakenham woodland garden to the B1113 road opposite Broomvale. A planning application had been submitted for a large industrial estate which covered the route of FP21 with no recognition of the footpath. Development of the site had started and Suffolk ROW intervened to ensure that the path is accessible. The path has now been officially diverted, but the route is not in a good condition. Paul Buckles and I monitor planning applications where footpath access is involved. Generally, these do not significantly affect the path. If anyone walking a path finds a problem with it, please do report it to Suffolk Rights of Way. They have a very easy to use reporting tool. A link to it is on the Ipswich Ramblers website. Also, we have a footpath email address, if you have an issue you would like us to check. I would like to thank Paul for all his help in looking at planning applications and checking footpath emails	

6	Appoint Officer Holders and Committee	
	Ian Gosden is willing to Chair for another year. Proposed: Gareth Evans. Seconded: Stuart Beauchamp Lionel MacKay is willing to serve as Treasurer Proposed: Paul Buckles. Seconded: Rob Young The following committee members are willing to stand again. Ian Gosden, Paul Buckles, Ann Buckles, Rob Young, Helen Howe, Jo Mann, Keith Moxon. The committee was elected en bloc. Proposed: Richard Ambrose. Seconded: Pauline Hammond.	
8	Appoint an Independent Examiner	
	Mark Haslam is willing to serve as Independent Examiner Proposed: Richard Ambrose. Seconded: Eleanor Clark	
10	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.	
11	Any Other Business	
	Holiday 2024 will be to Bakewell. An email will be sent to members asking for interest as with last year.	

AGM 2023

CHAIR'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

Welcome to the 2023 AGM and thank you for joining us.

The Group membership now stands at 320, 12 less than last year. We are still getting first time walkers joining us on a regular basis and many of these have become members this year. We welcome you all. Of the leavers we know of a few by name but mainly they are those that appear not to have renewed their membership or unknown to the committee.

We still aim to maintain having two walks a week, although we have had some gaps during the Summer and early Autumn. We still struggle to recruit new walk leaders and a discussion was had at last years meeting to try a walk buddy solution. This has been a success with a regular shorter Saturday morning walk followed by a coffee and cake. Other members have also been leading more regularly and with our regular leaders we hope to maintain the varied walk program, Our continued thanks go to all these walk leaders for their time and commitment.

If anyone feels they would like to have a go and would like to try out with a walk buddy please have a word with a committee member.

We are aware that several people have got together for car sharing to walks. We like to encourage this and assist if people would like to be put in contact with others in their area. The setting up of small Whatsapp groups could be a possibility.

This year was the groups 50th Anniversary and we have celebrated this at each of our cake and soup walks.

The main event was in April, which was advertised locally and attended by 50 people of which 42 enjoyed a group walk followed by soup and cake. The event was covered by the EADT and Ipswich Star. The event also encouraged several non members who attended to join up. The cake walk was held in early June and was enjoyed by all. The annual holiday followed on the 19th of June and we all found our way to Hastings. 4 days of walking and eating were enjoyed by the 22

members who attended. I would like to thank all of those who arrange the walks, make the soup and cakes and general organisation of these events. Thank you all.

We are planning the mince pie walk for Wednesday December 20th and looking to hold our Christmas/New Year lunch on January 4th or 11th. Details of this will be circulated at the end of November.

The Facebook group is well used by the present 75 members, with photos posted after many of the walks and some useful information being posted re changes to walks and weather/road conditions.

We are planning next years holiday for Monday June 24th to Thursday 27th. The location will be a return visit to the market town of Bakewell in the Derbyshire Dales. There will be a maximum of 25 people and we would like a show of interest by November 30th.

As you may know Keith Redfern stood down from his role as Treasurer in May. Rob Young very kindly stood in as acting treasurer until today. I would like to thank Rob for his valued help and completing this years accounts.

Ian Gosden