

Ipswich & District Ramblers AGM Minutes

5th November 2025 Tuddenham Village Hall

	Welcome 31 members in attendance	Actions (initials)
	Apologies: Ann & Paul Buckles, Lucy & David Powell, Frances Curwen, Penny Duncan, Marion Shirley, Nora Hydes, Anne Bengier, Sue and Mark Haslam, Janet Bull.	
1	Approval of last years AGM Report Last years report was approved.	
2	Matters Arising / Actions completed No actions were required	
3	Presentation of the annual report Ian gave a report on the last year, details below. The details of next years holiday were given. Sunday 21 st June to Thursday 25 th June – Vale of Evesham with Evesham being the base. <i>If you are interested in joining then please email ipswichramblers2017@gmail.com to register your interest by 30th November 2025. Please also advise if you would be planning on travelling on the Sunday or Monday so we can gauge if there could be a full walk on the Monday. The number will be kept at a maximum of 25, should this number be oversubscribed then the committee will take into account time walked with the group and involvement and support during the year. We will be in touch soon after with the confirmed 25 names and put any other names on a waiting list.</i>	
4	Presentation of Statement of Account Lionel presented the accounts which had been examined by Mark Haslam. Thanks to Mark for auditing. Details below. There was a question regarding where the fundraising and donations came from which was clarified by Lionel. Suffolk Rambling club donates to other likeminded groups and Ramblers Holidays (RWH) donate when a member books a holiday.	
5	Presentation of the Footpath Sub Committee Report Helen gave a report. Details below.	
6	Appoint Officer Holders and Committee Ian Gosden, Jo Mann and Keith Moxon have stepped down from their roles and therefore those positions became vacant. Nominations were as follows - Chair – Richard Ambrose, nominated by Ellie Clark, seconded by Tim Gibbs. Secretary – Chris Ambrose nominated by Helen Howe, seconded by Janice Gosden. Webmaster – Phill Bull nominated by Rob Young, seconded by Richard Ambrose. There being no other nominations for the above roles all three were appointed with thanks. The remaining committee members had all agreed to continue in their role Treasurer – Lionel Mackay Membership Secretary – Ann Buckles Footpath Secretary – Helen Howe Committee Member and footpath group – Paul Buckles Committee Member – Rob Young It was agreed to change the role titles for Rob and Paul to Committee Member rather than Co-Opted. The above were nominated by Richard Ambrose and seconded by Stuart Beauchamp. There being no other nominations the rest of the committee were appointed with thanks.	

7	Appoint an Independent Examiner	
	Mark Haslam will audit the accounts again next 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	
	There was a question regarding the Suffolk Ramblers group Facebook page. It was confirmed that this is another group wishing to raise their profile and giving a platform for their members. Ian thanked Jo & Keith for their time on the committee and the support they have given. Gareth Evans asked for a vote of thanks from the floor. Ian, (7 years) Jo (8 years) and Keith (over 20 years) were thanked for their commitment over the years by way of a presentation given by Rob Young on behalf of the committee and group.	

The meeting closed at 1pm.

AGM 2025

CHAIR'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

A warm welcome to you all and thank you for joining us for our AGM 2025 today.

Membership stands at 311, this fluctuates during the year but is 10 less than this time last year. It is difficult to get accurate figures out of the system but we have had about 50 joiners and 60 leavers. Most of the leavers we have not seen on walks and some of those who joined this year left before even walking. Apparently the Ramblers used a marketing group who cold called and people seemed to have signed up and then cancelled.

Our group still aims to hold two walks a week but this is becoming increasingly more difficult each year. As you are probably aware the rules for leading walks have changed and anyone wishing to lead a walk are asked to complete an online course which takes around 2 to 3 hours to complete. It does not all have to be done in one session so you can save what you do and return at a time convenient to yourself. It is definitely not too taxing. I would urge you to do this even if you wish to put one walk a year in you will need to do it. Plenty of winter evenings coming up.

The Facebook page gets a little more active each year and now has about 82 followers. It has been used successfully a few times now for giving last minute advice on walk cancellations and any known roadworks effecting journeys.

The group is trying to create a pool of organisers/helpers for any social events before, after a walk or even a separate event. It is felt that the same old faces are too often organising and clearing up afterwards where everyone has enjoyed the event. There will be a short chat after this meeting and anyone wishing to help out in anyway at all is welcome to join in. Thank you.

This years holiday based around Swanage was again a great success although some of the walks were a little challenging at times we all enjoyed them and were blessed with fine weather and lovely views of the Dorset coast.

Next year the holiday dates will from Sunday June 21st to Thursday June 25th. We are looking to go to The Vale of Evesham and using Evesham as the base for accommodation. You will be glad to know no motorways need to be negotiated. As most people are now travelling on the Sunday this would give us Monday for a full days walking. If when notifying us of your interest please can

you advise if you will be traveling on the Monday and depending on numbers a walk could be arranged Morning and Afternoon. We are looking to keep the numbers to about 25 as this seems to have worked well for us in previous years and would ask for a show of interest by November 30th.

Some of you may be aware that the Ramblers Association is holding a Ramblers Governance Review. A consultation Update document was sent out to Area Chairs and Secretaries at the end of September for their comments. It appears that it was not intended to be distributed to the group. The area chair sent it out to us in mid October and I and the committee thought that you the members should be able to read this. We have placed it on the Ipswich Ramblers Website and it explains how they are thinking of reorganising Area and Groups. They are due to deliberate on the document on December 6th. I will let you make up your own minds on its contents.

Ipswich Ramblers

Footpath Secretary's Report to 2025 AGM

It has been a fairly quiet year.

The main issues have been solar farms and quarries. If the proposed schemes impact on footpaths, objections have been made. Even if the initial application is refused, the developers tend to return with slightly amended plans and frequently receive approval.

The other big issue affecting footpaths is the proposal for electricity pylons across East Anglia in the Great Grid Upgrade. Responses to this are being co-ordinated by Essex Ramblers.

Little Blakenham footpath 21 which crosses land being developed as the Port One logistics park still suffers from disruption by the builders. The path will continue to be monitored.

A group of Ipswich Ramblers used Raydon footpath 21 which goes through a garden. The householders were rather hostile, but everyone managed to walk through unscathed!

My thanks to Paul Buckles for his help in looking at planning applications and for leading lots of walks and thus checking lots of paths.

Ipswich & District Ramblers Treasurer's report 2024 – 2025

The accounts for the year show a deficit of £26 on the main fund compared to £71 for 2023 – 24. Both income and expenditure were higher than the previous year.

As with the previous year we received 50% of the allocated funding from Area. We benefited from a £10 increase in the annual donation from Suffolk Rambling Club and £60 increase in commission from Rambling Worldwide Holidays.

While there were no expenses for walk recces this year, there were higher costs for committee meetings which were held in rented halls, and for replenishing the first aid kits. Overall the expenditure from the main fund increased by £30.

The balance of the Main Fund is £164 which is 44% of the year's expenditure (the target is between 40% to 100%)

Self funded costs were £764; this comprised the costs of the New Year meal and the deposit for the group meal during the Swanage holiday. Costs were covered by contributions from those taking part apart from a £2 shortfall from the New Year meal.

The self funded balance is £95; this has been inherited from previous years.

Ipswich and District Ramblers Group **Accounts for year ending 30/9/2025**

Receipts		2024-25	2023-24	Payments		2024-25	2023-24
Main				Main			
Ramblers Area (funding)		209.00	205.00	Walks related – recces		-	104.5
Donations		60.03	50.00	Walks related – social		114.37	118.1
Fundraising - RWH		80.00	20.00	Walks related – first aid supplies		58.84	-
Other		-	-	AGM expenses		112.56	106.5
				Committee meetings		89.00	16.0
				Administration expenses		0.30	0.3
						375.07	345.5
Self-funded		349.03	275.00	Self-funded			
Holidays		105.00	543.90	Holidays		105.00	543.9
Socials		657.40	-	Socials		659.40	-
		762.40	543.90			764.40	543.9
Total income		1,111.43	818.90	Total payments		1,139.47	889.4
Surplus / (Deficit)							
Main		(26.04)	(70.52)				
Self-funded		(2.00)	-				
		(28.04)	(70.52)				
Opening balance 1st October				Closing balance 30th September			
Main		189.94	260.46	Main		163.90	189.9
Self-funded		97.15	97.15	Self-funded		95.15	97.1
Total		287.09	357.61	Total		259.05	287.0

Treasurer: Lionel Mackay
6 October 2025