Ipswich & District Ramblers

Minutes of AGM

DATE 4th November 2026 Playford Village Hall

		Actions
	Welcome Chairman Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for coming. He thanked Helen for leading the walk.	
	Apologies: Eleanor Clark, Kaye Roberts, Tim Gibbs, Jo Mann, Frances Curwen, Doug Barnard, Anne Benger, Janet Bull, Susie Dunham, Sue Haslam, Pauline Young, Sally Talbot	
1	**Approval of last year's AGM Report** from 5th November 2025	
	Last year's report was approved.	
2	**Matters Arising / Actions completed**	
	No actions were required	
3	**Presentation of the annual report** Chairman	
	Richard gave a report on the year's activities: report attached. Details of next year's holiday were given: Sunday 13th June to Thursday 17th June (walk days Monday to Thursday), to the Yorkshire Dales, to be based in Skipton. *If you are interested in joining the holiday, please let us know by email to secretary@ipswichramblers.org.uk by 30th November. The number will be kept to a maximum of 25, and in the event of the holiday being oversubscribed the committee will take into account time spent walking with the group and the level of involvement and support during the year.*	
4	**Presentation of Statement of Account** Treasurer	
	Lionel presented the accounts which had been examined by Mark Haslam, to whom we give our thanks for auditing. The report is attached.	
5	**Presentation of the Footpath Sub Committee Report** Footpath Secretary	
	Helen presented her report, which is attached.	
6	**Appoint Officer Holders and Committee**	
	Appointment of Treasurer Lionel has stepped down from his role, and therefore the position became vacant. David Semaine was nominated by Lionel MacKay and seconded by Sarah Murphy, and was appointed with thanks. All other committee members have agreed to continue in their roles, nominated by Gareth Evans and seconded by Stuart Beauchamp all were appointed with thanks.	
8	**Appoint an Independent Examiner**	
	Mark Haslam is happy to continue.	
10	**GDPR**	
	The committee agree for their name to appear in all future minutes and also that they agree for their personal information: name, role on committee, email address, telephone number to appear in the area directory.	
11	**Any Other Business** Lionel has stepped down as Treasurer from this AGM. He was thanked for his	

	work in this role over the past three years and was presented with a leaving gift. There was a question as to whether the Suffolk Area committee still exists. It was confirmed that it does still exist and that the Chairman is the representative at their meetings, usually held on Zoom/Teams, and that the Area AGM is to be hosted by Newmarket Ramblers early in 2027. The details will be provided on our website when they become available. There was an observation that some longer walks have been arranged on Sundays, and it was asked if these could be organised as figure of 8 walks to provide a shorter option, or if there could be a shorter walk on the same day. It was also asked if Friday evening walks might be resurrected. It was agreed that there is no reason why these can't happen as walks can be organised on any day and at any time when there is a walk leader available and willing to organise them and the committee would welcome it. A request was made for people who have led similar walks in the past to share their knowledge and expertise of suitable routes with current walk leaders if they do not wish to lead. A question was raised as to whether there will be a New Year's Meal in January, and it was confirmed that the social committee are in the early stages of planning this.	
	The meeting closed at 12.50pm.	

Chairman's Annual Statement AGM 2026

Our group's membership currently totals 324. Over the past year we've had 58 joiners and 45 leavers, an overall net increase of 13 on this time last year.

We have broadly been able to maintain our aim to organise walks twice a week on Sunday and Wednesday. At times this proved quite difficult, particularly during the summer months, which meant we were too often relying on walks being arranged at short notice to plug gaps in the programme. Our pool of trained walk leaders stands at 31 with 4 people having completed the training course in the past year. Whilst this may sound good and represents almost 10% of our membership, we are keen to add to this number to help spread the load. The online training course comprises three modules and takes about 2-3 hours to complete. You can do it in one go or in bite sized chunks and really isn't very onerous. Please speak to any walk leader if you would like to find out more and we'll be happy to help you with planning and pre-walking your route.

Over the period between early April and early July a series of linear walks were arranged to complete the circular 53 miles Wool Towns Walk. Our version was a 6-stage programme adapted by Ellie Clark and involved a considerable amount of time and effort in planning the logistics around the project and I'm sure everyone who took part would join with me in thanking Ellie for doing a great job on this.

Events combining a walk with a social element (normally involving food!) have become a popular feature of the programme and this year has been no exception. The established mince pie, soup and cake walks all took place along with a recent 'brunch' walk at Coddenham in support of the local community centre. In addition, our New Year's lunch, held at the Newbourne Fox, was well attended and very enjoyable. I would like to say a big thank you to members of our social committee who have taken on the roles of organising

and making these events happen. In addition, there have been a number of walks that have included the option of a pub lunch or cafe visit afterwards.

Our group holiday took place between the 21st and 25th June, based in Evesham. It coincided with one of the intense heatwaves that we experienced and created a pretty challenging few days for a walking holiday. Nonetheless, we were able to continue with our intended programme by bringing forward start times and shortening the distances of walks. Everyone adapted well to the circumstances and I think we all still had a really good time. The dates and location for next year's holiday have already been confirmed with a return to Skipton between Sunday 13th June and Thursday 17th June. We aim to keep the number going to around 25 and ask that you register an interest by Monday 30th November please.

In August 12 members attended a half day first aid course organised by national Ramblers and funded by Suffolk area. The course was tailored specifically to the types of incidents that we are most likely to encounter whilst out with the group and proved to be a very worthwhile exercise.

During the summer our secretary, Chris Ambrose, became a member of national Ramblers volunteer user group which is tasked with improving volunteer experiences in liaison with the board of trustees. If any volunteers (walk leaders, committee members, path maintenance volunteers) have any issues they would like raised, please speak to Chris.

I thank you all for attending our AGM today and look forward to an enjoyable and successful year ahead for the group.

Footpath Secretary's Report to 2026 AGM

It has been a fairly quiet year on footpath issues.

Tuddenham St. Martin: Plans to convert 5 derelict farm buildings into dwellings have been refused. Access was to be along footpath 1A which is a narrow track. Paul led us on this path in July.

Pond Hall Farm, Orwell Country Park: Paths around Pond Hall farm have not been added to the definitive map which means they are not protected rights of way. To get them added, proof that the paths have been used for at least 20 years without hindrance is needed. If anyone did use these paths in the past, it would be very helpful if you would let me know.

Once again I thank Paul Buckles for his help with footpath matters.

Ipswich and District Ramblers Group Treasurer's report 2025-26

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £96 on the Main Fund compared with a deficit of £26 for 2024-25. Both income and expenditure were significantly higher than the previous year. Income increased from £349 to £1,031. In order to replenish the end of year reserves we requested the full funding allocation from Suffolk Area compared with 50% in previous years; we also received a grant of £567 from Suffolk Area to cover the cost of the First Aid training session in August. In addition we received commission (£20) from Rambling Worldwide Holidays. For many years the Suffolk Rambling Club gave us a grant of £50 (last year £60); however we did not hear from them this year. Expenditure increased by £560 to £935. This included the cost of the First Aid training (£564), an increase in the cost of soup and cake walks (£42), the cost of gifts to retiring committee members (£77), offset by reductions in costs of first aid supplies (£37) and of committee meetings and AGM (£83). The balance of the Main Fund is £260; ignoring the cost of the First Aid training this is 70% of the regular year's expenditure (the target is between 40% and 100%). The full

costs of the New Year meal and holiday were paid directly by members. The carried forward Self-Funded balance is £95.

Lionel Mackay 15 October 2026

Ipswich and District Ramblers Group

Accounts for year ending 30/9/2026

Receipts	**2025-26**	**2024-25**
Main		
Ramblers Area (funding\	444.40	209.00
Ramblers Area (other)	566.80	-
Donations	-	60.03
Fundraising - RWH	20.00	80.00
	1,031.20	**349.03**
Self- funded		
Holidays	-	105.00
Socials	-	657.40
	-	**762.40**
Total income	**1,031.20**	**1,111.43**

Payments	**2025-26**	**2024-25**
Main		
Walks related – social	176.33	114.37
Walks related – first aid training	563.80	-
Walks related – first aid supplies	-	58.84
AGM expenses	62.28	112.56
Committee meetings	56.00	89.00
Other expenses	76.78	0.30
	935.19	**375.07**
Self- funded		
Holidays	-	105.00
Socials	-	659.40
	-	**764.40**
Total payments	**935.19**	**1,139.47**

Surplus / (Deficit)		
Main	96.01	(26.04)
Self-funded	-	(2.00)
	96.01	**(28.04)**

Opening balance 1st October		
Main	163.90	189.94
Self-funded	95.15	97.15
Total	**259.05**	**287.09**

Closing balance 30th September		
Main	259.91	163.90
Self-funded	95.15	95.15
Total	**355.06**	**259.05**

Treasurer: Lionel Mackay

8 October 2026

Summary of financial year for Independent Examiner

Summary
Total receipts
Total payments
Closing cash balance
Net assets/liabilities (funds)

Main	Self-funded	Total
1,031.20	-	**1,031.20**
935.19	-	**935.19**
259.91	95.15	**355.06**
259.91	**95.15**	**355.06**

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group independent examination guidelines, I consider the " SK02-Ipswich and District *"accounts to give a fair representation of the Area's/Group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2026.*

Signed: T.M.Haslam

Date: 15/10/2026

Name of examiner: THOMAS MARK HASLAM

(Alternatively, if you do not wish to print off this sheet please send in a signed copy of your own Area/Group accounts to GB office).