

**Minutes of Executive Committee of Northumbria Area Ramblers
held at upstairs room, Gosforth Hotel PH, High Street, Newcastle, NE3 1HQ
on Monday 26 March 2018 at 7 pm**

Present:

Mike Webber, Chair Neil Allender, Rights of Way Officer Steve Edwards, Treasurer Richard Fletcher, Vice Chair, Durham Pauline Hawdon (Mins.), N&D CHA/HF R.C.	Rob Hutchinson, Sunderland Walking Club Moira Pearson, Independent Tony Royston, Derwentside Chair Judith Taylor, Tyneside Independent
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Action

1 Apologies for absence: Jon Davison, Gill Gallon, and Nuala Wright,

2 Minutes of the previous Executive Meeting were approved.

3 Matters arising:

3a AGM – Neither Ramblers Holidays nor Pacer APP people had replied nor attended the meeting.

Mike Webber had agreed group responsibilities for AGM's as follows:-

2019 – Chester-le-Street	2026 - Hexham
2020 – Berwick upon Tweed	2027 - Sunderland
2021 – Northumbria Walking Group	2028 - Tyneside
2022 – Ponteland	2029 - Alnwick
2023 – Derwentside	2030 - Gateshead
2024 – Northumbria Short Circuits	2031 - Durham
2025 – Executive Committee	2032 - Morpeth

3b Ramblers Road Show – After a visit to various venues in the North East, Ed Wilson from Central Office was negotiating with Durham County Cricket Club as the most suitable venue for the Road Show, which would be held on 14 July. It had not yet gone public, bookings would be available through the website. Whilst at Central Office, Mike Webber had suggested training on Footpaths, Lost Ways, and Finance be included. He had spoken to Jack Cornish, who is responsible for Lost Ways at Central Office, who intended to contact Neil Allender for an in-depth discussion.

3c Training - Judith Taylor would update the website to include the forthcoming Roadshow in July 2018.

3d General Council – Richard Fletcher and Nuala Wright had agreed to attend, but Mike Webber and Jon Davison would not be attending this year.

3e War & Moral Outdoors project – Penny had emailed Paul Wright to inform him that she was no longer Chair but received no reply and Mike Webber had not been contacted by Paul.

4 Financial Report – Steve Edwards

Current balance after invoices received had been paid
£3,696.59

The signed examiner's report process was completed on time.

The next quarterly payments from Central Office of £1,750.00 was due at the end of April.

Further spending on Heritage Way publicity and website work totalling around £750 had been authorised but not yet received.

5 Heritage Way & Festival of Walks

Mike Webber had asked Central Office if it was possible for them to arrange themes and dates for future Festival of Walks three years ahead to allow Groups to complete their programmes better.

Judith had been in touch with Manchester & Salford Group but they had worked on similar lines to ours. Various groups had agreed to walk sections of the Way during the 9 days of the Festival of Walks. Although public transport was available, it would not be easy for some people to get back to their starting point. Taxis could be used for group members, but the general public would have to arrange their own transport. Short Circuits, Durham, and Tyneside Groups were making their own arrangements. The Treasurer confirmed that there was money allocated for transport for this event.

As Mike Webber is intending to walk the whole route before the Launch Day, Judith would give him the spare way-markers. Each section of the route could be printed out from the Website.

The Heritage Way Information page could be viewed fully on a PC but text was obscured on other devices. Tony Royston would have a look into this.

Tony Royston

Launch Day – The Official Opening was to be held on Thursday 31 May at Causey Arch at 2 pm. John Grundy had agreed to open it. Causey Arch Tea Room was willing to cater for a large group and Judith would have more idea of the numbers about 2 weeks beforehand. The Treasurer said that refreshment and transport expenses up to a maximum of £1,000 could be covered. However, it would also be open to the public.

It was suggested invitations go to Council Leaders, Rights-of-Way Officers, Diane Simcoe (RA Liaison Officer) and David Dallow, who had worked hard on the project plus John Grundy. Chi Onwurah (Newcastle Central MP who had put forward Newcastle Town Moor as Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood) and the MP responsible for Causey Arch were also suggested. The Steering Group would decide who would be send invitations.

The Spring edition of the Ramblers Walk magazine had already gone to print, but an article will appear in the Summer edition. A much larger article would also be included in the Autumn edition.

The website www.tynewearheritageway.org.uk was now live with a link from the Northumberland Ramblers website. Robert Cooper would continue to manage the website. The contact person was David Crowe.

1 Any Other Business

6a It was agreed that Neil Allender's suggestion of an informal Longer Walks Group of 12-15 miles, held on Saturdays, was a good idea. He was willing to lead the first couple of walks but hoped groups might provide leaders for subsequent walks. It was suggested he start with a double section of the Heritage Way on Saturday 26 May.

6b Mike Webber said that Central Office had formulated a 3 year, a 5 year and a 10 year plan including objectives, which were on the website. As Chairman he would have to report to Central Office and had asked Diane Simcoe if there was to be Standard Report forms for Groups to report to Area and Area to report to Central Office which include these objectives.

6c Steve Edwards had information of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which were to come into effect from 25 May 2018. He summarised the key points which directly affected areas and said details were on the National website.

6d Judith Taylor had been Training Officer for a number of years and wished to resign from 2019.

6e Richard Fletcher and Dave Turnbull had attended Durham Rights-of-Way meeting. Items included: Negotiations for a new Walk to include High Force; there were concern about bikes and off-road vehicles; and a large number of Lost Ways' applications had been received which

Local Council Officers were having difficulties dealing with due to reductions in staff.

10 Dates of future meetings –

Executive Council – Monday 8 October at 7 pm.

Area Council – Monday 16 April – venue to be confirmed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.