

**Minutes of Executive Committee of Northumbria Area Ramblers  
held at upstairs room, Gosforth Hotel PH, High Street, Newcastle, NE3 1HQ  
on Monday 22 January 2018 at 7 pm**

**Present:**

Penny Ford (Chair)	Rob Hutchinson, Sunderland Walking Club
Neil Allender, Rights of Way Officer	Malcolm McVie, Area Membership
Steve Edwards (Treasurer)	Moira Pearson, Independent
Alison Emslie, Independent	Tony Royston, Derwentside Chair
Richard Fletcher, Vice Chair, Durham	Judith Taylor, Tyneside/Training EC Committee
Bill Gallon, Independent	Nuala Wright, Access Officer
Pauline Hawdon (Mins.), N&D CHA/HF R.C.	

**Action**

**1 Apologies for absence:** Mike Webber

**2 Minutes of the previous Executive Meeting** were approved.

**3 Matters arising:** See below

**4 Financial Report – Steve Edwards**

Current balance after invoices received had been paid, incl. February walks booklet      £3,779.75

Annual grants to groups had been paid; 2 groups had declined their payment and 4 others agreed after consultation, not to receive their grant at this stage.

The year-end return process was completed on time. The process of collating signed examiners report had started.

The budget request for £7,000 for 2017/18 financial year had been granted. 2 quarterly payments of £1,750 each had been received from Central Office.

We had been requested to invoice Newcastle University for £600 as our share of the funding from the War and the Moral Outdoors project. The invoice was paid on 12/01/18 for “Advisory Services – Route Creation”. There may be obligations arising from this funding at a future date.

**5 Annual General Meeting : Saturday 3 February 2018 at Pegswood Community Hall.**

At a special Executive Committee meeting held on 9 January, Jon Davison had agreed to put his name forward as Area Secretary, and Mike Webber as Area Chair.

Penny had circulated Annual Report, Agenda and Minutes to all groups, and another Agenda as a reminder. A walk would begin at 10.30 am and the meeting at 2 pm. She would be there from about 12 noon to meet people. Free advertising had been offered to Ramblers Holidays and the Pacer App but neither had replied. Steve Edwards would chase up Ramblers Holidays and Penny would contact Pacer.

**S Edwards & P Ford**

Groups should forward any requests for advertising to Tony Royston for inclusion in the Walks booklet.

**6. Ramblers Road Show**

Richard Fletcher had a list of possible venues in Newcastle, which would be easily accessible by public transport from the whole Northern Area. Central Office required a venue with 8 rooms including one for 80 people. He would contact these venues regarding availability before forwarding to Central Office.

**Richard**

**7. Festival of Walks & Heritage Way**

It had been difficult to include Group walks in the Winter Festival of Walks because of the dates of Christmas and New Year.

**Heritage Way (Judith Taylor):** Central Office had not been very helpful regarding publicity and it was suggested that Judith get in touch with Manchester & Salford Group who had had a similar event. She had been unable to set up a Blog.

There had been delays in getting a website up-and-running and they may have to put a date-deadline on this. David Crowe or Alison Emslie may be able to help if required.

It was hoped to begin walks on Saturday 26 May and have an official launch on Thursday 31 May; they would like a personality to be involved - Stewart Maconie, Clare Balding, and John Grundy had been suggested.

Flyers were being designed and they would obtain a quote from the printer used for the Walks booklet. Groups had been contacted to see if they were willing to lead a section. Short Circuits and Hexham had replied.

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 **Best Walks TV show** - On 9 February BBC TV were coming to film for Best Walks in the North, and the Town Moor had been chosen. The unique history of the Moor was recorded on the Freeman's website and the area was used by many different people.

8.2 **War & Moral Outdoors project** was based on a record by Ruth Dodd and it had been hoped to re-walk the route, but this was proving more difficult than anticipated. A grant of £600 had been allocated. It was suggested that Paul Wright, who was responsible for the project, be asked if he would like a special meeting with the Groups.  
**Penny to contact**

8.3 **General Council** – Richard Fletcher and Nuala Wright were willing to attend, and it was suggested the new Chair be asked if he would represent the Area. Names of delegates were required by Central Office before 24 February. This would be mentioned at the AGM.

## **10 Dates of future meetings –**

**Executive Council** – Monday 26 March, at 7 pm.

**Area Council** – Monday 16 April

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.