

RAMBLERS INNER LONDON AREA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



MINUTES

of the Annual General Meeting held at
The Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP
at 1400 on 03 February 2018

PRESENT:

Clare Wadd (Chair), Helen Abbott (Secretary), Tony Atkins (Affiliated Groups Representative), Derek Barnsley (London Strollers), Angela Bellwood (NE London), Brian Bellwood (NE London), Mary Betts (Kensington & Chelsea), Jo Buchanan (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Huw Charles-Jones (North East London), Louise Checkley (London Area), Natasha Chin (London Strollers), Peter Cleary (Blackheath), Elfi Colman (Hampstead), Nigel Davies (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Fred Davis (South Bank), Pam Davison (London Strollers), Les Douglas (London Strollers), Dick Dunmore (South Bank), Daphne Earl (Hampstead), Dave Esbester (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Isabel Faizi (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), George Fletcher (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Alastair Fulton (Blackheath), Hannah Garcia (HF Holidays), Paco Gonzales (Rambler Holidays), Jackie Gower (West London - guest), Minna Graeber (London Area), Rosemary Harley (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Catherine Hough (South Bank), Michael Jenkins (South Bank), Mervion Kirkwood (London Strollers), Winnie Li (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Alex Mannings (Met Walkers), Phil Marson (Vice-Chair), John McGahern (Hampstead), Robin Midwinter (Hampstead), Gillian Mininch (HF Holidays), Robert Molteno (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth and secretary of London Living Streets), Teri Moore (Treasurer), Linda Parry (South Bank), Stephen Pitt (Capital Walkers), Derek Purcell (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Dan Raven-Ellison (Speaker), Steve Ripley (Hampstead), Jane Rosoux (Hampstead), Hadi Samsani (Hampstead), Carol Saunders (Capital Walkers), Elizabeth Shaw (London Strollers), Keith Southam (Croydon), Caroline Wall (Capital Walkers), Barry West (Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth), Roger Wigfield (Sutton), Grace Witter (Capital Walkers), and Robert Witter (Capital Walkers).

18-02-01 GUEST SPEAKER

1. NOTED: a presentation and video by Dan Raven-Ellison, instigator of the Greater London National Park City campaign, and Chief Exploration Officer of the Foundation, covering: the concept of walking with purpose and suggestions for accomplishing this; the

rationale behind creation of the London National Park City campaign, its core aims and outcomes, progress to date towards achievement, and ideas for further action.

18-02-02 WELCOME BY THE AREA CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Area Council members, Inner London Area Group members, members of affiliated groups, guests and the speaker to the 2018 Annual General Meeting, stating that, inter alia, the meeting was required to fulfil the Ramblers' charitable objectives

18-02-03 APOLOGIES:

John Archer, Des de Moor, Des Garrahan and Marie-Claude Hemming.

18-02-04 MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 February 2017, subject to the following amendment:

- "Representative of individual groups" in Minute 17-02-09 should read "Representative of individual members".

Proposed: *Clare Wadd*

Seconded: *Teri Moore*

18-02-05 MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

1. NOTED:

- (i) that Hampstead Group provides representatives on behalf of the Ramblers for the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee;
- (ii) in response to a question from a member, that Inner London Area was the fourth largest area, with over 4% of total national membership; year-end membership figures for individual groups were as follows:

Blackheath	481
Capital Walkers	385
Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth	487
Hampstead	542
Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster	322
London Strollers	150
Metropolitan Walkers	755
North East London	351
South Bank	686
Not affiliated to groups	322
Total	4,481;

London Strollers had achieved the highest growth (10%), and Capital Walkers was the fastest growing group, with an additional 22 members, and

- (iv) in response to a question from a member, that the feasibility study for the Peckham Coal Line (a grassroots initiative, put forward by a group of local residents, for a new linear link park between Queens Road Peckham and Rye Lane - Minute 17-02-04 refers) had been completed, concluding that the route was feasible, and would therefore go ahead subject to funding.

18-02-06 PRESENTATION OF INNER LONDON AREA REPORT

1. **NOTED:** oral reports by the Chair and Vice-Chair presenting the Inner London Area Annual Report for 2016-2017 (**Annex 1** to the record copy of the minutes), as follows:
 - thanks were offered to all Groups and volunteers within the Area, for offering such a wide range of activities, including first aid training, Christmas Day walks, themed walks and French exchange walks;
 - on publicity, the Area had mounted the *#1000Poster Challenge*, a London-wide physical and online publicity and membership campaign aiming to get 1000 posters promoting Ramblers displayed across the city; other publicity initiatives included travelcard wallets, a successful stall at Lambeth Country Show, a strong social media and web presence, and contributions to *South East Walker*, which had celebrated its 100th issue this year;
 - the campaign against the proposed Garden Bridge, which would have damaged the Thames Path National Trail on both banks, had ended successfully with the cancellation of the project; visibility and credibility of the Ramblers in London had been enhanced as a result;

- other initiatives supported by the Area included the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street, a bridge crossing from Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf, segregated for walkers and cyclists, the Diamond Jubilee Bridge, the Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge, the Peckham Coal Line, the Camden Highline, the Greater London National Park City and Deptford Folk's successful funding bid for the Deptford Park area.
2. FURTHER NOTED: an oral report by the Chair of Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth, stating that the redevelopment of Springfield University Hospital in Tooting would include the provision of a new 32 acre public park for the local community.

18-02-07 PRESENTATION OF AREA ACCOUNTS

1. NOTED: audited accounts for 2016-17 [**Annex 2** to the record copy of the minutes], presented by the Treasurer.
2. FURTHER NOTED: an oral report by the Treasurer stating that:
- (i) expenditure had been higher this year because of enhanced publicity materials, an increase in room hire costs, and support for the Walk Leader training offered by Des de Moor, and
 - (ii) since many individuals from outside the Area attended the Walk Leader training, she intended to approach Central Office to request financial support for this.
3. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the Accounts for 2016-17.

Proposed: *Clare Wadd*
Seconded: *Helen Abbott*

18-02-08 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

1. NOTED: an oral report by the Secretary stating that Helen Edwards, a former university administrator with over 30 years of budgeting experience, had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner of the Area's accounts for another year.
2. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the appointment of Helen Edwards as Independent Examiner for the next year.

Proposed: *Helen Abbott*
Seconded: *Teri Moore*

18-02-09 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2018:

1. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the election of the Area Council and representatives from affiliated organisations as follows:

Chair: Clare Wadd
Vice-Chair: Des de Moor
Secretary: Helen Abbott
Treasurer: Teri Moore
Membership Secretary: Caroline Wall
IT Officer: Phil Marson

Representative of affiliated groups: Tony Atkins

Proposed: Steve Ripley

Secoded: Mervion Kirwood

2. NOTED: that several vacancies remained on Area Council, including representatives for individual members (up to three), Campaigns Officer, Volunteer Officer, and a second representative of affiliated groups.

18-02-10 APPOINTMENT OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL COUNCIL 2017

1. NOTED: an oral report by the Chair stating that, because of its size, Inner London Area was able to send three representatives to General Council; where possible, the Area tried to send at least one representative who had not attended before.

2. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the nomination of the following as Area representatives to General Council 2018:

Dick Dunmore
Phil Marson
Caroline Wall

Proposed: Clare Wadd

Secoded: Helen Abbott

Post meeting note: Following the meeting, Alastair Fulton and Michelle Lynch were appointed Visitors to General Council 2018.

18-02-11 ANY MOTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE AREA

1. NOTED: oral reports by the Chair and by Jackie Gower of West London Group, stating that West London Group had approached Area Council to seek support for their transfer from Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area to the Inner London Area with effect from 1 October 2018; the main reasons for the request related to the use of public transport on walks, and the pattern of interaction and co-operation with other Inner London groups; Area Council was in favour of the proposal.

2. FURTHER NOTED: that such transfers had been effected in the past; in each case the decision was made by the Board on a case-by-case basis, providing that all parties were in agreement, and no immediate change to the Area's Constitution would be required. Any such transfer would also require the support of Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area and a formal decision by the group.

3. RESOLVED: to APPROVE the following motion:

“This AGM approves West London Group's request to transfer to the Inner London Area, and instructs the Area Officers to take such steps as are necessary to facilitate such transfer, including seeking the approval of the Board of Trustees.”

Proposed: *Clare Wadd*

Seconded: *Phil Marson*

18-02-12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. NOTED: oral reports and statements concerning the following items of other business:

- (i) the Chair reported on a meeting of the Ramblers Greater London Forum which she and the Secretary had attended earlier in the week; Inner London Area had opted out of membership of the Forum some years ago; at the meeting it was agreed that the Forum should be wound up, and Inner London Area were asked to find a way forward to work with the other groups in Greater London which fell under other Areas, in order to speak with a unified single voice on campaigning and other London-wide issues;
- (ii) an approach had been received from ramblers in Paris to twin with Ramblers in London; various individuals had expressed an interest, mainly from Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth, South Bank and West London groups; so far communication had been confined to email exchanges, but ideally a visit should take place soon to establish broad parameters; at the moment, Paris seemed interested in structures, financing and contact with the Mayor, whereas London was more interested in visits;

any members who were interested in the initiative were invited to contact Jo Buchanan of Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth;

- (iii) the Treasurer reminded the meeting that the Ramblers had 5 Trustee positions available this year; the closing date for applications was 24 February;
- (iv) in response to a question from a member, the Treasurer stated that the Ramblers' would continue to support Walking for Health once Macmillan support came to an end at the end of March, allowing time to find an alternative partner organisation.

The Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 1620 hours.

HMJA
04.02.2018