

Minutes of
2021-2022 Annual General Meeting 22nd January 2022 at 1:45pm
In Lancaster Way Community Centre Buckshaw

These minutes, the Annual Report and Review can be found [HERE](#)

Present:

Area Council members	Acting Chair	Eric Crichton
	Membership Secretary	Joy Taylor
	Publicity Officer	Kevin Matthews
	Area Access Officer	David Kelly
	South Ribble	Pauline Atkins
	West Lancs	Geoff Wright
	West Lancs Chair	David Barwick
	Preston	Brian Dearnaley

And 27 other members plus Mark Chung Trustee
(Chorley 15, Fylde 0, Garstang 0, Preston 8, South Ribble 5 West Lancs 6, LWW 1, HOL 0)

As we currently have no Secretary, Joy Taylor agreed to take some minutes and a recording was also made. My thanks to Joy.

Eric noted that the First Aid workshop by "Chorley's Angels" was highly appreciated and thanked Dennis and Lillian for the morning walk which walkers had praised.

One again Pauline Atkins has provided a well organised lunch.

1. Apologies for absence

Jim & Kay Gibson, Kitty Smith, Paul Coupland, Hilary Bell

2. Minutes of the 2020-2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2020-2021 AGM have been on the Website for a time and provided at this AGM and were accepted without comment.

3. Matters arising

No issues were raised from the previous agenda.

4. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

Historically we make no presentation on the Annual Report but from discussions with other Areas and HQ there is a preference to do some form of presentation.

Eric Crichton gave a summary from the Annual Report that has been on the website for a time.

- Garstang group still in abeyance
- As walks avoid problem paths, they are "Sanitised walks" so members may not be aware of state of paths and less aware of the need for action.
- LCC doing little on paths. Our possible course of action is to chase councillors and press.
- David Kelly contacts Councillors re paths, only two replies.
- Most groups and Area have more funds than they should due to underspend resulting from covid period. Groups cooperating in reducing excess funds.
The aim is to have about 100% of a year's expenses in the bank.
- Area retains some contingency funds for the whole area.
- Rambler membership 1.1% up, Mid Lancs 1.1% down.
- Our groups do not appear to be engaging much in HQ led projects.
Though West Lancs is trying short walks reflecting the "wellbeing walks" project.

5. Election of Honorary Officers

We thank Paul Coupland, for standing in as Treasurer for most of the last year. and Joe Howard for years of service, Joe is resigning for other commitments. (Subsequently, David Kelly has taken over the role) and Deborah Clarke for her work as Area Secretary this year but has resigned. Kitty Smith has taken on the Treasurer Role. Brian Dearnaley continues to attend as ex Chairman when circumstances allow.

A recent email has emphasised the need across the Area for new volunteers and officers. Area in particular is in need of a secretary and chair.

At this AGM, no one offered to take either role. Consequently, for the moment Eric will remain listed as the main contact but is it uncertain how long this can continue due to personal issues. There were no offers to take on any of the positions with no current officer.

The current officers volunteered to continue in their roles. They are re-elected in bulk by general consent.

Vice Chairman	Eric Crichton
Membership	Joy Taylor
Treasurer	Kitty Smith
Treasurer Support	Paul Coupland
Publicity	Kevin Matthews
Webmaster & Walks Programme	Eric Crichton
Area Access Officer	David Kelly

There was some general discussion re lack of volunteers.

- Mary Nolan mentioned that there was willingness take on "micro volunteering" but no desire to take on formal roles.
- Eric noted that all the groups and Areas are happy to have any amount of help. We have informal groups of volunteers sharing various tasks, and any role can be shared.
- We do not look for volunteers to take onboard the full "official" job descriptions by the Ramblers as we see those as unrealistic. People take on what level of activity suits and interests them
- One person expressed interest in footpath activities. Their group (W.Lancs) will be in touch

We will issue an email further on this topic

6. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Alison Hunt was accepted as honorary Auditor by general consent.

7. Consideration of Motions of which notice has been given in writing

None given

8. Approval of Motion for submission to General Council.

None given

9. Any Other Business

- Some discussion about Wellbeing walks and W.Lancs short walks.
- A query about helpfulness of LCC. Eric hasn't seen any evidence of that.
- David Pryer mentioned Rail Ramblers and provided some information on that.

The AGM was closed with thanks to all attending.

The AGM was followed by a talk from Mark Chung, Trustee and a presentation by Freda Whittle of Air Ambulance.