

Minutes of
2022-2023 Annual General Meeting 28th January 2023 at 1:45pm
In Broughton and District Club Hall.

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

Present: 35 counted

(Chorley 6, Fylde 3, Garstang 0, Preston 10, South Ribble 4, West Lancs 5, LWW 0, HOL 0, No Group listed 7))

As we currently have no Secretary, Joy Taylor agreed to take some. My thanks to Joy for that and monitoring the hall use.

Once again Pauline Atkins has provided a well organised lunch and organising the speaker.

All proposals were voted on a simple show of hands.

1. Apologies for absence

Kevin Matthews, Eileen Brierley, Eddy Coupe., Paul Coupland, Diane Simcoe

2. Minutes of the 2021-2022 AGM

The minutes of the 2021-2022 AGM have been on the Website for a time and were accepted without comment.

3. Matters arising

No issues were raised from the previous agenda.

4. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

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

- Dominant issues is decreasing number of leader.
- Age and Rambler bureaucracy main factors.
- Up coming change in leader guidelines may lose more leaders.
- Due to so much being done electronically, some groups and Area have excessive fund. Area will be resolving that by taking little in allocation from Central Office and funding group and Area expenses from current balance.

5. Election of Honorary Officers

Thanks to the officers who have supported the work of Area.

Eric has indicated that he is withdrawing from being Acting Chair albeit continuing with other roles..

At this AGM, no one offered to take Chair or Secretary Role.

If the Area closes there is significant impact on the groups.

See after AOB for current plans to retain an Area function.

The current officers volunteered to continue in their roles.

They are re-elected in bulk by general consent.

Vice Chairman

Membership

Treasurer

Treasurer Support

Publicity

Webmaster & Walks Programme

Area Access Officer

Footpath Officer

Eric Crichton

Joy Taylor

Kitty Smith

Paul Coupland

Kevin Matthews

Eric Crichton

David Kelly

David Kelly

There were no volunteers for any other role.

6. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Kirstie Garner 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

David Kelly thanked Eric for All his work on Area.

There was comment that U3A, other organisation and Meetup were attracting walkers away from Ramblers.

The AGM was closed with thanks to all attending.

Post AGM. Re Future of Area

While a few of our groups continue to have sufficient officers to function, other groups are missing officers. Preston has no Chair and one officer is handling too many roles, Fylde has no treasurer and limited walk programme. Ribble has been a "Flexigroup" (no finance, casual officers) for some years.

Following discussions with Fylde and Preston we are exploring converting these two groups into Flexigroups and having a combined Area/Flexigroup arrangement combining Area and Group management with all finances handled by Area. The details are yet to be worked out, and the next Council meeting in April will be used to progress this.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend

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The AGM was followed by a talk from Mark Chung, Trustee and a presentation by Jim Morton on walking the UK Coastline.

Mark's presentation can be found on the same page as this document [HERE](#)

Of particular relevance to our Area and walk leaders are the new guidelines which created very substantial responses and is now being radically reduced in size.

We have yet to see the revised versions.

They will be more flexible and matched to the walk, but there are proposals for ratios of leaders to walkers which, if mandatory, would affect our programmes radically.

Mark was asked if we could use our excess funds to repair footpaths. Mark didn't know. Thought unlikely and also only certified people are permitted to do such work.

While footpaths in our area have little repair work done by our LCC, Mark has a direct link through his Borough Council who provide a budget for prompt work and then reclaim from LCC.

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Jim Morton presented has intriguing walk of 8,895 miles in 537 days and had his book available for purchase.

The End.