

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 19 November 2022
Gilbert Hall, Titchfield Community Hall

Minutes

Present:	<u>Committee Members</u> Steve Nicholas - Chair Neil Elder - Treasurer Mandy Norris - Secretary <u>Members:</u> Julian Frankish Andy Standing Stephen Cocks Christine MacArthur Dave Morris Peter Williams Ann MacDonald Jill Richardson Apologies: Neil Pritchard – Walks Co-Ordinator Jo Sofaer Pat Kelly Miranda Shoebridge
1.	Welcome Steve Nicholas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.
2.	Approval of AGM Minutes & Matters Arising The Minutes of 18/11/2021 were accepted as an accurate record. Matters arising are as follows: <u>Alignment of Name</u> The alignment of the Group's name across the bank account, Facebook Page, Ramblers' registration, and website was discussed. It was noted there were no real benefits to this and the change may cause confusion. No further action required. <u>Dogs Policy</u> A member raised concerns about dogs on Group walks and suggested dogs should be prohibited from attending walks. This was discussed at Committee and the decision was unanimous that well behaved dogs/owners would continue to be welcome on Group walks. It was also agreed that Walk Leaders should insert a note about suitability of walks for dogs in walk descriptions (i.e. stiles not being dog friendly, being on leads with livestock, etc). No further action required. <u>Risk Assessments</u> There are unresolved issues regarding the Ramblers requirement for Walk Leaders to undertake risk assessments, such as storage of documents; inability to upload risk assessments to Ramblers' website; turnover of walk leaders. Other groups have lost Walk Leaders over this issue and the Group does not want to risk this. It was noted that most

	walks are reced and this is effectively a risk assessment, in addition, risks are identified by Walk Leaders verbally at the beginning of walks. No further action required. It was reported that two incident forms have been submitted to Ramblers this year. One involved a walker tripping over a dog and the other involved a walker tripping over their own poles. Mandy will remind Walk Leaders of the requirement to complete an Incident Report following incidents and that they should be sent to her for sign-off and submission to Ramblers.	Mandy
3.	Annual Report – November 2021 to November 2022 <u>Chairman's Report</u> (Steve) It has been a great year for the Group. Thankfully the last COVID restrictions were dropped earlier this year. A result of COVID restrictions is that a lot more people have discovered the benefits of outdoor pursuits, including physical and mental well-being. It has been very encouraging to see so many new faces on walks, along with those who have supported the group for many years. National Ramblers Membership currently stands at just over 102,000, a slight rise from 101,000 last year. Hampshire 40+ Walking Group's membership is 179, an increase from 167 stated last year. The Group's Facebook page currently has 1,726 followers so the Group is clearly creating a buzz that others are keen to follow. The Christmas Party at the Norton Park last year was great fun, and our return to the Winchester Hotel & Spa in a couple of weeks will be equally memorable. I just hope I take the correct suit this year! Steve thanked Walk Leaders for offering a wide range of walks across Hampshire and occasionally further afield, saying they are the backbone of the Group. Phil Housden was thanked for organising an excellent week in the Peak District in July which included a walk every day, along with several evening social gatherings. Steve also thanked Committee Members for their help and support which is appreciated and never taken for granted by him or members. Steve also thanked Mandy and Julian for both arranging the hall booking for the AGM and for providing tea/coffee/cakes/biscuits. <u>Treasurers Report</u> (Neil E) Activity through the Main Income & Expenditure Account has been modest with the income during the last 12 months being £300.74 made up of a Ramblers Grant of £270.74 and a £30.00 Ramblers World Holiday incentive and Nil expenditure. At end of year there was a balance of £566.08. There are ample funds to meet anticipated expenditure. In due course, it will be decided whether the Group requires the next contribution from Ramblers and/or surplus cash is returned. The Surplus (Social Activities) account has seen the following transactions over the last 12 months: • £225.00 received from members for the 2021 Christmas Party • £1,198.50 received from members for the 2022 Christmas Party • £1,485.00 payment for the 2021 Christmas Party	

	• £300.00 payment for the 2022 Christmas Party deposit • £40.00 payment re gift for the 2021 Christmas Party organiser At 30/09/2022 Year End, the Surplus Bank Account had a credit balance of £1,041.19. There is still £898.50 to pay for the 2022 Christmas Party, leaving a balance of £142.69 for future use. If members have ideas for raising funds or activities to use expenditure, they should be raised with Committee members. <u>Walk Co-Ordinator's Report</u> (Neil P – submitted in writing) It is very good for us all to be able to go walking again without being hampered by restrictions and 2022 has been the first year for a couple of years that we have not been limited about when we can walk. The last 12 months have been very good for the Group with 92 walks taking place up to 18 November 2022 (compared to 70 walks in 2021). One of the attractions of the Hampshire 40+ Walking Group is the wide variety of walks offered with a variety of distances and locations with Hampshire featuring most regularly, as well as West Sussex, Dorset, and Wiltshire. A big thank you to Phil Valentino for organising the Group trip to the Peak District in July with other walks which was a great success. Phil led the majority of walks, with Steve Nicholas and Richard Bass leading a walk each. A big thank you to all the people who have lead walks over the last 12 months, both the experienced and those who are newer to walk leading. The Group is in good shape and hopefully we can increase further the number of people who lead walks.	
4.	Election of Committee Members All Committee Members stepped down. As there were no proposals for alternative role holders, the existing Committee members volunteered to remain in post for another year. Stephen will continue as Web Administrator.	
5.	Any Other Business • It was reported that Ramblers are currently piloting a process to update how walks are added to the website. More information will be circulated when available. • There have been no Area Meetings recently. Steve will attend if they restart. • There was a discussion about the Ramblers new guidance regarding payment of expenses for recces at 45p per mile. Steve will explore whether other groups in the area pay expenses and how this is managed and take the information to the next Committee Meeting for further discussion. • Attendees were shown an example First Aid Kit at a cost of £10.00 each. It was agreed these would be offered to Walk Leaders as they are required on every walk. Mandy will	Steve Steve Mandy & Neil E

	upload a post to the Walk Leaders Facebook page asking people to inform Neil if they wish him to order a kit on their behalf. - Miranda Shoebridge has secured permission from a landowner to replace a dilapidated bench in Kings Worthy with a new bench in memory of Jan Wilson, Committee member and friend to many members. Steve has recced the site and confirmed it has a great viewpoint. The proposed wooden bench will cost £650 + VAT. A brass plaque can be fitted at extra cost. Volunteers will be required to arrange for the bench legs to be concreted in place. Miranda has obtained details of the process to apply for a contribution from Hampshire County Council. It was agreed that up to £300 will be funded by the Group (with Ramblers' consent) and any additional funding will be raised through donations from Jan's friends. Dave offered to arrange a Just Giving page. Neil E will explore whether Ramblers are exempt from paying VAT. Steve will bring final details to Committee for approval. - The summer BBQ at Queen Elizabeth Country Park was well attended. It was agreed it was appropriate for Andy S to charge a nominal fee of £5.00 per person (and people can contribute more at their discretion) to cover hire costs for a repeat event. It was also agreed the Group will cover costs should the event lose money or be called off due to inclement weather. - Dave Morris raised the subject of sharing lifts to walks to save costs and reduce impact on the environment. It was agreed car sharing will remain private arrangements between friends who walk together, rather than be promoted or organised by the Group at this time. No further action required. - The subject of footwear/attire on walks was raised. It was agreed that it is the Walk Leader's decision whether to accept/decline attendance if walkers are not dressed suitably for weather/terrain conditions. No further action required.	Dave Neil Steve
6.	Close of Meeting Steve thanked everyone for attending the 2022 AGM and closed the meeting.	