

Chorley Rambler's AGM
Tuesday 27th November 2018
Chorley Cricket Club, Sandringham Road, Chorley, PR7 1LG

Mike Wisdom introduced himself and opened the formal part of the meeting.

There were 41 people in attendance at the AGM and 8 apologies were received.

1/ The notice calling the AGM and describing the matters to be considered today was mailed out to all our members in October 2019. Will someone move that the reading of this notice now be dispensed with.

Proposer - Eileen Entwisle Second - Tony Farrah

2/ Approval of the minutes of our last AGM on the Wednesday 27th November 2017. A copy of the minutes can be obtained from our secretary and is also available on our website. Will someone move that the reading of the minutes held on 27th November 2017 be dispensed with and that they be approved and adopted as presented. Proposer - Martin Smalley
Second - Linda Southworth

3/ Chairman's Report. Mike Wisdom reported that there had been 48 people on one walk and Chorley's membership continues to grow.
The Chorley Flower Show was a huge success and there was lots of enthusiasm shown from Chorley Rambler's members. We have many volunteers doing lots of different roles.

4/ Accounts. Walter McDermott has retired today and Dennis Wilson will continue in this role. Dennis explained how the monies are audited and checked. The £9000 should have reduced by next year.

I now place before the members the Audited Financial statement up to the Fiscal period 30th September 2018 together with the Auditors report on. Will someone move that the reading of the Financial statement and auditors report be dispensed with. Proposer - ? Second - ?

5/ Election of Officers. The next item of business is the appointment of the committee. I will ask Marian Owen to take the chair for the election of our chair person. Are there any nominations for Chair Person. If there are no nominations I declare Mike Wisdom be re-elected as our Chairman. The following are committee members in their respective positions elected at the previous A.G.M. or co-opted since and have agreed to stand for re-election to the committee in their various capacities.

Paula Armstrong - Secretary

Dennis Wilson - Treasurer

Alan Blundell - Programme Coordinator (retiring April 2019)

Marian Owen - Footpath Coordinator

Eileen Entwisle - Membership Secretary

Derek Statters - Publicity Officer

Mike Wisdom - Website & Social Media

Programme coordinator Alan Blundell is retiring in April 2019 and Lorraine Eaves will take his place. She will not be on the committee but will work as a volunteer.

Do we have any nominations for committee members? Can we have a proposer and seconder that the existing committee members be elected en-bloc.

Proposer - Phil Atherton Second - John Warner

We now need to nominate someone to be our representative at the Area committee meetings and AGM. Mike attended the meetings last year and is willing to continue as your Area Rep... Are there any nominations? No nominations received.

Proposed - Brian Allman Seconded - Marina

6/ Election of Auditor. The next matter is the appointment of the Chorley Ramblers Auditor. John Warner has agreed to continue to audit our accounts for the next fiscal period. Will someone move that John Warner be the Auditor until the next AGM.

Proposer - Sue Fletcher Seconder - Martin Smalley

7:25pm - the formal part of the meeting was closed.

7/Other Officers Reports - Eileen Entwisle - Membership Secretary - there is a new system now whereby Eileen can only see members that are fully paid up. It was suggested that members start to carry their membership cards as there is a QR on them and from next year these may be being scanned by walk leaders (this will be optional).

Alan Blundell - Programme Secretary - thanked people for continuing to lead walks for Chorley Ramblers and mentioned that there had been the loss of a couple of good leaders for various reasons.

Derek Statters - Publicity Officer - there has been a 10% increase in membership over 8-9 months. Chorley Ramblers is expanding at least 4 times faster than any other group in the country.

Marian Owen - Footpaths Officer - Mike read out Marian's report as she was unable to be in attendance tonight. The report mentioned that Lancashire County Council have a new system for reporting problems with footpaths. This system seems to be working as there has been lots of feedback received by 26th November 2018 from reports that had been submitted by Chorley Ramblers members. The Rivington fires were mentioned as there had been some damage caused to the area which will need to be repaired.

Mike Wisdom - Social Media - there are over 400 members on Facebook now. Mr Southworth asked why we have 400 members on Facebook but only 314 actual group members.

Miles Without Stiles - United Utilities have not been interested in putting gates in around Rivington but Mike mentioned there is one in the area and Phil Atherton also mentioned he had seen one. United Utilities may be more interested in the future. The 2 gates have arrived on site at Cuerden Valley and will both now be installed.

David Kelly - Area Secretary – there have been some new stiles put in and also some gates. There have also been some footpath signs appearing.

Last October councillors were invited to look round Longton - only 1 turned up.

The Ramblers Chief Executive came on a walk and Lancashire County Council repaired a bridge (possibly due to publicity) so this was included in the walk. Lots of other services are also having spending cut.

David mentioned the Ranger Service was possibly going to be scrapped and they manage 90 sites. LCC staff that deal with repairs etc in the countryside - their department has also been halved. Further cuts include reduced opening hours at recycling centres.

How do we raise the profile of footpaths. One section of the coastal path near Whitehaven was put back by a year and this has now been extended to taking up to 25 months to be completed. Only one section of the coastal path opened this year and that was in the North East.

8/Any other business and questions - Brian Allman said that Walter was with Chorley Ramblers for 34 years and was Treasurer for 17 years.

Mike thanked Brian Allman for leaving the group in such a good condition.

Sue Fletcher asked about Data Protection and the photos that end up on Facebook. Mike explained that if people are not happy they need to say to the leader/person taking the photos that they object. David said guidance from headquarters is if there are 2-3 people you need to ask but if there are more photos can just be taken.

Pat Hough spoke about the Scrambler's group - the children's walking group that runs for 9 months of the year to get children out on an adventure / scramble / walk / run and possibly end with a playground. New walk leaders are always welcome for the Scrambler's walks.