

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th December 2016

37 people attended the meeting excluding the speaker

1 – Apologies - 7 apologies were received

2 - Minutes – the minutes of the 2015 AGM were read and agreed as a true record. Proposer: Eileen Entwisle. Seconder: Alan Blundell.

3 - Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman, Eric Crichton, explained why the month for the AGM had changed. This is due to the printing of leaflets and timing of other promotional materials including the walks programme. Eric talked about the decline / decrease in membership - on average Chorley Group is decreasing by approximately 8 members per year.

The programme has been enhanced by running 3 walks a week - a Tuesday walk, Saturday walk and shorter Sunday walk. Several thousand leaflets were distributed before the Walk Festival in June in an attempt to gain new members.

Chorley has a 'clean' website and it is really easy to understand. Also, Chorley has a great programme of local walks. About 3% of Chorley Groups membership are from outside Chorley.

There has been a different approach to getting volunteers involved during this last year - where 1 person used to complete the whole walks programme, there are now 3 people looking after the programme and they each coordinate the walks for one day i.e. Saturday walks. Amanda French looks after the publicity and Facebook and is a new committee member. Alan Blundell also joined the Committee and is one of the 3 people who coordinate the walks programme. There are also 5 new leaders on the walks programme.

Chorley Group has offered 149 walks during the last 12 months including 7 Scrambler's (children's) walks and 12 coach rambles.

Terry Lewis's legacy - Marian Owen arranged the picnic and memorial walk to see the benches that have been installed in Yarrow Valley Park in Terry's memory. Eric thanked Marian for her hard work organising this.

Footpaths - Marian Owen thanked the footpath checkers - a team of around 26 people carry out this task. The amount of issues is down because Lancashire County Council were not dealing with waymarking issues/dirty/muddy paths so a decision was made not to report these issues. Chorley paths are generally in very good condition.

Lancashire County Council are giving standard responses regarding paths that are not accessible - it's a complicated issue as people are not covered by the law etc if they are not on a path and are on private land. One of the paths around Rivington that had always been a problem has now been waymarked properly.

Brian Allman explained about the manhole near the M61 junction 8 which was right on the line of the path and was uncovered. It was initially covered with wood but it has now been railed off.

There has been a new flight of steps erected in Croston on an embankment of the river on the boundary of Mid Lancs and West Lancs - where it becomes Mawdesley again.

Footpath checkers are still required for Rivington and other areas.

Pathwatch App - upgraded this year so now you don't have to 'grab' a square, you can use it anywhere. If you send in a 'report' you don't receive any feedback - David Kelly isn't sure how people making a report will receive any feedback either. There is an intention to arrange a walk so people can use the app on the walk to gain experience of using it.

Brian Allman is still organising the information board - the Treeface Cafe car park is being refurbished in March 2017. Regarding the upkeep of the Chorley Circular it is mainly within the remit of Yarrow Valley Park.

4 - Accounts

Eric went through the accounts and explained why the format has changed - this is due to the way the accounts are now presented to The Ramblers.

The members were asked if they were happy to receive these as the audited statement of accounts for 2016-2017.

Proposer: ?. Seconder: ?. All in favour.

5 - Election of Officers

Eric Crichton wished to resign as Chairman due to personal reasons. Mike Wisdom was nominated for the position.

Proposer: Eileen Entwisle. Seconder: Pat Hough.

Mike Wisdom was declared elected as Chair.

The following people were elected at the previous AGM or co-opted since and have agreed to stand for re-election to the committee in their various roles:

Secretary - Paula Armstrong

Treasurer - Walter McDermott

Programme Coordinator - Alan Blundell

Membership Secretary - Eileen Entwisle

Publicity Officer - Amanda French

Website Manager - Mike Wisdom

Proposer: Brian Allman. Second: Sue Fletcher. All in favour and all people named above declared re-elected en-bloc.

There were no nominations or proposals for any other vacant positions.

6 - Election of Auditor

Ken Standring was appointed as Auditor. Proposer: Amanda French.
Second: Denny Robinson.
Eric declared Ken Standring Auditor.

7 - Banking Motions

Eric Crichton explained the difficulties that had been encountered regarding changing banks and loss of signatories. Banks usually require AGM motions to authorise signatories.
In order to provide more practical management of monies the motions suggested are requested to be approved. Their purpose is to define and constrain signatories to the arrangement required by The Ramblers, while giving the Committee the ability to alter secondary signatories and change bank account if required.
Proposer: Alan Blundell. Second: Martin Smalley

Any motions previously submitted to the Secretary - none.

8 - AOB

David Kelly, Area Secretary, spoke - outstanding issues are slowly increasing with Lancashire County Council. Rights of Way staff have decreased from 17 to 12. When LCC receive a report it is given a priority category in the range of 1 to 5. If given a 5 it is unlikely to be repaired. If given a category of 1 to 3 it is likely to be repaired. There is a suspicion that LCC do not respond to a single report but will respond to multiple reports.

Pathwatch - was re-launched in mid November The numbers of long outstanding reports is increasing.

Presentation - the speaker for this evening was Neil Howarth who gave a very informative and interesting demonstration and explanation of when and how to use defibrillators that are provided in various locations in local communities that the public can use if required.