

MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH AREA 2011 AGM

THE HUB, CAMBOURNE, SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2011

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Brian Foster, welcomed Robert Peel, our designated RA Trustee, and some 30 members of the RA.

2. Presentation by Robert Peel

Robert spoke of some of the concerns—the focus of RA; its' finances; its competence; and its transparency—which had led him and others to gain election as Trustees. 2010 had been a year of some achievements, with renewed focus on public rights of way, and the competence of the organisation. The financial situation appeared to have been stabilised, with better reserves ratio; the pension fund attended to; and the backlog of Gift Aid recouped.

For the immediate future the RA faces a number of threats: externally, cuts and the Big Society will cause problems; and internally, the need to recruit new members and retain existing ones is a prime concern. RA has to become more aware of why people join, and what members expect, informing too the wider public about the work which RA carries out for the general public.

Members enjoyed a wide ranging and informative discussion, and Robert's leadership was warmly appreciated.

3. Apologies for Absence

Matt Bullock, in Sweden for an important family birthday; Jill Tufnell, in New Zealand for a walking holiday, and safe; Christine Bickley, working; Bill Thompson, at an important Rugby match; Janet Cartwright; and Steve Horner.

4. Minutes of the 2010 AGM & Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2010 were approved on the proposal of Jacqui Homer, seconded by Janet Moreton

Mention was again made of the A14 crossing: thanks again expressed to Janet Davis at HQ for help, and for the commitment to continue support if the plans resurfaced.

5. Area Report & Accounts

Brian Foster explained various matters in the accounts, which showed the reduction in expenditure achieved, without dramatic effect for members. The importance of the hard-copy Walks Programme was further emphasised.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sheila Chambers, and seconded by Roger Moreton

Brian Foster intimated that this would be the last year he would serve in any of the multiple capacities he currently fulfilled, and he thought others might also step down in the near future. Roger Moreton expressed concern that the pool of people willing to take up Area posts was declining, and declining membership would not help to increase that pool. Neil Banks raised the issue of making members more aware of what RA did, for example in changes to the RoW network,

and advocated increased use of email. This is difficult as although new members are asked for their email, existing members email addresses are not necessarily known.

Membership in the Area was down by about 50, to 1558

6. Election of Officers

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
President	Matthew Bullock	Brian Foster	David Elsom
Chairman	Brian Foster	David Elsom	Lisa Woodburn
Secretary	David Elsom	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Treasurer	Chris Morris	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Footpaths/ Countryside/ Access	Bill Thompson	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Membership Sec	Janet Cartwright	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Publicity Officer	Vacant		
Walks Prog. Co-ordinator	Brian Foster	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie

7. Election of General Council Delegates

Brian Foster, proposed by David Elsom, seconded by Neil Banks.

Charles Knowelden to be approached about attendance

8. Discussion of Motions for General Council

It was agreed that we should not add to the list of motions for General Council: many others will express our concerns.

9. Election of Auditors

No Auditors were appointed.

10. Any Other Business

Brian thanked Janet and Roger for organising the morning walk, whilst David Elsom thanked Lisa Woodburn and members of the Cambridge Group for organising the AGM and baking a wonderful cake.