

DONCASTER RAMBLERS

Minutes of committee meeting held on 19.01.2026 Village Hall Finningley.

Committee members present: David Gadd, Stephen Tomlinson, David Horne, Brian Unsworth and Peter Smith.

- 1. Apologies.** Angela Gibson, Stuart Twell, Ian Baltrop, Dianne Scolari and Peter Rowsell.
- 2. Review of the minutes of the meeting on 21.07.25.** These were accepted as accurate.
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes of 21.07.25.** The issue of 9.30 starts has gone away over the Autumn and winter walking period but several committee members expect it to reappear in the spring as the daylight hours and hence distance to walk start locations increase.
- 4. Financial report.** Given by David Horne. David reported that the balance in the bank is £655.18. Transactions as follows

Income.

23/10/25	£125.00	SYNED Area Credit.
21/11/25	£20.00	Ramblers Walking Partnership.
21/07/25 to 23/09/25	£180.00	9 coach fares @ £20.
01/10/25 to 03/12/25	£1971.00	Christmas Lunch Payments.

Expenditure.

21/07/25	£40.00	Peter Rowsell Expenses.
22/07/25	£52.92	Fuel Allowance
04/08/25	£47.50	Fuel Allowance
18/08/25	£725.00	Buckleys Coaches
05/09/25	£57.84	Fuel Allowance
29/09/25	£56.84	Fuel Allowance
26/11/25	£23.80	Fuel Allowance
01/12/25	£23.27	Treasurers Fuel Expenses
03/12/25	£1971.00	DN1 Gourmet Catering
10/12/25	£125.00	Finningley Parish Council
16/12/25	£25.48	Fuel Allowance
12/08 to 24/09/25	£376.00	Coach Trip Refunds

DH advised he is expecting to receive another quarterly payment of £125 from SYNED on or around 23.01.26

5. Walks programme.

- Tuesday walks.** Walks booked up to 07.04.26 which is 12 Tuesdays, four dates still vacant in this period but they should be filled.
- Thursday walks.** Walks booked to 28.05.26 which is 19 Thursdays, 9 of these dates still to be filled. Short of Thursday walk leaders and dependent on a few people leading walks. Rob Elvidge currently not leading walks for personal reasons. DG advised he

had asked Charlie Pratt and Angela Gibson to ask walk leaders to put on Thursday walks

- **Saturday walks.** The walks programme is full to 07.03.26 (7 Saturdays) with the exception of 14.02.26. Note there was no walk on Saturday 17.01.26
 - **Carers walks.** SJT has spoken to Alyssa Mills from Doncaster Carers about the 2026 programme. She is still waiting to see if funding is available and will be in touch when and if this is in place.
 - **Coach trip.** The 2026 coach trip will take place on Saturday 26.09.25 from Ravenscar to Scarborough. As usual there will be 3 walks, long, medium and short. SJT has received a quote from Buckley of £850 which is £75 more expensive than 2025 so assuming we have a full coach the cost will be £17.50 per person. This % increase is in line with what other local walking groups have experienced recently. During the meeting DH advised that the HF September coach trip had been changed to 27.09.276 the day after ours. Following the meeting SJT got confirmation of this but has decided to stick with our original date and the coach has been booked and DH asked to pay the £50 deposit.
 - **Xmas meal and walk.** Neil Thornton has booked Wheatley Golf Club as the venue for 2026. The event will take place on Thursday 10 December 2026. The only Tuesday available in December was the 22.12.25 which many members felt was too close to Xmas therefore Neil has gone for a Thursday which will be a positive for Thursday walkers.
 - **Walking Month of May.** This event is being organised by City of Doncaster Council as part of the Get Doncaster Moving campaign. David Gadd has requested that all our walks in May are mainly within the city boundaries.
6. **Membership.** Current membership is 247 a slight decrease from the last meeting. From the database in the last 3 months, we have had 9 new members and 16 have left, lapsed or left the area. We have lost 3 long term members (age related) the rest of the leavers are members who have held membership for one year or less and have probably never walked with us. It maybe that the use of MailChimp to notify members of events is reminding non walking members of their membership which they then cancel. Peter Rowsell confirms all new members have been sent welcome packs. A review of our membership over the last 24 months shows it hovers around 250. Group membership figures for the SYNED are appended to the end of the report. During 2025 the majority of Groups within SYNED have stable membership figures, a similar trend to ours.
7. **Publicity.** Prepared by Peter Rowsell. Report presented at the end of the minutes. Peter has advised the Committee that for health reasons he is having to make some cuts to his role. Peter has confirmed he will still look after posting of walk reports and photos on our website and Facebook and will continue to liaise with Doncaster Free Press. Peter is unable to attend meetings. David Gadd will continue our links with Get Doncaster Moving and Steve Tomlinson will pick up any requests for help etc. from the TPT. We have had no response to our contact with the Fridays' Men's Club re their request for a talk by Doncaster Ramblers. It was agreed we would not pursue this further unless they contact us. Following the meeting ST emailed TPT to advise them of the change to contact details. The committee records its thanks to Peter for his major contribution to Doncaster Ramblers in the past.
8. **Rights of Way Maintenance.** Report presented by Peter Smith. Members of the Doncaster Ramblers Maintenance Team have been invited to lunch with Julie Guest and Stuart Horrocks of the CDC Rights of Way team. This event will also be attended by the head of Highways for CDC who has ultimate responsibility for footpaths and bridleways within the CDC boundaries. This is a good opportunity for our team to meet senior people in CDC. Tony Marsh who was

heavily involved with footpath maintenance for Doncaster Ramblers for many years has accepted an invitation to attend as a thank you for all his work over the years. PS also advised that the safety requirements for maintenance teams required by CO have increased. Peter advised he is on top of this. CO have also banned the use of chainsaws unless personnel are LANTRA trained in their use. At the lunch with CDC PS and ST will see if CDC can piggyback our members onto a course they may organise. If this is not an option then we will not be using chainsaws as the training is too expensive for Doncaster Ramblers to pay for. Peter also advised the Stuart Horrocks of CDC is hoping to plot all outstanding work on a map so that work clusters can be identified to make planning and carrying out work easier and allow targeting of areas. Peter also reported that Stuart Twell was programmed to have a meeting with the Environment Agency on the 20.01.26

- 9. Rights of Way Monitoring.** Dianne Scolari reported that all the footpaths in CDC had been checked during 2025. John Stapelton has given up his role as a footpath warden; his role has been taken on by John Smallwood. Following the meeting ST advised CO of these changes so the Volunteer Dashboard could be updated.

10. Any Other Business.

- Walk leader training. ST reported that all those who intended to do the walk leader training have completed it. We have 38 walk leaders registered with CO, three of these are members of other Rambler Groups. A list of all walk leaders and what days they lead walks has been sent to the committee members and the Walk Coordinators. The possibility of running a group session for future walk leaders was discussed as a couple of other groups nationally had success with this.
- Brian Unsworth advised that he intends to amend the method he uses for adding minutes of the Committee meetings to our website. His methodology was approved. Brian also advised there was still some references to DMBC on the website. It was agreed he would change these to CDC.
- Grading of walks. Some members of the group recommended an alternative walk grading system especially for walks which may fall between the CO definitions for moderate and strenuous. It was agreed that we would be unable to change the grading as they are fixed in Walks Manager for national publication. It was advised that if a walk leader has a concern about sections of a moderate walk being strenuous, they should add a comment to the published walk description.
- David Gadd gave a brief report on the SYNED area AGM which he attended on Saturday 17.01.26. DG updated the committee on the proposed changes to the governance of Ramblers. The changes, still to be agreed, are intended to give the membership a greater say in the running of Ramblers. A trustee of Ramblers present was asked about the recent walk leader training changes and the reason for them. The trustee advised that the changes were not driven by Rambler's insurers but were part of a drive for Ramblers to become "Best in Class" of walking groups.

The meeting closed at 2035
S J Tomlinson 21.01.26

Publicity Report prepared by Peter Rowsell.

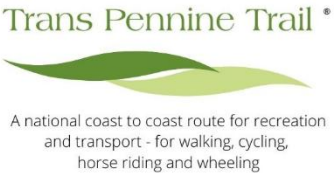
Unfortunately, due to illness I have to step back even further from my role as Publicity Officer. Please continue to send me photos and walk reports which I will still post on our website FB page, and Free Press etc. Below though is a snap shot of those activities I'd no longer be able to begin / continue.

Get Doncaster Moving

<https://getdoncastermoving.org/gdmsummit>

I have been a regular attendee at these sessions over the years and admittedly been less and less valuable as a networking tool still as the only walking group represented did give us some kudos

Trans Pennine Trail

 Trans Pennine Trail * A national coast to coast route for recreation and transport - for walking, cycling, horse riding and wheeling	Robert Drummond Technical Assistant - National Trans Pennine Trail Office Hosted by: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Westgate Plaza One, PO Box 597, S70 2DR Telephone: 01226 772574	
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Email: info@transpenninetrail.org.uk

Whenever one of our guided walks includes the TPT I tended to send them a copy. They shared their Christmas carol with us. I was planning to bring the TPT together with Active Travil (below) to create a wheelchair friendly route around Doncaster

Meanwhile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOBorPVFDtM>

Active Travil

Emma Norton Consultation and Engagement Manager

City of Doncaster Council

Phone 01302 737 301

Email emma.norton@doncaster.gov.uk

Website www.doncaster.gov.uk

I was invited to attend the inaugural meeting of this group whose focus was on footpaths and pavements for the disabled, initially street furniture and other obstructions.

Friday Mens Club

David Clayton

Peacehaven Communal Hall, Barnby Dun, DN3 1AF

Mobile 07752 106266

fridaymensclub@gmail.com

Walking Month of May

Marianne Turner,

e-mail Marianne.Turner@doncaster.gov.uk

Marianna co-ordinates various walking groups around the city including Wellbeing Walks. She also has a hand in walk leader training. Is looking at Doncaster Ramblers to take part Walking Month May program

A bit of history

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk_k8kQMnMM

Peter Rowsell

SYNED Membership data.

SYNED Membership											
Year end	CNED	Donc	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allocated	SYNED total	National Total
2015	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106452
2016	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105234
2017	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104617
2018	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	2237	102023
2019	371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172	102151
2020	353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064	98717
2021	363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073	101130
2022	368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2118	102144
2023	365	235	475	214	150	156	186	311	91	2183	103727
2024	354	249	453	203	155	154	243	314	129	2254	105693
2025											
January	358	247	458	201	152	152	250	320	127	2265	106253
February	348	248	457	197	148	154	258	318	124	2252	106707
March	346	249	455	198	147	153	269	323	129	2269	107266
April	336	254	447	199	150	154	290	323	136	2289	107856
May	326	249	442	198	152	158	290	319	134	2268	107804
June	321	254	442	196	151	156	297	317	131	2265	107874
July	324	258	456	228	164	159	297	318	136	2340	108270
August	318	258	455	226	164	161	306	311	147	2346	108387
September	316	253	454	223	161	160	301	311	147	2326	107895
October	323	252	452	220	161	156	303	314	138	2319	107663
November	312	253	456	220	158	154	309	315	132	2309	107601
December	310	249	458	219	156	152	312	315	135	2306	107687