

DONCASTER RAMBLERS

Minutes of committee meeting held on 27.04.2026 Village Hall Finningley.

Committee members present: David Gadd, Stephen Tomlinson, Ian Baltrop, Stuart Twell and Dianne Scolari.

1. **Apologies.** Peter Rowsell, David Horne, Peter Smith and Brian Unsworth
2. **Review of the minutes of the meeting on 19.01.26.** These were accepted as accurate.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes of 19.01.26.** None
4. **Financial report.** Presented by Steve Tomlinson from information provided by David Horne. Transactions etc. as follows

Bank Balance as at 19/01/26 (date of last meeting) £655.18

Income;

02/02/26 SYNED Area Funding	
(3 x Quarterly payments in one transaction)	£375.00
16/02 to 26/03/26 Coach Fares; 51 at £20 each	£1020.00
Total Income	£1395.00

Expenditure

23/01/26 Buckleys Coach Hire	£50.00
27/02 /26 2 x Coach Fare Refunds @ £20	£40.00
16/03/26 Fuel Claim	£43.96
30/03/26 Fuel Claim	£17.36
Total expenditure	£151.32

Bank Balance as at 23/04/26 £1898.86

5. **Walks programme.**

- **Tuesday walks.** Eleven walks booked up to 11.08.26, four dates still vacant in this period but they should be filled. Also, a walk booked for 15.09.26
- **Thursday walks.** Six walks booked to 04.06.26 no walks booked after this date. David Gadd advised short of walk leaders. He advised that it was unlikely that those walking on Thursday would step up as walk leaders. Several committee members offered to put a couple of walks on during the summer whilst David Horne is otherwise occupied.
- **Saturday walks.** Six walks booked to 18.07.26 with 6 dates still vacant. Walks also booked for 22.08.26, 05.09.26 and 19.09.26
- **Carers walks.** SJT has recently heard from Alyssa and funding has not yet been forthcoming and will keep us updated. Message received from Alyssa on 29.04.26

confirming that Sport England had refused funding. They will self-fund one day at Brodsworth Hall which SJT will arrange with Alyssa.

- **Coach trip.** The 2026 coach trip is fully booked with four on the reserve list. SJT advised that the coach has been filled with Doncaster Ramblers, friends and family and it has not been necessary to offer seats to other local walking groups.
- **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. Details have been forwarded to members with booking from the start of October 2026
- **Walking Month of May.** This event is being organised by City of Doncaster Council as part of the Get Doncaster Moving campaign and a national campaign. David Gadd expressed frustration with CDC as he was struggling to make contact to ensure our walks were on the programme for this Walking Month. Finally got a reply 21.04.26 explaining that a person had left and things were in disarray but would get our walks uploaded onto the programme. DG confirmed again on 22.04.26 the walks we were putting on. SJT checked CDC website walks programme on 29.04.26 and our walks do not appear on the programme. It was concluded our walks will go ahead but we expect nobody other than Doncaster Ramblers members to attend.

6. **Membership.** As off 19.04.26 current membership is 249 a slight increase from the last meeting. From the database in the last 3 months, we have had 16 new members and one who has rejoined. In the same period, we have had 15 people leave the group, 3 members are lapsed, one has left and 11 have resigned. SJT confirms all new members have been sent welcome packs. A review of our membership over the last 24 months shows our membership is stable.
7. **Publicity.** Peter Rowsell has been suffering from ill health since the last meeting. In the interim Brian Unsworth has taken on the posting of walk reports and photographs onto our website and Facebook page. We experienced a problem with accessing Flickr which we use to add photos to our website. This issue was resolved by Brian. Discussions with Peter Rowsell indicate he forwards our Facebook information to about 20 plus groups in the area. This is currently in abeyance. Prior to the meeting it was agreed that Brian would visit Peter after he is settled at home to see if he can reinstate these postings. The Committee expressed it thanks to Brian for stepping into Peter's shoes and agreed we would have struggled without his technical expertise and efforts.
8. **Rights of Way Maintenance.** Report presented by Stuart Twell. The first session of 2026 was carried out on 22.04.26. The first session was delayed due to lack of council funding. A stile was erected to British Standards on Environment Agency land in Fishlake. Stuart advised that the uprights for the stile were buried 75cm below ground level and concreted in. The work has been reported on our website and advised to our members via MailChimp. The next session will be the middle of May probably around Banburgh. Stuart also advised that he had decided not to pursue chainsaw training as usage did not justify the cost. Permission was given for another crowbar to be purchased as the one purchased last year had proved to be an invaluable tool. Stuart advised that the meeting held with the council Rights of Way in February 2026 was a success.
9. **Rights of Way Monitoring.** Presented by Dianne Scolari. The 2026 monitoring programme has commenced with one square being complete apart from two footpaths. Dianne to remind square wardens to carry out their survey during the spring as paths are accessible and this give the maintenance team time during the year to correct defects.

10. Any Other Business.

- We have 40 walk leaders registered with CO, three of these are members of other Rambler Groups. An updated list of all walk leaders and what days they lead walks has been sent to the Walk Coordinators on 29.04.26
- DG updated the committee on the proposed changes to the governance of Ramblers which Central Office were trying to push through was rejected by General Council. The vote in favour did not reach the 75% required.

The meeting closed at 2035
S J Tomlinson 29.04.28

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