

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of Grange Group of the Ramblers, held in the URC Church Hall, Kents Bank Road, Grange over Sands, on Thursday 17th November 2011.

- 1.0 – The Chairman**, Tony Harrison opened the Meeting and welcomed those present, particularly those members attending for the first time. There were 19 members present.
- 2.0 – Apologies** – Alison Bottomley, Barbara Bottomley, Margaret Carter, Ian Conway, John Daffern, Shirley Leaver, Robert Leach, Anne Peat and Philip & Phyllis Walker.
- 3.0 – The Minutes of last year’s AGM** were distributed, read, approved unanimously and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 4.0 – Matters Arising** – there were none.
- 5.0 – The Chairman’s Address** –the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and paid tribute to two members who had died over the last twelve months. He thanked the Committee for their support and noted that all the essential committee posts were filled. He commented on the full walks’ programme and mentioned that the telephone tree was still there to enable spontaneous walks to take place at short notice. The walk reports printed in ‘Grange Now’ were good publicity, and Ramblers’ information was available on the website. The Chairman concluded by saying he had enjoyed his time in office over the past seven years and was standing down for personal reasons. He was happy to remain on the Committee.
- 6.0 – Announcements** – The next social event would be the Christmas Lunch – there were three walks on the programme before Christmas and one post Christmas walk with an optional pub lunch. The Coach outing next year would be to Hadrian’s wall and would be in mid May.
- 7.0 Secretary’s Report** – The Secretary began her report by paying tribute to Bob Stewardson who had died very recently. Bob was a long time member of our Group and also a member of the Chalet Committee. He undertook footpath surveying and clearing around Haverthwaite and Staveley in Cartmel, and as he had been a cabinet maker with the famous firm of Waring and Gillow, was much appreciated for his skilled maintenance work at the Rambler’s Chalet at Stair. He was involved in orienteering and was still winning veteran classes until just recently. His funeral was attended by many, including Orienteers, Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team and members of St John’s Ambulance Brigade in full uniform. The Secretary then went on and outlined attendances at Meetings and training days for footpath work and coastal access. A briefing session by a LDNPA Rights of Way Officer was attended by several members qualifying them

for Ease of Use surveys. One member attended as delegate to General Council. Social events had been well attended and members had also attended rallies to safeguard access rights and campaigns to save our forests. The bridge over the railway at Clare Lane had been restored and this was in large part due to the efforts of one of our members.

8.0 – Membership Secretary’s Report – The membership figure for our group stands at 136 members with paid up subscriptions. There are several people whose membership subscription is pending. We have welcomed nine new members to date this year but sadly approximately seventeen members have left. Membership Department at Central Office was now able to update Area Membership Secretaries with members’ details on a weekly basis, and it was hoped that this facility would eventually be made available to Group secretaries. Advertising the Group’s presence in the town with posters and membership application forms continues.

9.0 – Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer presented his accounts to the Meeting. The balance brought forward from September 2010 was £452.31, and no income had been received from Ramblers’ Lake District Area. The accounts read - Hall hire £150.00, Stationery and Postage - £84.09, and Photocopying £8.00 making a grand total of £242.09. The previous year’s balance was £452.31, the expenditure for the year 2010/2011 was £242.09 and the balance at the end of September 2011 was £210.22. The Social account was likewise submitted, and both the accounts would be submitted for auditing, as last year, to Sheila Shepherd.

10.0 - Footpath Secretary – East – The Footpath Secretary reported that most of the year had been taken up with footpath work. Ease of use training had been undertaken for LDNP and most of the footpaths allocated for checking had been completed. One diversion located at Broad Oak had become flooded and difficult to use, and Hampsfell was again in the news - a byeway at High Hampsfield Farm had been quashed but this may now be reinstated as a bridleway.

11.0 - Footpath Secretary – West – The Footpath Secretary thanked her predecessor for the work done towards the reinstatement of Clare Lane Bridge. The shutting of the level crossing and thus the ROW at Bailey Lane had been objected to. The subject of wind turbines was dealt with on individual merit – one objection had been made regarding a wind turbine close to the Cumbria Coastal Way and Cumbria County Council had been contacted regarding a wind turbine on Ellerside Ridge and the secretary was hoping to hear regarding that. A footpath near Charney Road leading to Yewbarrow Woods had been gated, but the gate would not be locked and the FP was useable. The Footpath Secretary had volunteered to act as Linesman between Blythe Common and Coniston.

12.0 - Walks Organiser – the Walks’ Organiser was unable to attend the meeting and the report was held over.

13.0 - Press Officer – The Press Officer thanked people for handing in their walk reports and publishing dates had been managed well. She was now happy to end her time as Press Officer and hand over to someone else.

- 14.0 - Group Representative to Area** – The Group Representative gave a brief outline of the work done over the year and also of the topics which appeared on the Agenda for discussion. It was noted that the minutes of these Meetings were now put on the RA Lake District web site and were available for all members to read, and that the Area Meetings were open to anyone who may be interested in attending. Campaigns - The English Coastal Route had involved the Grange Group surveying the stretch of coastline from Greenodd to Levens, and to this end a training session in Preston had been attended. Maps had been produced and preferred routes plotted, and the maps were finally submitted to Ramblers.
- 15.0 - RoWIPs** – The RoWIPs Officer was on holiday and unable to be present but had sent in a report which was read to the meeting. The report stated that in the proposed route along Newton Fell, United Utilities had agreed to make a new Right of Way around their reservoir linking up two of the new access areas. Holker Estates had agreed to the installation of a stile over a wall on their land by the summit of Raven Scar. Unfortunately the owner of the land on the other side of the wall was not agreeable and refused permission, leaving the position of a continuous route unchanged.
- 16.0 - Social Organiser** – The Social Organiser reported that the number of people supporting the social events remained steady at 40 members or thereabouts. The Coach Outing in May had been well supported but more members would be welcome to make the outing successful financially. A new venue had been tried for the Pie and Pea Supper, with Higginsons providing the cooked supper and members looking after the organising and serving side of things. This had been voted a success and it was hoped to repeat this next time.
- 17.0 - Distribution** – The Distribution team were thanked for organising the three annual deliveries of Walks Programmes, Gramblers, AGM notification, newsletters and reports from Area. It was an important role keeping the Group members informed and thanks were also offered to the team of helpers who hand delivered to many members.
- 18.0 - The Gramblers Editor** – The Gramblers Editor thanked all who had contributed to the magazine over the past twelve months and asked for contributions from a wider range of members as it was mostly the committee who submitted articles. She mentioned the lovely description of John Daffern's memorable holiday trekking in Nepal and the picture of him with his Sherpa at the foot of Annapurna. Photos could be scanned in for forwarding and any interesting articles were very welcome.
- 19.0 - Election of the Committee** – The Chairman for the past seven years was standing down and the Vice Chairman conducted the remainder of the meeting. He asked if any member present would consider taking on the role of Chairman. There was none. He continued by thanking the outgoing Chairman for his valuable work whilst in office. The outgoing Chairman had organised the coach outing annually, and offered help to anyone requiring it. He had instituted the Telephone Tree which gave opportunity for quickly reaching those members who did not have access to email and many successful walks

had resulted from the use of this. The meeting recognised his input. The Treasurer and the Press Officer were also standing down. The committee was as follows:-

Chairman – vacant

Vice Chairman – Alec Bottomley

Treasurer – Tony Harrison – proposed by Hilary Parker, seconded by Richard Thorpe.

Countryside Secretary - vacant

Press Officer – Jean Barnett – proposed by Hilary Parker, seconded by Wendy Bowen.

Chalet Representative - vacant

Serving members of the Committee in post last year agreed to stay in post for a further twelve months and were re-elected en bloc, and this was unanimously approved from the floor of the meeting. Area Secretary and Central Office would be informed of the changes.

20.0 – Appointment of Auditor – Philip McEvoy, the outgoing Treasurer would contact Sheila Shepherd to confirm.

21.0 - Vote of thanks from the floor – The vote of thanks was given by David Archer who thanked the outgoing Chairman, Treasurer and Press Officer for their work in the past which contributed greatly to the smooth running of the Group. The members of the Committee were also thanked.

22.0 - Any Other Business – As a mark of appreciation for their services to the Group, Marks and Spencer vouchers were presented to the three members of the Group who had stood down from the Committee.

23.0 - The Meeting closed at 20.40 and those attending were thanked for coming and making it a successful event.

Signed.....

Date.....