



Kent Area

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 6 February 2021 using Zoom Webinar

Present

Robert Campbell (Chairman), Hilary Adams (Treasurer), Robert Peel (Secretary) and about 50 members

Welcomes and Introduction

Tony Bristow briefly outlined the basic procedures for running the meeting online and advised that the meeting would be recorded solely for the purpose of producing accurate minutes – the recording would then be destroyed.

Robert Campbell welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Minutes of AGM held on 1 February 2020

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 February 2020 at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing, were agreed to be a true record. No one wished to raise any matters arising from the minutes.

Annual Report

Robert Campbell expressed his sadness at the recent death of Margaret Lubbock, long-serving and much valued Vice Chairman.

He reminded members that our other Vice Chairman, Neville Machin, was not standing for re-election and that our Publicity Officer, Graham Smith, had moved away. We therefore needed more volunteers to fill these posts and many others, especially those related to rights of way work.

Although 2020 had been a far from normal year, PRoW work had continued and Groups had adapted to changing circumstances.

Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

The meeting approved the accounts.

Election of Honorary Officers

Robert Campbell was elected Chairman

Colin Sefton and Tony Bristow were elected Vice Chairmen

Robert Peel was elected Secretary

Hilary Adams was elected Treasurer

There were no nominations to serve as Area Council Representatives for Affiliated Clubs

Les Preston was elected as an Area Council Representative for Individual Members

Appointment of Delegates to General Council

The meeting agreed to send Robert Campbell and Colin Sefton from West Kent Group as its delegates to the 2021 General Council which would be held online.

Appointment of Auditor

Faye Clarke was unanimously appointed.

Topical Presentations

Ramblers Walking Holidays

Paco Gonzalez outlined the history of Ramblers Holidays, originally part of the Ramblers' Association, and its continuing work as a non-profit organisation in support of walking groups and other worthy causes. He then described some of the many holidays to beautiful places that the company planned to operate once travel restrictions were eased.

Lost Ways

Colin Sefton introduced himself as the new leader in Kent of the work to get unrecorded paths onto the definitive map before time runs out at the end of 2025. He will be pulling together the work done by Neville Machin to identify unrecorded paths from map anomalies such as paths ending at parish boundaries and the work done nationally by comparing the currently recorded network with paths shown on historic maps.

Anyone interested in helping with this work should contact Colin on lostways@kentramblers.org.uk

Coastal Access

Ian Wild gave an update on coastal access in Kent. He reported that the proposals for the Whitstable to Iwade stretch had been approved with all objections from landowners overruled. The "Private Beach" signs put up by some landowners were now meaningless but Ian hoped that Kent County Council would remove them nonetheless. Natural England have finished their work in Kent but some proposals have not yet been approved and enabling work is still to be done with likely completion in 2022.

Named Walks Project

Robert Peel reported that little had happened since the Annual Report went to press. Books were still selling steadily and had now raised over £7000 available to be used along with other funds for improving the condition, waymarking and promotion of Kent's named walks.

Puzzle Solution

Robert Peel observed that this year's competition was clearly a tough one with Mark Lavenstein submitting the only completely correct answer. His prize of a copy of our guide to the Tunbridge Wells Circular Walk would be on its way to him shortly. The correct answer was that the germination rate of Robert's Sweet William seeds was 16%.

Open Forum

Les Preston announced that the White Cliffs Walking Festival would be going ahead in 2021 with the date dependent on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

Richard Wilkes expressed his appreciation for a particularly interesting edition of the Annual Review.



Next Annual General Meeting

We hope that the next AGM will be hosted by Medway Group on 5 February 2022.

