

Minutes Richmondshire Ramblers Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 16th November 2025

At 09.30 hrs at Richmond Town Hall

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending.

Present: Committee members: Janet Milne (JM) Tracey Roberts (TR), Sarah Benson (SB) Elaine Wood (EW), Mike Norman (MN), George Bateman (GB) Mike Richardson (MR) Alan Workman (AW)

Plus 6 members and 1 guest.

2. **Apologies for absence** C. Archer, P. Taylor, N & C Grainger, A. Grainger, J Bailey. R Chamberlain, P.Devlin, C. Harrison, D. Williams, H Thompson
3. **Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM:** Proposed: M Norman. Seconded: A. Workman.
4. **Matters arising from the 2024 Minutes.** None
5. **Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts: Richard Chamberlain Read by JMilne in RC's absence.**
 - The group has a healthy balance of £738.27.
 - Income from 17/10/24 = £540 plus a carry forward of £562.97 from previous year.(We receive £130 per quarter from Ramblers)
 - Total expenditure (Mileage expenses, AGM hall hire) = £ 364.70
 - When submitting the budget to Ramblers Finance Dept, Travel expenses have been factored in. This is at 45p / mile, the agreed rate as stated by Ramblers Head Office.
 - Walk leaders; please do put in a travel expenses claim for doing a recce.
 - Reminder that if members book a Ramblers holiday, money can be credited to group funds. Members need to nominate Richmondshire Ramblers (NY07) when booking.
 - The accounts were accepted . Proposed: A Workman, Seconded :M Norman

6 Officers' Reports.

Chair - N/A as post vacant.

Group Secretary : Janet Milne:

- Many thanks to all committee members for their diligence and efforts in undertaking their various roles, all of which enable the group to run smoothly.
- Very little correspondence by post / email over the year. Any information received from Ramblers, YDNP etc is forwarded to members if appropriate.
- There have been several enquiries re membership resulting in a few new members.
- Social events - meals at Capri and Sunday walks followed by a Sunday lunch have proved popular. So thanks to Garry Abery, Alan & Judith Workman, Neil & Carole Grainger and Carol Archer for organising these.

The report was accepted. There were no questions

Membership Secretary: Tracey Roberts

- Current membership on 5th Nov is 142 compared to 137 in 2024, so numbers are similar to last year.
 - Since August we have gained 7 new members and 5 members have left. The leavers have been resignations or lapsed membership and 1 deceased.
- The report accepted. There were no questions

Walks Secretary : Janet Milne

- From Nov 2024 - Nov 2025 we have had a very full and varied walks programme. Many thanks to our walk leaders for putting on walks.
- Special thanks to Tracey who has started the ball rolling re offering walks on Tuesdays.

Tracey commented that she is happy to organise one Tuesday walk per month.

People need to book on a walk and inform the leader if they find they are unable to attend.

Members to check their junk email folder.

The statistics for the period 3rd Dec 2024 to 16th Nov 2025. Similar to 2023 /24

Number of walks planned	51
Number of walks that took place	47
Number of walks cancelled	4 = due to weather
Total number of attendee	424
Total number of guests	26
Average no of attendees per walk	9
Lowest number attendees on a walk	4
Highest number attendees on a walk	21

Walk Leader Training.

- As of 11th Nov 2025, 15 members have completed their Walk Leader training plus 2 pending and another 5 need chasing up. Walk Leader qualification is valid for 3 years.
- 7 (former) leaders who are still members of Richmondshire Ramblers but no longer walk / have contact with the group. JM will contact them re being a walk leader.
- Deadline for completing walk leader training is 31st Dec 2025 after which those who have not completed the training will not be insured to lead walks.
- We really do need more members to become walk leaders so as to spread the load.

S.Benson asked if Walk Leader training could be done as a group exercise. JM replied yes, however members had been happy do it individually.

First Aiders.

- 6 members completed the Red Cross First Aid training on 7th August 2025 which is valid for 3 years.
- 4 members have a First Aid qualification by another provider.
- Report accepted.

Website Editor : Sarah Benson; .

- No significant developments to report.
- Thanks to Elaine Wood for taking on the role of photo editor.
- Our walks are not on the Ramblers App/ national website as we don't currently use the national Ramblers software for displaying our walks. However there is a link from Ramblers to our website and walks programme.
- SB asked for a volunteer to help her with the website - this is not just necessary to provide her with some assistance, it also provides resilience to the group around supporting /maintaining the website in the event that she is incapacitated for any reason.

SB's Report was accepted:

GB asked about the group using social media. SB and TR commented that if we were to have a group facebook page, someone would have to take on this role and actively maintain the activity on a regular basis, so not likely to be a viable option at present.

GB suggested suggested that there may be a non walking member who would be interested in taking on such a role.

SB offered to post an ad for a non -walking volunteer to assist with website on the town's facebook page.

SB posted the advert on 24/11/25.

Footpath officer within the YDNP Elaine Wood

- There have been approximately 16 applications in our area, with no comments on my part. All related to modifications to existing buildings, assessment of habitation situations or were not near footpaths. Interestingly, there were no new builds or major developments.
 - There were no footpaths issues raised by the public or Ramblers.
 - I am kept up to date with C2C developments, and have been invited to a stakeholders update meeting on 27th November, which I intend to attend.
 - A new YDNP management plan for the next five years has now been published but I have not yet interrogated this. The priority seems to be on the natural environment.
- Report accepted. There were no questions.

Footpath officer's for Richmondshire: George Bateman & Mike Richardson.

- GB informed members that after 15 years of in the role he was stepping down at this AGM.
- He is happy to follow through one or two outstanding footpath issues and also act as a sound board to Mike Richardson.
- He thanked the committee members both past* and present for their support for their support over the years. (* Ted & Val Darwin, * Sarah and Brian Benson).

Mike Richardson's report.

- Mike has reviewed and commented on 48 new Planning Applications and written 5 letters of objection. By adding a comment, the planning officers are aware that as a group we exist and are active. Anyone wishing to read the detailed report please contact group's secretary.
- Both reports were accepted. For more information contact the group secretary.

Photograph Editor: Elaine Wood

- When I took up this post, I published almost every picture as I did not want to offend anyone by rejecting their photos. I will now risk offending contributors as I will focus on walkers in groups and pictures taken from behind, plus scenery of course. Thank you to everyone for observing my previous appeals about style, content and submission.

A66 update: Mike Norman

- The government has given the funding for the A66 project and I've had emails from the steering group running it. I've been asked not to divulge the details but the steering group is now able to proceed with more detailed planning and investigation, which should take about 1 year. More information to follow in mid 2026.
- Report accepted: there were no questions.

JM thanked the Officers for their detailed reports.

7 Election of 2025 -26 Committee:

Chairman – Alan Workman* Proposed J. Workman, Seconded G Abery

Secretary - Janet Milne. Will be standing down Nov 2026

Membership Secretary – Tracey Roberts

Treasurer – Richard Chamberlain

Walks Secretary – Janet Milne. Will be standing down Nov 2026

Website Editor - Sarah Benson

Footpath Officer (outside YDNP) – Mike Richardson
Footpath Officer (inside YDNP) – Elaine Wood
General Member – Mike Norman. Will be standing down 2026

All above are willing to stand for 2025 - 2026 .

Proposed by J Milne Seconded by M Richardson

* *Alan Workman stated he will only be Chair for 2 years.*

8) Members' motions/proposals for discussion.

Item 1 Minimum number of attendees on a walk.

That for an organised club walk, we recommend there should be a minimum of 3 walkers including the leader. This is for reasons of H&S and Safeguarding for should there be an incident, one person could stay with the casualty whilst ANO sought help. Furthermore, ideally the attendees should be known to the leader in terms of their walking abilities.

Proposer J Milne Seconder M Richardson All present agreed

Action JM as walk secretary to email all walk leaders. *Done 28th Nov 2025*

Item 2 Advertising of social events: Tracey Roberts

The welcome newsletter sent to all new members states that all social events are circulated via email. Confusion has arisen concerning the Christmas meal as some people were waiting for an email to be sent only to find it is fully booked.

Proposal: if a social event is included with a walk, members should be sent an email alerting them of the event thereby enabling them to book.

Proposer T Roberts Seconder J Milne All present agreed

Action. The group secretary and walk leader to liaise with regard to setting a clear start and end date for booking. Members will be notified by email.

Item 3 Committee members for Nov 2026 : Janet Milne

Janet Milne and Mike Norman will be stepping down from the committee as from Nov 2026 as they have been on the committee for 10 years. The constitution is for people to be in post for 3 years. Posts that will need filling next AGM

- Group Secretary
- Walk Secretary
- General member.

Item 4 Presentation to George Bateman.

On behalf of past and present members of Richmondshire Ramblers, Mike Norman presented George with a gift & card to mark the work and commitment George has shown over the last 15 years in ensuring the PROWs in Richmondshire remained open and safe.

9 Date of 2026 booked for 15th Nov 09.30 Richmond Town Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed 10.28.

Following the AGM, 8 members did a local 7 mile walk.

End of minutes

Minutes taken by Janet Milne Group Secretary.