Ramblers Association
Hereford Area AGM

Saturday 21 November 2026
Cawley Village Hall, 1-15 pm

Present: Mike Goodwin (Chair), Tom Fisher (Area Vice chair), Howard Jones (Area Treasurer), Dee Morris and Claire Edwards, (Our Mortimer hosts) Lynn Crowfoot, Leadon Vale, Martin Shepley, Ross (taking the minutes)

Approximately 30 members from Mortimer, Leadon Vale and Ross

1	Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and a vote of thanks was given to Dee and Claire for organizing a delightful morning walk and a substantial lunch. There were 23 on the walk He told the assembly that he had now chaired the Area for four years plus one extra year; as allowed by the Hereford Area Constitution; he was now forced to resign the role which he had enjoyed despite some 'ups and downs' over the 5 years.
1.1	**Minutes of 2025 AGM** The minutes were accepted as a true record proposed by Margaret and seconded by Lynn. No vote was taken.
2	**The Chairman's Report**
2.1	Today Ramblers are holding an EGM to vote on new Governance proposals including the one member, one vote proposal, regional forums, etc. As the meeting clashes with our own **AGM,** we have sent in a proxy vote in support of the motion. **(PS the EGM motion was passed with 85% in support)** . He said that "Time will tell whether these changes will work or not; especially the regional forum concept".
2.2	It has been another successful year for the Area with the three groups providing weekly weekend walks and many weekday hikes. There have been away days, a weekend away and social activities.
2.3	The three long distance paths each have dedicated teams looking after them and Mike was confident in saying that these trails have never been in better condition. Problems will occur and new volunteers to walk the trails are always welcome.
2.4	The footpaths and stiles working party have been busy led by me and supported by John Bridges. We have completed 12 new gates, 11 stiles, more than a dozen way-marker and finger posts and two flights of steps. The second working party led by Martin Bradford has also been hard at work installing new gates on the H.T. between Richard's Castle and Orleton
2.5	The plan is to group the new gates in continuous sectors and as we have now spent all our spare cash on the project, we hope to get a further grant from Ramblers HQ
2.6	Mike finished his report by repeating the need for a chair to replace him. There was no volunteer and so he ended by saying that he had made many friends in Ramblers and wished the Herefordshire Area, Groups and members all well for the future.
2.7	
3	**Financial reports**
3.1	Howard presented the annual accounts: We end the financial year with just over £2000 as a balance. This reduced balance is mainly due to a considerable expenditure on the stile replacement project with over £4500 spent. At the same time, income is reduced with nothing now coming for the DLYW project. Trail guide income is a steady stream with more on the horizon. However this is a deliberate policy to reduce our excessive balance, but any further gate related expenditure will need to be funded from external income.
3.2	Howard also expressed the view that after nearly eight years in the role it would be a good time for someone else to become the Area Treasurer. He asked the members present to consider any potential treasurers that they may know of!

	Lyn proposed the treasurer's report should be accepted and Tom seconded this. No vote was taken
3.3 3.4	There was a request from Margaret that more H Trail small stickers should be produced to add to direction arrows on the Trail. Mike indicated that this would be one of the first decisions to be made by the new committee, but was certain it could be funded.
3.3	<u>Appointment of Independent Examiner</u> Mike Hufton is willing to continue in this role. This was proposed by Howard and seconded by Lynn. No vote was taken
4	**Election of officers**
4.1	At this point Mike asked the assembly whether there were any volunteers to take on the two roles of either Chair or Treasurer. There were no volunteers.
4.2	The agenda proposal that the three Groups should provide a Chair and secretary on a one-year rolling basis was put to the members. Lynn was happy with this but only if all Group Chairs would commit. Martin cautioned that this would need leadership and not just chairing a meeting but was happy to go with the proposal. This was proposed by Claire and seconded by Tom. No vote was taken.
4.3	A query from the floor was whether the Group AGM of the current Area Chair and the Area AGM could be combined. There was general discussion but no clear answer to this. This will be for the new committee to discuss.
4.4	The proposal that Lynn and Tom be Chair and Secretary for the year 2026/27 was proposed by Dee and seconded by Margaret. No vote was taken.
4.5	Tom was asked if he was willing to serve as the DLYW officer. He said that the role was now hardly operational, but he would need to react to any proposed determinations. John Wride and Andy Lauder were up for re-election as non-committee members. These three positions were proposed by Lynn and seconded by Dee. No vote was taken.
4.6	Martin proposed that all three chairs of the three groups should be committee members. Mike felt that our constitution might preclude this but as a copy of the constitution was not available it was left for future discussion.
5	Margaret proposed a vote of thanks to Mike and Tom presented a signed card to Mike. Tremendous applause broke out.
6	**AGM 2027**
6.1	Mike proposed the 20th November as the date for next year's AGM
6.2	The meeting closed at 1-45 pm

Approved:

Date: