

## MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.30pm Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

Venue: Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Soup and sandwiches were served from 4.00pm paid out of Club funds

### DRAFT MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Peter McGowan, Vincent Trainor, Anne Trainor, Fionnuala Carragher, Rafia Hussain, Irene Cauley, Raymond Gray, Victor Knox, Domnall McComish, Gordon McCreery, Peter McGowan, David Oldfield, Maggie Pridgen, Bert Rima, Trevor Russell, Cecilia Sochor, Joe McKnight, Helen Henderson, Raymond Smyth, Ellen Greaney, Hazel Smyth, Marie Doran, Gabriel McCauley, Rennie Gribbin, Loretto Coyle, Janet Muller, Terry Magowan, Rodney Magowan, Tom Hughes and Reg Magowan.  
(30)

1. The quorum of 15 people or one fifth of the membership (26) was present.
2. **Apologies** were received from: Harry Goodman, George Acheson, Dora McCavera, Joan Calvert, Doreen Green, Wilf Green, Liam Dean, Jonathan Shields, Gerry Farrington, Bernie Corcoran, Elizabeth Sloan, Maire Hanna, Toni Taylor. (13).
3. **Minutes of the 2015 AGM:** Draft minutes had been sent out to all members via email or by post shortly after the 2016 AGM and more recently via our Newsletter. The minutes were taken as read – those present agreed they were a true and accurate record.
4. **Chairperson's Report:** Peter McGowan welcomed everyone and said that he had enjoyed his first year as Chairperson. He read from the aims of the club and was reassured that the main aims of organising 2-4 group walks every Sunday, trips away and social events such as the slide show, the Christmas dinner were all achieved successfully. He thanked all those who had helped the MRG to have a successful year again. After inviting questions he thanked the committee for its active and supportive work throughout the year and the many people who worked quietly and effectively behind the scenes to ensure the Club ran smoothly.
5. **Secretary's Report:** Bert gave out copies of the secretary's report (Appendix 1), summarised the main points and invited questions. No questions were posed.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Vincent had prepared a report (Appendix 2), copies of which were given out. In general there are 128 members (compared with 121 members in Oct 2016) – and the Club's funds remain in a healthy state with an increase in the overall reserves from £4021 to £4377. The production of name and emergency tags was substantially more expensive this year than in the previous year. The membership fee was proposed to be kept at £22 per annum of which £8 per member is pre-committed to the UFRC (£3), the mountain rescue services (£2 and £1) and insurance (£2). Questions were raised about the restricted vouchers from walking in the Community not being presented in the accounts and the absence of a budget. The former were not included since they are restricted vouchers, which lose their value if not used within a limited time frame and therefore are not easily included into accounts. A budget was not considered necessary due to limited amount of expenditure and the relative constancy of the outlays. In discussion it was confirmed that money from Walking in the Community is probably available for another two years.

7. **Committee Business:**

**Leadership matters:** Peter outlined the important role that leaders play and encouraged members to take on a leadership role if possible. At the minute there was a lack of “A” and “B” leaders. In every case new leaders will be offered appropriate training and mentor support. The leaders are essential for the successful functioning of the Walks programme.

**Membership matters:** Generally everything was going well, membership now stands at 128. This probably reflected our full programme, website, Facebook page and distribution of fliers. The website gets about 700 hits each week when photos of the walks are posted. This may have led to the increase in numbers and the steady trickle of people interested in taster walks.

**Training:** This has been referred to in the Secretary’s report. MRG remains committed to organising appropriate training and asks members to speak with Committee members about their training needs. The navigation courses were well attended.

**UFRC:** At present 4 MRG members sit on the 12 person UFRC’s Executive committee – all members were encouraged to get involved in UFRC work which supports walkers throughout the north of Ireland.

**Other matters:** there was a general feeling that the Club was operating well and that Club activities were enjoyable.

The chair indicated that a sub-committee has been established to organise the celebrations for the club’s 50 years existence in 2019.

8. **Consideration of motion/s:** No motions had been received but a point was raised about the distribution of starting sites throughout the year where members felt that they sometimes clustered in the same area which led to difficulties for the leaders to make interesting and varied walks. A point was also raised about leaders repeating the same walks year after year and the value of setting out a year in advance who leads each group on a specific date. The chair agreed that this matter will be discussed in detail at the next committee meeting in preparation for the organisation of the annual programme.

9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee;**

At this stage Peter stood down and Irene Cauley acted as Chairperson.

The following people were proposed for the three function holder posts:

**Chairperson:** Peter McGowan. Proposed by Maggie Pridgen and seconded by Raffia Hussain. No other nominations were received and Peter was declared re-elected.

**Secretary:** George Acheson. Proposed by Fionnuala Carragher and seconded by Cecilia Sochor. No other nominations were received and George was declared re-elected.

**Treasurer:** Vincent Trainor. Proposed by Rodney Magowan and seconded by Trevor Russell. No other nominations were received and Vincent was declared re-elected.

**The election of 9 members representing groups:**

A group: Del Stewart. Proposed by Janet Muller and seconded by Peter McGowan.

B Group: Joe McKnight. Proposed by Irene Cauley and seconded by Peter McGowan.

Bert Rima. Proposed by Peter McGowan and seconded by Fionnuala Carragher.

Victor Knox. Proposed by Bert Rima and seconded by Ellen Greaney.

C Group: Ray Gray. Proposed by Marie Doran and seconded by Maggie Pridgen.

Fionnuala Carragher. Proposed by Raffia Hussain and seconded by Joe McKnight.

Rennie Gribbin. Proposed by Irene Cauley and seconded by Ray Gray.

D Group: Trevor Russell. Proposed by Ray Gray and seconded by Maggie Pridgen.

Harry Goodman. Proposed by Peter McGowan and seconded by Ray Gray.

No other nominations were received and the 9 nominees were declared elected.

Peter McGowan proposed that Robert Roulston be appointed as our web co-ordinator and that he would be invited to attend committee meetings – this was agreed.

Pater also proposed that Cecilia Sochor be co-opted on to the committee as organiser of the Christmas dinner and AGM and that Harry Goodman would assist her in this role – this was agreed. Maggie Pridgen declared that she was willing to continue as Facebook editor.

**10. Closure of meeting:**

Peter thanked those present for attending the AGM.

The meeting finished at 5.25 pm.