

## MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.30pm Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018

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

### DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Marie Doran, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Helen Henderson, Rafia Hussain, Victor Knox, Terry Magowan, Dora McCavera, Domnall McComish, Gordon McCreery, Peter McGowan, Janet Muller, Norman Patterson, Maggie Pridgen, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Cecilia Sochor, Kingsley Thompson, Vincent Trainor, Trevor Russell. (22)

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1. The quorum of 15 people or one fifth of the membership (27) was present.
2. **Apologies** were received from: Philip Appleton, Adam Brett, Joan Calvert, Irene Cauley, Loretto Coyle, Ellen Greaney, Doreen Green, Wilf Green, Maire Hanna, Olwen Harbison, Marie Hoeritzauer, Rodney Magowan, Neill Matson, Joe McKnight, Sarah Newell, Mary O’Dea, David Oldfield, Robert Roulston, Liz Sloan, Toni Taylor, Pat Tumilty, Anne Trainor.
3. **Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting:** Draft minutes had been sent out to all members via email or by post after the 2017 AGM – they were also included in a Newsletter. The minutes were taken as read – those present agreed they were a true and accurate record.
4. **Chairperson’s Report:** Peter commented on some of the club’s activities this year. The club’s constitution states that “the aim of the club shall be to provide opportunities for individuals to participate in hill walking and rambles with like-minded individuals” – to this end 148 group walks had been organised during 2018. “D” walks especially were going from strength to strength – he encouraged members to put themselves forward to lead the “D” group. He outlined some of the activities planned for the club’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 – these included a launch dinner in January, a challenge walk following the route of Harry’s Walk from Newcastle to Rostrevor, a photographic competition and a special celebration dinner later in the year in the Slieve Donard Hotel. Between now and the end of the year the club looks forward to a visit by the Irish Ramblers, and a Star Trek.  
Finally, Peter thanked the committee and all members for their support which ensured the club runs smoothly.
5. **Secretary’s Report:** George 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, the club has 134 members and 3 associate members; the closing balance is £5329.31. He systematically explained his report – recommending that the club membership fee remains at £22 per annum.  
A question was asked in relation to the donation to path repair in the Mournes. The Mourne Heritage Trust had been contacted but had been slow to reply. It was agreed that the next committee would re-establish contact with the MHT to clarify the best way to donate to path repairs.
7. **Committee Business:** Peter referred to our 29 walk leaders and thanked them for undertaking this role. He said some leaders would be “retiring” at the end of this year and emphasised that training and support would be offered to those prepared to undertake a leadership role.  
Training, in general, is an important part of the club’s activities – any member with ideas about what training might be offered should contact a committee member.

The club continues to work closely with the UFRC with a number of MRG members presently serving on the UFRC Executive Committee.

8. **Consideration of motion/s:** No motions had been received.

At this stage Harry Goodman thanked the committee for its work and reports – this was endorsed by those present.

9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** at this stage Peter stood down and Maggie Pridgen acted as Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Peter McGowan. Proposed by Harry Goodman and seconded by Fionnuala Carragher. No other nominations were received and Peter was declared re-elected.

**Secretary:** George Acheson. Proposed by Trevor Russell and seconded by Rafia Hussain. No other nominations were received and George was declared re-elected.

**Treasurer:** Vincent Trainor. Proposed by Bert Rima and seconded by Gordon McCreery. No other nominations were received and Vincent was declared re-elected.

Peter explained that we sought 9 members to represent the groups – Fionnuala Carragher, Joe McKnight, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray and Bert Rima (committee members 2017/18) had indicated they were happy to continue as committee members. Their re-election was proposed by Maggie Pridgen and seconded by Norman Patton.

Noel Rice was proposed by Fionnuala Carragher and seconded by Maggie Pridgen.

Members present agreed that the committee could approach other members to join the committee.

Ex-officio members: Cecilia Sochor indicated she wished to stand down from her role in helping with certain functions – Cecilia was thanked for her contributions over many years.

Robert Roulston had agreed to continue in his role as web site manager; and Maggie Pridgen agreed to continue in her role as Facebook manager.

10. **Closure of meeting:** Peter thanked those present for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.