

## MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.00pm Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Venue: Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Soup and sandwiches were served from 3.30pm paid out of Club funds

### DRAFT MINUTES

**PRESENT:** George Acheson, Adam Brett, Fionnuala Carragher, Irene Cauley, Marie Doran, Harry Goodman, Joan Hamilton, Pat Kelly, David Oldfield, Rodney Magowan, Gabriel McCauley, Dora McCavera, Domnall McComish, Gordon McCreery, Mary McDermott, Peter McGowan, Joe McKnight, Norman Patton, Michael Power, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Trevor Russell, Alan Stapleton, Helen Templeton, Kingsley Thompson, Vincent Trainor, Pat Tumilty and Joe Wilson.

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1. The quorum of 15 people or one fifth of the membership (28) was present
2. **Apologies:** Loretto Coyle, Gerry Farrington, Laura Fawcett, Ray Gray, Marie Hoeritzauer, Reg Magowan, Robert Marshall, Vincent McKenna, Owen McManus, Sarah Newell, Mary O'Dea, Mark Patience, Maggie Pridgen, Robert Roulston, Hazel Smyth, Ray Smyth, Cecilia Sochor, Ian Stuart and Linda Watson.
3. **Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting:** draft minutes had been sent out to all members via email/post – they were also included in a Newsletter. The minutes were taken as read – it was unanimously agreed that they were a true and accurate record.
4. **Chairperson's Report:** Peter said that, as he had completed three years as Chairperson he was standing down. He had enjoyed this role and made a request for members to join the Committee – especially lady members to help ensure the Committee was balanced and representative. He drew attention to the range of A – D walks that were organised throughout the year (145 walks/29 leaders) – with at least 2 walks every Sunday and sometimes 4.

Referring to the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary he thanked those who had attended the Launch Dinner, Joe and Bert for organising Harry's Walk, Norman for organising the cakes and Fionnuala and Vincent for their part in organising the Anniversary Dinner – all these events were very enjoyable and successful. More was yet to come this year – including a training day, Star Trek, Boxing Day walk and Anniversary Journal.

Peter thanked members for their support throughout the past three years. He also thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members.

5. **Secretary's Report:** George gave out copies of the Secretary's Report (Appendix 1) and summarised the main points. No questions were posed.  
Members were told that prints of Dora's painting would soon be available.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Vincent had prepared a report (Appendix 2), copies of which were given out. He explained the figures in some detail and recommended that the club membership fee be increased to £25.00 pa. This recommendation was then proposed by Harry Goodman and seconded by Gordon McCreery – unanimously agreed. Peter added that he hoped a significant amount of the club's funds would go towards training next year.
7. **Committee Business:** Peter referred again to the number of walks organised in 2019. He went on to encourage members to volunteer to become leaders in 2020 and outlined the support provided for members taking on this role, eg, the training course that would take place in November. The committee always welcomed training suggestions from members – ideas should be passed on to a committee member.

The MRG is still closely associated with the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs – with Joe McKnight recently elected as its Chairperson.

Reference was made to the MRG's online presence (website/Facebook) – members were encouraged to visit these, especially Facebook which provided photos of recent walks.

8. **Consideration of motion/s:** although no motions had been received Irene Cauley referred to the forthcoming training day which cost £60.00 pp - £20.00 of which was subsidised from club funds. Irene felt the subsidy could be more generous. Joe Wilson agreed with this; and David Oldfield commented on previous bursaries/need to look at levels of funding and developing skills. Those present appreciated the need for training, appropriate subsidies and the keeping of records relating to courses – such considerations reflected training provision organised in recent years. It was unanimously agreed that the committee should continue to promote these aspects when continuing to deal with training needs.
9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** at this stage Peter stood down and Trevor Russell acted as Chairperson.

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

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

**Treasurer:** Vincent Trainor: Proposed by Harry Goodman and seconded by Marie Doran. No other nominations were received – Vincent was declared re-elected.

Bert then took over the election of **Group Representatives:** most of the outgoing Committee (namely Fionnuala Carragher, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Robert Marshall, Domnall McComish, Peter McGowan, Joe McKnight and Noel Rice) had agreed to continue if re-elected. It was proposed by Adam Brett and seconded by Norman Patton that these eight people be elected as a group – this was unanimously agreed.

Other members who might be prepared to serve on the Committee were asked to contact the Committee.
10. **Closure of meeting:** the meeting closed at 4.55pm.

The incoming Committee held a short meeting to organise the first Committee meeting – Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm in Fionnuala's apartment.