Colchester Group of the Ramblers
Minutes of the 53rd General Meeting
Nottage Maritime Museum
Sunday 18th November 2018 12.00 – 13.30 am

1 **Welcome from the Chairman** Roger Jones

2 **Apologies from those Absence** Linda Rhodes and Lotte Sherman

3 **Acceptance of the minutes of the 2017 AGM** Agreed by Carol Harding and seconded by Pamela Bradley, Jan Taylor, Cath poutney and Kathy Pugh.

4 **Matters arising from the minutes** not on the Agenda. None

5 **Chairman's Report** (Roger Jones) Welcome to the 53rd AGM of Colchester Ramblers. To my knowledge there is 1 active founder member – Derek Keeble who started the very popular very short slow walks
I wish to pay tribute to your hard working committee who have done an amazing job in organizing and coordinating our full walks programmed. Our walks have been very well attended all year – the highest number I have been on was 47. Our walk leaders have been outstanding. Roger Roberts added that he had 54 people attend his walk.
The railway crossing closures are being strongly opposed – more on this from Mags shortly.
County are still withholding payments to us because our funds are still too high – more on this in Treasurers report
Your committee is looking for new people to join them. Please consider putting your name forward.
Lotte and Carol after many years of serving have decided to stand down – many thanks to them for their great contribution.

6 **Secretaries Report** (Louise Beck) Nothing to add at this time.

7 **Treasurer's Report** (Linda Rhodes) Included

From the 1st of October 2017

Balance B/B £2,298.42

Income

Ramblers Holiday £180.00

Expenditure

Printing £230.00
Postage £168.00
Mileage £19.60
General Expenses AGM £25.00
Concert Expenses £ 7.80
Shield Engraving £5.00
National Rail Fighting Fund £ 800.00

£1,255 40
-£1,255.40

30th September 2018 Balance C/F
£1,223. 02

8 Countryside and Footpath Secretary's Report **(Mags Hobby)**

AGM Report FP & Walking Environment for year to 30 Sep 2018

Network Rail Crossing Closures Public Inquiry
I attended the two days of the Public Inquiry at Eight Ash Green recently regarding Paget's Crossing in Wivenhoe. I have so far attended one day in Chelmsford about the two Colchester crossings on the Sudbury line. The Inquiry is now scheduled to continue until February. Schedule on http://essex-level-crossings.persona-pi.com/
Coast Path
The report for the Salcott to Jaywick section has still not been released – now expected at the turn of the year. The Mersea Island section is dependent on it as described in the Introduction to its Overview. I imagine the sections being opened late within the 2020 deadline. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-in-essex is rarely updated
Planning - I've commented on a number of Planning Applications which affect PROW, usually just to request that routes be kept open and safe for users during construction stage. Rowena and the CGLOS group, which I signed us up to a few years ago, are doing well on getting the inner Orbital recognised and promoted. As reported in the Gazette, they have obtained £20000 to continue the work and have an opportunity to get some related walking/cycling Supplementary Planning Guidance.
Path Orders:
Confirmed extinguishment Colchester 228.
Creations Colchester Oaklands Avenue to the bridleway along the dyke.Planning - I've commented on a number of Planning Applications which affect PROW, usually just to request that routes be kept open and safe for users during construction stage. Rowena and the CGLOS group, which I signed us up to a few years ago, are doing well on getting the inner Orbital recognised and promoted. As reported in the Gazette, they have obtained £20000 to continue the work and have an opportunity to get some related walking/cycling Supplementary Planning Guidance.

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Confirmed diversions include Bridleway 2 Birch, Bridleway 13 West Mersea & Colchester 18, 22, 100, 103, 105, 170.
Initial consultation on cycle track conversions near the Hythe.
Discussions on diversions on Mount Bures 34, Myland 61, Layer Breton 8, Layer Marney 14,
I recommend checking your walk on the Interactive Highway map on Essex County Council's website if you are in any doubt.
Thanks to everyone who walks these out with me.
Abberton Reservoir
Liaison continues.
Rowhedge
There has been a considerable amount of correspondence this year about the paths through and around the ongoing development. ECC have managed to keep one safe version of the route available throughout.
Wivenhoe
The Wivenhoe Society have contacted me about getting Evidence for used routes within the town which are not PRoW. Can anyone fill one in?
https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/docs/Evidence%20of%20Use%20Form.pdf
Camuplodunum rewrite
No Progress.

Keep reporting, keep clipping overgrowth back.

9 **Membership Report** (Pamela Bradley) Essex Area 4386 Colchester 368.

10 **Social and Publicity Report** (Roger Jones) This year has been a busy year for one reason or another. But planned for next year includes the venues that were a success e.g. Tendering Show. It has been decided but not Colchester Library.
Due to recent Heart scare Roger is unable to lift tents/gazebo so has asked for plenty of volunteers for next year's events
Dates for the diary include the photography competition.

11 **IT Report** (Kevin Clark)

12 **Area Report** (Lotte Sherman and Louise Beck) The last area meeting both were unable to attend. Nothing to report in addition to information included in Newsletter to Members.

13 **Walks Co-ordinators reports** All reported a successful year.

Margaret Smith the Co Ordinator for the Friday Evening Walks.

Linda Curtis for the Wednesday Short Walks report included I'm pleased to report that the walks throughout the year have ben well attended with the numbers ranging from 14 to 41 figures of eight and the shorter walks are always well supported. The sunny Summer gave its own encouragement to members and a few new-commers to support the leaders. Ironically a long walk that my husband and I led last year was heavily rained upon., fortunately we were able to shorten it thanks to a different helpful pub. This year the same walk had to be shortened it thanks to a different helpful pub. This year the same walk had to be shortened again as the weather was too hot!

During the year Derek Keeble has introduced some extra-short to the programme. These being approximately 2.5. miles long. The intention being that these walks will serve those people who may be recovering from surgery or are of older years who can aid their fitness with manageable distances. Unfortunately, several of our regular leaders have succumbed to medical issues this year and have been unable to walk with us, but this in turn has meant that new leaders were called upon to fill the gaps.
Finally, Kathy and I continue to be very appreciative of the members within the group who offer to lead walks when we are compiling the programmes.
Kathy Pugh for the longer Walk on Wednesday.
Regina Mason Sunday Walk Co Ordinator. Regina reported there is some difficulty finding enough Walk Leaders for the Sunday Walks.

14 **Nomination of Committee** New member included Vice Chairman Roger Flack as mentioned two members will be stepping down Carol Harding and Lotte Sherman. The rest of the committee will be the same.

15 **Election of Auditor**. Roger Jones reported none needed at this time.

16 **Any other Business None** (Regina asked if there would is anyone interested in a First Aid Course. To email John Watts)

17 **Look Forward**

18 **End of formal meeting** – Refreshments

A. Collection of votes for Rambler of the Year
B. Counting of votes and announcement of Rambler of the Year. Nomination for the Jessie Keeble Shield 2018 is Regina Mason.