

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - DRAFT MINUTES

3.30pm Sunday, 3rd October 2021

Venue: Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Present: George Acheson, Philip Appleton, Adam Brett, Andy Bolwell, Malcolm Buck, Robert Campbell, Fionnuala Carragher, Irene Cauley, Norman Elliott, Roisin Franklin, Philip Gunn, Joan Hamilton, Helen Henderson, Olwen Herbison, Pat Kelly, Rodney Magowan, Robert Marshall, Dora McCavera, Gordon McCreery, Gillian McClelland, Domnall McComish, Peter McGowan, Vincent McKenna, Mary McLaughlin, Shelagh Murphy, Mel Pettyfer, Pam Quiery, Malachy Devlin, Martin Rafferty, Jen Rainey, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Ian Stuart, Toni Taylor, Vincent Trainor (35).

Bert opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

1. A quorum of 15 people or one fifth of the membership (27), whichever is lesser, was present.

2. Apologies: Liam Dean, Marie Doran, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Maire Hanna, Pat Hanratty, Victor Knox, Reg Magowan, Gabriel McCauley, Sarah Newell, Carmel Quinn, Robert Roulston, Trevor Russell, Cecilia Sochor, Hazel Smyth, Ray Smyth, Pat Turley (17).

3. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting: draft minutes had been sent out to all members by 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. Chairman's Report: Bert commented on the year's activities which had been considerably influenced by Covid-19. Throughout this time the club had striven to follow a programme of walks whilst adhering to Covid regulations which included social distancing and keeping a record of those attending walks. Parking at some of our usual starting places was often problematic – to counter this and give greater flexibility, leaders were allowed to select suitable starting points/appropriate starting times - often earlier than the normal 10.30 am starting time. Numbers attending walks were, on average, in the 31 to 38 range – however, due to using different starting points walkers in the four groups rarely met together. Bert went on to say that in the coming year (when probably some Covid restrictions would continue) the club would try to start walks from the same point once a month. He also commented on the deaths of Brian Martin and Loretto Coyle, both of whom had contributed greatly to the club's activities and development over many years – we will miss them.

5. Secretary's Report: a copy (Appendix 1) had been circulated prior to the meeting for members to read. George went through the main points of the report – members were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions. No questions were posed.

6. Treasurer's Report: Vincent had prepared and circulated a report (Appendix 2). He explained the figures and banking system followed in detail, giving comparisons with the previous year. The balance is £4662.79 – he recommended subs should remain at £25.00 pa. Presently we have 135 members and 5 associate members. No questions were posed. Later in the meeting, Irene explained that the fees for the website included the retention of our email and website addresses.

7. Committee Business:

- **Leadership matters:** Bert emphasised the need for leaders and encouraged more members to take on this role. Support will be given to new leaders - a leadership training course is planned for the near future.

- **Membership:** throughout the past year numbers had remained high – with an encouraging number of new walkers joining the club.

- **Training:** Peter referred to recent training courses and to two other courses in the pipeline – an intermediate navigation course and a course on managing groups in the hills.

- **UFRC:** Bert is a member of the UFRC Committee. He referred to their AGM coming up soon and encouraged members to consider serving on this body.

- **Other matters:** Bert referred to our Committee Meetings which are now organised via Zoom. He encouraged members to join the Committee – especially ladies, to create a better gender balance.

Vincent also emphasised the need for more leaders and said he would be contacting present leaders/new leaders soon about next year's walking programme. Those present were asked if the club should organise a Christmas Dinner this year if Covid restrictions allowed – about 90% of those present indicated we should proceed if possible.

George referred to some points raised by a member – advantages of maintaining 9.30am starts; leaders giving more information about the walk they have planned for the next Sunday; the need to carefully consider the appropriateness of the pace and duration of walks. Some discussion followed on from this – perhaps starting times could vary according to the time of year; parking challenges remain a factor; D walks might include more high-level walks; the route of a walk might change at short notice due to extreme weather conditions. These matters would be considered by the incoming Committee.

8. Consideration of motion/s: no motions have been received.

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee: at this point all positions were declared vacant and Gordon McCreery took the Chair.

Chairman – Bert Rima Proposed by Peter McGowan; Seconded by Robert Campbell

Secretary – George Acheson Proposed by Ian Stuart; Seconded by Shelagh Murphy

Treasurer – Vincent Trainor Proposed by Rodney Magowan; Seconded by Peter McGowan

Group Representation – 9 in total

A group representative - Robert Marshall Proposed by Bert Rima; Seconded by Malachy Devlin

B group representatives – Noel Rice Proposed by Bert Rima: Seconded by Robert Marshall

Robert Campbell Proposed by Robert Marshall; Seconded by Shelagh Murphy

C group representatives – Ray Gray, Peter McGowan and Domnall McComish Proposed by Ian Stuart; Seconded by Roisin Franklin

Roisin Franklin Proposed by Vincent Trainor: Seconded by George Acheson

D group representatives – Fionnuala Carragher and Harry Goodman proposed by Rodney Magowan: Seconded by Peter McGowan

Irene asked if Robert Roulston wished to continue in the role of Web Manager – the Committee will consult with Robert.

10. Closure of meeting: the meeting closed at 4.40pm.

The incoming Committee held a short meeting to organise the first Committee meeting – Tuesday, 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.