

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE NORTH EAST LONDON GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS HELD ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025

Present

Susan Teece (Chair), Annette Warrick (Secretary), Anna O'Sullivan (Membership Secretary), Laura Jacobs (Walks Organiser), Garry Gerrish (London Area Rep), Carrie Thompson (London Area Rep), Joanne Dixon, David Pennington, Keith Evans, Susan Murray, Denise Bertuchi, Tim Sai-Louie (Observer & Chair of Inner London Area)

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

Susan welcomed attendees to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence

Alan Lazarus, Suzanne Easton, Lucy Robinson and Valerie Meixner

3. Draft Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Agreed as accurate.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The actions from the 2024 minutes were cleared.

5. Annual Reports for 2024-25

a) Chair

Susan thanked everyone for their work, including getting the Group used to the new website. She advised that she would not be standing for re-election.

b) Secretary

Annette provided a written report and she was thanked for her draft letter to Ramblers. She advised that she would not be standing for re-election.

c) Membership Secretary

Anna provided a written report. It was noted that membership has been stable.

d) Treasurer

Alan provided accounts and a written report, which were approved. He sent a note which highlighted that the £500 website charge is exceptional and that there will be no such expenditure in future years, as the Ramblers' server and support is free. Main costs in 2025-26 should be for the AGM and walkover expenses. The £10 received from Ramblers Holidays Walking Partnership was welcomed. The need to monitor walkover expenses was noted, as they have doubled. Garry advised that there is no pattern and walkover expense claims have fluctuated.

e) Walks Organiser

Laura provided a written report. She advised that all walks leaders are encouraged to publish their own walks on Walks Manager. With her support where needed, nearly all our active walks leaders have either completed the Ramblers' online training or certified they led 12 walks in the past 3 years. This proactive approach is reflected in our re-registration statistics – 66% complete compared with an average of 33% for groups in Inner London. It was agreed that the walks leaders' meeting was very useful and Laura will consider organising another in 2026.

f) Website Manager

Annette submitted a written report. She took on the role as nobody else came forward, but has enjoyed it. She prepared the new website for the transfer on 1 January 2025. Since

then she has added more information and set up the Google Group. She was unable to find anyone to take over the role, or to be a deputy, so she sent the Committee a guidance note, in case she becomes incapacitated. She was thanked for the useful information that has been added to the website.

g) **London Area Representatives**

Garry and Carrie submitted a written report. Garry apologised for attending only one meeting in the past year and he planned to do better in 2025-26. The number of Ramblers members not allocated to any group is growing and it represents the largest group in Inner London. This is of concern, because it reduces the funding for groups and the pool of members who may be interested in leading walks.

6. Election of Honorary Officers

The following officers were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed:

Chair: Joanne Dixon (proposed Laura, seconded Susan Murray)
Secretary: Carrie Thompson (proposed Annette, seconded Keith)
Membership Secretary: Anna O'Sullivan (proposed Annette, seconded Denise)
Treasurer: Alan Lazarus (proposed Susan Murray, seconded Carrie)
Walks Organiser: Laura Jacobs (proposed Garry, seconded Denise)
Website Content Manager: Annette Warrick (proposed Carrie Garry)
London Area Rep: Garry Gerrish (proposed Annette, seconded Joanne)
Deputy London Area Rep: Carrie Thompson (proposed Annette, seconded Joanne)

Footpath Officer and Publicity/Campaigns Officer posts are vacant, though Garry will cover any footpath issues and publicity will be via the website.

Independent Examiner of accounts: Garry Gerrish (proposed Laura, seconded Susan Murray).

7. Booking Pub Lunches

Laura suggested that there should not be a policy requiring walk leaders to book a pub lunch but that we should be flexible in our approach. She observed that the walk leader is best placed to organise a pub lunch on their walk, but that others could do so, using the Add an Event option on Walks Manager. Annette said she had organised a pub lunch using Add an Event, though she had to obtain information on timing and participants from the walk leader. The approach had worked and they had finished lunch in good time. It was agreed that, if a pub is available at lunchtime, it is up to the walk leader to decide whether or not to organise a lunch, but the pub should be mentioned in the walk description.

8. Any Other Business

Keith offered to look into organising a weekend away, maybe in Salisbury. Garry advised that accommodation can be costly, but CLOG had found that university accommodation is good value. Annette mentioned a pleasant stay at Jesus College, Cambridge last summer. Tim advised that participants could organise their own accommodation and meet-up in the evening, or use HF, Ramblers Holidays or youth hostels. Agreed that Keith will explore options for the Committee.

Garry raised a concern that there appears to be no Ramblers' guidance on what to do if a walk leader falls ill. This happened on a walk that he attended with another group.

10. Date of Next AGM

Monday 23 November 2026 was provisionally agreed, venue to be advised.