

Subject to Approval at the 2026 Annual General Meeting

**THE RAMBLERS – TENDRING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2025
AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL, GREAT BENTLEY**

1 Opening by Chairman

Ronnie welcomed 17 members to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Kennedy, Sheila, Penny and Lorraine.

3 Approval of AGM 2024 Minutes

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM meeting were examined. The minutes were approved as a correct record – proposed by Paul, seconded by Ronnie and then signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There have been no further issues of people joining walks without being members. As a group we have become more vigilant when turning off a main path and no one has been left behind.

5 Chairman's Annual Report

Ronnie gave the following report –

"It has been a fairly uneventful year in that we haven't had any unusual incidents to discuss but that must be a good thing!

We have also had our usual batch of social events such as the bowling, but we won't mention who won that! The Midsummer meal was a success (so I'm told) and the social calendar was topped off with a wonderful garden party held at Penny's house.

The P3 team were active throughout the year for which I would like to thank them all on behalf of the committee, thanks which I would also like to extend to all the committee members for their hard work during the year, and to all walk leaders without whom we would be struggling!"

6 Presentation of Accounts

In Alison's absence Isabel read the Treasurer's report -

Treasurers Report for Tendring District Ramblers 1.10.24 to 30.09.25

"We started the year with an opening balance of £994.39 and ended the year with a balance of £1010.87.

We have donated £85 to various church and village halls for the use of their car parks throughout the year for our walks. AGM costs totalled £110.52 which included hall hire and ingredients for the rumble and crumble.

We received funding from Area to the tune of £278.00 only slightly more than last year when we received £265.00. We also received £70.00 from Ramblers Holidays as commission for members taking holidays with them.

We spent £108 to buy some spare batteries for tools used for P3 work.

There have been no social activities requiring funding, our social activities all being self-funded.

The accounts have been completed and sent to Area electronically and are also with the auditor for sign off."

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7 Membership Secretary's Report

Ronnie stated that membership currently stands at 189. There are 8 affiliate members and 7 new members since 31/07/25. The total has increased since last year, but we do not see the new members.

Hilary asked what an affiliate is. It was explained that it is someone who is registered to another group but walks principally with us.

8 Footpath Secretary's Report

John talked through the main points of his report which appears in detail below.

Work areas over the year

During the year, I have been working with Alan Goffee, the Essex Footpath Secretary and the Essex Hub team, focusing on the current status of historically reported bridge defects, in the Tendring area.

The results of the survey together with Dave Cornell's Parish Path Adoption (PPA) work focusing on the Ardleigh parish, have latterly been summarised and included in an Essex Rambler's Newsletter, which I think reflected reasonably well on us all.

Not recorded within the Newsletter, however, was the disappointing news that:

- 1) A number of recorded Tendring bridge defects that apparently had been cleared from the TrackIT system by EH, have actually not addressed and are simply awaiting EH funding and execution, but with all trace of these bridge defects removed from the EH TrackIT recording system.
- 2) The bridge defect on Tendring PRoW 10 (the one with the metal barriers reported by Jeff Coe), had been reported by EH as having been cleared; however, a connected survey and resulting photo confirmed that this EH assertion was false. Shirley Anglin, Nicky Coleman (our Tendring Inspector's manager) has asked Nicky to re-engage with the farmer about this bridge safety hazard and to derive a better solution, that would so make the bridge safer to use for Ramblers while keeping cattle off the bridge for the farmer.

Essex Hub Meetings

Three more practically focused hub meetings have been held this year. Topics discussed have included:

- A) the King Charles 3 Coastal Path, where it's been confirmed that funding for the Tendring section, starting at Jaywick has now been released.
- B) The break-up of Essex County Council and the impact on the Ramblers Organisation. The verdict is to carry on as we are for the time being as so much is currently unknown.
- C) Crossfield paths and Essex Highway's Enforcement Officer Simon Taylor's process for expediting defect resolution, involving defect locations, photos of the defects being recorded on TrackIT and farmers being e-mailed by Simon with photos of the problems and subsequently requesting co-operation and compliance.

Track IT Application Pilot – Now known as PPA25

Ian Glen's Pilot status application has both evolved and improved and is known as PPA 25. It's recently been confirmed that this 'app' will ultimately replace the existing cumbersome PPA spreadsheet.

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Essex Highways & Tendring Ramblers co-operation

Maybe as a consequence of the perceived success of Tendring's PPA process and Alan Goffee's Bridge initiative, it's been arranged for me to have regular meetings with Shirley Anglin, Nicky Coleman's (our local EH Inspector) manager.

Shirley has advised that EH data shows that 271 current Tendring Public Rights of Way (PRoW) defects exist and that 142 of these relate to waymarker posts, which are of course within the remit of our P3 team. Therefore locally we are presently focusing on waymarker post issues.

To facilitate this, Shirley has agreed to provide maps of the Tendring waymarker defects and we the Ramblers have initially focused on the Harwich, Ramsey & Wix parishes. Other parishes will follow.

The Wix waymarker survey and report have been completed and EH is presently striving to obtain the required permissions needed hopefully starting to generate a meaningful plan of work for Michael's P3 team..

Tendring PPA Focus – Waymarker survey days

Against the above previous context, for the time being at least. I plan to run further Waymarker Survey days, rather than generic Parish Focus days.

9 Rambles Secretary's Report

June gave the following report-

"Thank you to all our walk leaders for planning, walking out and leading walks over the last year.

John S. Dee and Alan have provided short walks for three quarters of the year. A new addition to the leader list is Paul Carlisle who has completed the training. Hopefully he will begin leading walks next year.

We have had a full programme of long walks provided by 14 leaders, including two new leaders Kevan and Frances. The most active leader is Dave with eight walks, followed by Ronnie with seven, and Maggie and Kevin with six. I am very grateful to the leaders that fill in at short notice, often walks are booked only two weeks in advance.

Having introduced walk leader training for new leaders, "Ramblers" were quite disappointed that only 5% of existing leaders had completed the training modules, so it was announced that all leaders need to read the handbook and either complete two online modules or lead frequently.

I am pleased to report that at present most of our current leaders have completed the training. "

10 Social Secretary

Isabel gave the following report –

"We kicked off our social calendar back in March with our annual bowling competition. This did not prove quite so popular as in previous years, but despite the smaller number of participants, everyone enjoyed the occasion.

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Our Midsummer Meal on Midsummer's Day seemed to clash with lots of other events so again numbers were down on previous years. Our venue was Harbour Lights in Walton. The views were beautiful and the food excellent.

The Garden Party in August was our most successful event of the year with almost thirty ramblers attending. Thanks must go to Penny for her hospitality and giving us the opportunity of spending time in her stunning garden. Thank you also to Maggie and Heather for helping Penny on the day. As usual we had a wonderful feast with some delicious contributions, especially the desserts.

Having held our Christmas Lunch for the last two years at the Brantham Bull, this year we have decided to try the Plough, here in Great Bentley. Thirty-five people have signed up, and I hope this will be another enjoyable event.

We decided to repeat last year's experiment of holding a Rumble and Crumble before the AGM in an attempt to entice more people to the AGM. Unfortunately, this hasn't been particularly successful today, and we will need to discuss whether it is something we should look to repeat in the future. I hope you've enjoyed the soup prepared by Ronnie and June and the crumbles that Maggie and I made. Thank you also to June and Maggie for helping me set up today.

I would like to thank all the ramblers who supported the events I organised. I must also thank Dave Cornell for continuing to publicise events on the website.

As always, I'd like to finish by inviting ideas for social events for the coming year. If you have any brilliant ideas, please let me know. "

Hilary thanked Isabel for organising all the events.

11 P3 Report

Michael gave the following report -

"2025 has been a mixed year for our P3 Activities. We started the year completing footpath maintenance & Way-marker installations in Great Bromley & other minor maintenance work,

We installed 3 way-markers in the rock-hard ground in Tendring.

We refused to carry out planned maintenance work in St Osyth at the request of EH when that Parish Council reneged at the last moment on their commitment to clear the debris from a heavily overgrown urban footpath.

We have 4 new recruits bringing our number to 10 - however a dearth of referrals from PPAs/Essex Highways/Parish walkouts meant recently we've had very little work.

Hopefully that will change as we head into winter - we have a Way-marker installation on 08/11 with our latest 3 new recruits.

There will be maintenance & Way-marker work (subject to EH approval) in Wix during December if EH meet their 4-week approval response time.

It is reported there are 100+ missing Way-markers in our Area which could mean a lot of work subject to their location being Approved for P3 by EH".

Jeff asked whether it was permitted to move a fingerpost as he had seen someone trying to do so. Michael explained that this should not be done as utilities can be damaged.

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12 Web Master's Report

Dave gave the following report -

“Website Layout and Content:

- The Ramblers national website has not changed, other than by HQ updating its information and content, in particular around walk leader training.
- Our Tendring District Ramblers website has not changed, other than by the updating of its information, events, photograph gallery and content.

Other items:

- The number of subscribers to our external mailing list has increased over the past few years from 140, to 159, to 168 and now is at 183. It was used most recently to notify of cancelled walks after a Met Office severe weather alert.
- There have been twenty-five inbox messages sent to the website mailbox since our last AGM, mostly from individuals seeking information about joining one of our walks. Where relevant a copy is forwarded to the walk leader.
- The Ramblers App remains available for use on smartphones and provides access to the catalogue of registered walks. It remains available for walk leaders to take a register of walkers, if so required.

13/14 Election of Chairman and Officers

The Chairman and all other officers declared themselves prepared to stand for a further year. They were proposed by Paul, seconded by Jeff and re-elected en bloc.

❖ Chairman	Ronnie Hannan
❖ Treasurer	Alison Kennedy
❖ Secretary	Isabel Barton
❖ Membership Secretary	Ronnie Hannan
❖ Rambles Secretary	June Fieldsend
❖ Social Secretary	Isabel Barton
❖ P3 Co-ordinator	Michael Talbot
❖ Web Master	David Cornell
❖ Publicity Secretary	Vacant

15 Election of Committee Members

Maggie Beresford volunteered to remain as a committee member. She was unanimously re-elected having been proposed by John and seconded by June.

16 Any Other Business

- As we need to find ways of spending our money, Paul suggested that we might look to sponsor the installation of a kissing gate to replace a defective style. John is to find out the cost involved to see if we could fund this ourselves or make a donation towards such an installation and contact EH to see out if this would be acceptable to them.
- Jeff thanked everyone involved in organising today's event.

Ronnie declared the meeting closed at 2.40pm.