MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND – GLASGOW GROUP held by Zoom on TUESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 2023

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm. Fourteen Group members were present.

AGM 23/01 Arrangements for chairing meeting

It was agreed that, in the absence of an elected Chair, Barry Pottle should chair the meeting, apart from items where he had a personal interest.

AGM 23/02 Apologies for absence

It was noted that apologies had been received from Frances Arthur.

AGM 23/03 Minutes of the Fortieth Annual General Meeting of the Group held on 15th November, 2022

The Minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were approved.

AGM 23/04 Matters arising from those Minutes

None.

AGM 22/05 Annual Report of the Group Committee and Financial Statements for the year ended 30thSeptember, 2023

The Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Secretary was thanked for her work in compiling the report, based on input from several Committee members. Barry Pottle noted that, although the reports were for the year to 30th September, comments could be made on issues since then.
Administration – it was noted that Suzi Bateman had been appointed to fill one of the Area Council vacancies.
Magnificent 11 - Catherine Watt noted that two meetings of a Mag 11 'Friends of' group had now been held.
Walks Programmes – Barry Pottle noted a very recent email from Ramblers Head Office on walk safety. This was something that the Committee and / or Walk Leaders would be considering in the near future.
Membership – Barry Pottle highlighted an increase of 20 compared with the 2022 numbers. Helen Sweeting noted that despite this, AGM attendance was lower. It was suggested that attendance might be higher for an in-person meeting, especially if immediately followed by a walk.

It was agreed to record that the Annual Report had been received by the meeting.

Glasgow Group is part of the Ramblers' Association, a registered charity (England and Wales no.: 1093577 Scotland no.: SC039799), and a company limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales (no. 4458492). Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London SE1 9DG.

Copies of the audited **Financial Statements** had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no comments.

It was agreed to record that the audited statements of account had been received by the meeting.

AGM 23/06 Election of Honorary Officers

As Barry Pottle was a candidate for election, it was agreed that Ian Brooke should chair this part of the meeting.

It was indicated that the following were willing to be nominated:

Chairman – no nominee.

Treasurer – Barry Pottle. Proposer Sandra West, Seconder Alan Watt.

Secretary – Sandra West. Proposer Catherine Watt, Seconder Yvonne Flynn,

Barry Pottle and Sandra West were unanimously elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

(Following the election of other Committee members, they agreed to continue with the practice adopted at the past four Committee meetings of deciding a Chair on a meeting-by-meeting basis. Yvonne Flynn suggested that the Committee should resolve to address this issue before the next AGM, since it is not good practice not to have a Chair. Catherine Watt noted that Ramblers Scotland assume Barry Pottle is Chair. Barry Pottle said that he objected only to the word 'Chair', which is currently the required term because it is included in the Group Constitution.)

AGM 23/07 Election of other Committee members

Barry Pottle resumed the chair for this part of the meeting. He noted that Alan and Catherine Watt, who were standing down, had both been stalwarts of the Group since it was relaunched in 2011, having between them been variously Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Independent Examiner, Walks Programme Co-ordinator and Website Manager. They were both thanked by all in attendance.

It was indicated that the following were willing to be nominated:

Frances Arthur
Suzi Bateman
Terry Cassidy
Geoff Der
Yvonne Flynn
Gareth Morgan
Helen Sweeting

Ian Brooke proposed and Sandra West seconded that the above be elected *en bloc*. This was agreed unanimously and the nominees were duly elected.

Barry Pottle wondered about other potential Committee members. Both Terry Cassidy and Sandra West had asked Group members but received no interest, although one or two had indicated they may wish to become walks leaders.

AGM 23/08 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023/24

It was noted that the Independent Examiner should be independent of (i.e. not a member of) the Committee.

Gerard McCrear was proposed by Catherine Watt, Seconded by Helen Sweeting. This appointment was agreed unanimously.

AGM 23/09 Motions affecting the Group Constitution

As Barry Pottle had submitted a motion, it was agreed that Ian Brooke should chair this part of the meeting.

Ian described the current anomaly whereby only 14 days' notice is required of the AGM but any alteration to the Constitution must be delivered to the Secretary a minimum of 28 days before the AGM and must be circulated to Group members a minimum of 14 days before the AGM.

The motion submitted was:

> This Annual General Meeting resolves to alter the Group Constitution as follows:
>
> In Clause 10, amend "fourteen" to "twenty eight", and
> In Clause 14(ii), amend "twenty eight" to "twenty one" and amend "fourteen" to "seven".

If the motion were passed, the relevant provisions of the Constitution would read as follows:

> [Clause 10] "*… the Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group, of which not less than* ***twenty-eight [previously fourteen]*** *days' notice shall be given …*"
>
> [Clause 14 i] "*Any proposal for such alteration must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Group not less than* ***twenty-one [previously twenty eight]*** *days before the meeting of the Group at which it is to be discussed, and not less than* ***seven [previously fourteen]*** *days' notice of this meeting, giving the terms of the proposed alteration, shall be given to the members of the Group*".

Barry explained that this was a longstanding issue, based on the model Constitution for Groups, forming part of the Ramblers GB Standing Orders. The Group had previously avoided the anomaly by giving more than 28 days' notice of an AGM, but it was wrong that the anomaly existed in the Constitution at all. He noted that the same anomaly existed in the North Strathclyde Area Constitution (copied from the Constitution of the former Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area, but that itself derived from the model Constitution for Areas), and that the North Strathclyde Area AGM had recently amended their Constitution in exactly the same way as he was proposing for the Group.

Catherine Watt seconded the motion which was then agreed unanimously.

AGM 23/10 Ordinary Motions

The Chair pointed out that the Constitution required seven days' notice to be given of any motions and no motions had been received within that period.

AGM 23/11 Election of Representatives to Area Council and Scottish Council

As Barry Pottle is a member of Area Council, it was agreed that Ian Brooke should chair this part of the meeting.

Area Council - Barry explained that on the basis of its current membership numbers, the Group was entitled to send four representatives to Area Council; he attended as Area Secretary but could also represent Glasgow Group. Jim Riddell attended in his role as a Representative of Individual members, elected at the Area AGM, but could also represent the Group and had indicated that he is willing to do so. Gareth Morgan and Suzi Bateman had also indicated willingness to continue as representatives of the Group to Area Council.

Barry Pottle, Jim Riddell, Gareth Morgan and Suzi Bateman were proposed en bloc by Helen Sweeting, Seconded by Lesley Whitefield. These appointments were agreed unanimously.

Scottish Council– Barry explained that the Group is entitled to send one representative to this; he attends as a member of the Scottish Council Motions Committee and could not also represent Glasgow Group, however Suzi Bateman had indicated willingness to attend on this basis.

Suzi Bateman was proposed by Helen Sweeting, Seconded by Sandra West. This appointment was agreed unanimously.

AGM 23/12 Any other competent business

Walks requiring car sharing - Ian Brooke mentioned that, at the last Group AGM, he had asked about the scope for this, and raised the point again. Sandra West replied that it was down to individual walk leaders.

Thanks to the Group Secretary - Barry Pottle thanked Sandra West for her organisation of the meeting and all the papers associated with it.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm.

Post AGM Speakers

We were very grateful to members of the Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre (Amina MWRC - an intersectional organisation, based in Scotland, that empowers and supports Muslim and BME women by serving as a vital link between them and the barriers they face everyday), introduced by Angela Musk (Ramblers Scotland Equalities Outreach Officer) to talk about their women’s walking group. This prompted discussion in respect of how confidence and caring responsibilities impact on the most appropriate types of walks and of how best to reach out to a greater diversity of potential Ramblers walkers.