

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
SCOTLAND – GLASGOW GROUP, held at The Pearce Institute, Govan on SATURDAY,
16th NOVEMBER, 2024**

The meeting commenced at 10.05am. Thirty-three Group members were present.

AGM 24/01 Arrangements for chairing meeting

It was agreed that, in the absence of an elected Chair, Barry Pottle should chair the meeting, apart from the elections, as Barry Pottle was himself a candidate for two positions.

AGM 24/02 Apologies for absence

It was noted that apologies had been received from: John Butterworth; Maggie Cairns; Susan Hay; Alison Hutcheson; Gerard McCrear; Jim Riddell; Jeanette Somerville; Alan Watt; and Catherine Watt.

AGM 24/03 Minutes of the Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Group held on
14th November, 2023

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

AGM 24/04 Matters arising from those Minutes

Barry Pottle noted that the 2023 AGM motion to alter the Group Constitution had been approved by the Area's governing body and so was now valid. This was to correct an anomaly whereby only 14 days' notice was required of the AGM but any alteration to the Constitution was to be delivered to the Secretary a minimum of 28 days before the AGM and circulated to Group members a minimum of 14 days before the AGM. The motion passed amended the Group Constitution to read: [Clause 10] "... the Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group, of which not less than twenty-eight days' notice shall be given ..." and [Clause 14 i] "Any proposal for such alteration must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Group not less than twenty-one days before the meeting of the Group at which it is to be discussed, and not less than seven days' notice of this meeting, giving the terms of the proposed alteration, shall be given to the members of the Group".

AGM 24/05 Annual Report of the Group Committee and Financial Statements for the year
ended 30th September, 2024

The Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Both the Group's Secretary, Sandra West and Committee member, Yvonne Flynn, were thanked for their work in compiling the report, based on input from several Committee members. Barry Pottle invited comments section-by-section.

Our walk programme – Terry Cassidy (Walk Programme Co-ordinator) thanked all current Walk Leaders, including six who had become Walk Leaders over the past two years. However, he noted that, for various reasons, the Group had lost several prolific Walk Leaders over recent years. This meant there were currently 18 active Walk Leaders for a Group with around 360 members.

In the past year, there had been around 80 walks, almost all fully or over-subscribed, with the busiest Walk Leaders leading 13, nine and seven respectively. A target of two walks per week would mean 100 walks next year, but could not be sustained without more Walk Leaders. He encouraged those who had not tried leading to give it a go and current Walk Leaders to encourage potential volunteers and inform them of both Ramblers online training and informal Group support. Geoff Der (Group Web Controller) informed the meeting that the Group website now included links to the next month's walks from other local groups.

Weekend away – Yvonne Flynn was thanked for co-ordinating the September weekend in Aviemore – it had been a great success, with excellent weather and a varied programme including a guided walk along the Lairg Ghru.

Access and Countryside Work – Sandra West thanked Jim Riddell, who had stood down from the post of Group Access and Countryside Officer after 20 years.

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

Copies of the audited **Financial Statements** had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no comments. Barry Pottle noted an error in the footnotes to Page 4, re the self-funded account: this stated that no Xmas lunch took place in 2023/24 – in fact there had been a lunch but no funds were channelled through the Group account, so it had no impact on the reported figures.

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

AGM 24/06

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:

Chair – Yvonne Flynn. Proposer Sandra West, seconder Agnes McLellan. Yvonne Flynn gave a statement, describing her enjoyment of walking and love of walking with Glasgow Ramblers, her belief that it was important for new blood to step forward and noting that her current circumstances should allow her more time than previously to devote to the role of Chair.

Treasurer – Barry Pottle. Proposer Lesley Whitefield, seconder Marion Ganthony.

Secretary – Sandra West. Proposer Helen Sweeting, seconder Margaret Duffy.

Yvonne Flynn, Barry Pottle and Sandra West were unanimously elected as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

AGM 24/07

Election of other Committee members

Ian Brooke noted that Suzi Bateman had stood down and Yvonne Flynn was now Chair. Sandra West thanked Suzi Bateman for her time on the Committee.

It was indicated that the remaining five Committee members were willing to be nominated:

Frances Arthur
Terry Cassidy
Geoff Der
Gareth Morgan
Helen Sweeting

In addition, Marjory Anderson was nominated.

Agnes McLellan proposed and Terry Robinson seconded that the above be elected *en bloc*. This was agreed unanimously and the nominees were duly elected.

- AGM 24/08 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024/25
Gerard McCrear was proposed by Sandra West, seconded by Annette Bonar. This appointment was agreed unanimously.
- AGM 24/09 Motions affecting the Group Constitution
Barry Pottle resumed chairing the meeting at this point. He noted that the 2023 amendment to the Constitution required that any proposal to alter the Group Constitution should be delivered to the Secretary not less than 21 days before the AGM, and that no such motions had been received within that period.
- AGM 24/10 Ordinary Motions
Barry Pottle noted that the Constitution required seven days' notice to be given of any Ordinary motions and no such motions had been received within that period.
- AGM 24/11 Election of Representatives to Area Council and Scottish Council
As Barry Pottle was a candidate for election as a representative to Area Council, it was agreed that Ian Brooke should chair this part of the meeting.
Area Council - Over the past year, Suzi Bateman, Gareth Morgan, Barry Pottle and Jim Riddell had attended as Glasgow Group representatives (in addition to their roles as Group representatives, Barry Pottle was also Area Secretary, and Jim Riddell was a Representative of Individual Members elected at the Area AGM). Suzi Bateman had now stood down, and Jim Riddell was not willing to be nominated for re-election.
Barry Pottle and Gareth Morgan both indicated they were happy to continue as Group representatives to Area Council. Both were proposed *en bloc* by Terry Cassidy, seconded by Terry Robinson. These appointments were agreed unanimously.
Barry Pottle noted that the Group Committee had the power to fill Area Council vacancies.
Scottish Council– Barry Pottle explained that Glasgow Group was entitled to send one representative; Barry Pottle attended as a member of the Scottish Council Motions Committee and could not also represent Glasgow Group. Since the 2025 meeting would be held in Glasgow (15th March), it was important that the Group had a representative.
Yvonne Flynn was proposed by Helen Sweeting, seconded by Terry Robinson. This appointment was agreed unanimously.
- AGM 24/12 Scottish Council Volunteers
Barry Pottle resumed chairing the meeting at this point
Sandra West highlighted a call from Ramblers Scotland for volunteers from Glasgow group to help at the 15th March Council meeting – both at the meeting itself (registration, IT, tellers, etc) and to lead four 90-minute walks from George Square. A training session had been scheduled for 22nd January at the venue (the Merchant's House). Yvonne Flynn would be co-ordinating the walks and already had four volunteers but might need back markers. A number of Group members volunteered to help at the Council meeting itself, meaning a total of 13 volunteers (Frances Arthur; Suzi Bateman; Annette Bonar; Terry Cassidy; Geoff Der; Yvonne Flynn; Rosie Schild; Helen Sweeting; Pauline Werninck; Andy West; Sandra West; Lesley Whitefield; and Paula Wise). Sandra West would forward their contact details to Ramblers Scotland.

AGM 24/13

Any Other Competent Business

Volunteers - Yvonne Flynn highlighted the need for volunteers to help maintain the Glasgow Group – not just, or necessarily, as Committee members. She encouraged anyone interested (e.g. with social media skills) to speak to Committee members.

Barry Pottle explained that the Glasgow Group Committee generally held six meetings a year, via zoom. It could co-opt members at any time and was happy for Group members to sit in on meetings to see what was involved.

Thanks - Barry Pottle thanked Sandra West for her organisation of the meeting and all the papers associated with it; Sandra West thanked Pauline Werninck for her co-ordination of social events; and Lesley Whitefield thanked Helen Sweeting for organising the AGM venue.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10.55am.

Post AGM Speaker

We were very grateful to our post-AGM speaker, local author Karen Murdarasi, who had recently written the introduction and footnotes for a new edition of the Victorian poet and author, Hugh MacDonald's descriptions of 'Rambles Round Glasgow'. We were treated to an interesting and engaging talk about the man and his rambles and her work to bring his classic book alive for the modern reader, with a new introduction and hundreds of explanatory notes.