

Minutes of the Meeting of Glasgow Ramblers Group Committee on 12th January 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom

The minutes were deemed as accurate at the meeting on the 2nd March 2021

1. **Present** – Gerard McCrear, Alan Watt, Catherine Watt, Gareth Morgan, Geoff Der, Annette Bonar, Steve Cartwright, Betty Stowe, Barry Pottle, Bobby Robb. Jim Riddell also attended. The meeting was chaired by Catherine

All were welcomed but special thanks to Betty and Bobby for joining the committee

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th October 2020

- a) the minutes were deemed to be accurate
- b) Matters arising -
Walk Programme - We didn't organise four walks on the same day but did ensure that we ran walks north and south of the river. When we first restarted, the walks programme, walkers from outside the city boundary were able to attend.

Gerard contacted Jeannie Cranfield (RS) to ensure that all walk leaders were listed as volunteers.

3 Matters Arising from the AGM on 21st November 2020

The AGM ran extremely well and smoothly. More attendees than we've had before and everyone stayed on for the discussion and quiz. After the AGM the draft minutes were circulated to all attendees to be checked for accuracy. More than half the attendees responded to say that the minutes were accurate.

- a) At the AGM, we didn't fill all the places for Area delegates because we needed to check whether Barry could be there in another capacity. Whilst he had been a representative of Glasgow Group for the past few years, he had previously attended as a representative of individual members and suggested that he put himself forward for election in that capacity at the Area AGM to be held on 21st January. On that basis, Alan Watt offered to be the third Group representative.
- b) Two motions were put to the AGM and both were passed unanimously. They were duly forwarded to the Area Secretary as amendments to Group Constitutions require to be approved by the Area Council. Area Council had delegated that power to the Area Chairman and Secretary. They have agreed to the first motion about a change of name but not to the motion about stopping a postal mailing. Catherine will draft a letter in response.

CW/GM.

4 Committee Roles other than Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Covid Officers	Steve Cartwright and Catherine Watt
Membership Secretary	Gerard McCrear
Minutes Secretary	no-one volunteered so it was agreed to record the meeting and Catherine would write up the Minutes CW
Walks Prog Coordinator	Steve Cartwright (Alan is also a GWEM editor)
Website manager	Geoff Der
Publicity	We agreed to suspend the role until things return to normal
Access & Countryside officer	Jim Riddell

5 Matters arising from the submitted reports plus discussion about making available on the website the Minutes, Annual Report and Constitution.

Access – The canal path at Stockingfield Junction was open over the festive season

Magnificent Eleven – Walk Highlands have asked for a gpx file, photos and a description.
Would be great to see the walk on their website. **CW,SC,GM,AW**

Website – Geoff has done a lot to improve the site. There are walk reports missing but the gaps will hopefully be filled. There had been a problem with logging on to Blogger as Glasgow Ramblers. (However, this was resolved the following day).

Everyone was in agreement that we should publish Minutes of meetings, the Annual report and the Constitution on our website. **GD**

6 Upcoming events

- North Strathclyde AGM (21st January)
- Scottish Council AGM (6th March) and events (Dick Balharry Memorial talk 26th Feb and Successes 6th March)
- Motions to be submitted to SC by 2nd February.

Apart from Scottish Council all the above are open to all members

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- a) **Walking programme** – no incidents to report and walks will restart if and when the guidelines change.
- b) **Weekend Away** - Bobby reported that the warden of the Ardrishaig Hostel was willing to move the date to the 17th/18th September. Bobby and Ian will contact all those who have paid a deposit.
- c) **Glasgow Ramblers Winter Challenge** – going well, has been fun and discovered lots of interesting places.

Still to be visited - Alexandra, Auchinlea, Darnley Mill, Garnethill, Hogganfield and Househill Parks. Earlybraes, Garrowhill, Barachie and Mt Vernon Parks could be an East End circuit

By the beginning of February, the challenge will be completed. To round off the Winter Challenge, the organising group would like to hold an evening meeting. Gary is willing to do something on the History of Glasgow Parks, and we could finish the meeting with some highlights of where we've been.

CW

WhatsApp Group The current restrictions make it difficult to meet for a walk. In the future, it is something we can resurrect again for smaller groups, shorter walks and socialising to support physical and mental health. We will keep it going just now.

For a future evening meeting we could invite a speaker on the Geology of Glasgow

AW

Parklife magazine is produced by Glasgow City Council. There's a click button at the end asking people to submit anything of interest and this will be We should email about our Winter Challenge and the Magnificent Eleven.

AW

d) In the Secretary's report it is noted that Assemble has been updated. A big thank you to Virginia Kearse, Sandra West and Andy West for coming forward as new walk leaders.

e) Walk Leaders Chat – events organised by Ramblers Scotland are worth attending

f) Walk leaders meeting - to be added to the March Agenda

8 Next Meeting - 2nd March 6.45pm by Zoom

9 Any other competent business – none

Attached reports circulated before the meeting

Chair's Report 8th January 2021. Catherine Watt

Our AGM was well attended and after the meeting everyone stayed on for a discussion led by Steve about the walking programme and the Covid guidelines. Then I suggested setting up a Glasgow Ramblers Winter Challenge and three members offered their help to set one up.

Following the discussion, we had an enjoyable quiz organised by Alan.

I contacted Ian Brooke to thank him for chairing the formal part of the meeting. The minutes were circulated after the meeting asking if they were an accurate account. Replies from nearly everyone indicated that they were accurate.

Although the two motions were passed at the AGM, we did not know at the time, that before we can change the Constitution these have to be agreed by North Strathclyde Area. They have been now been forwarded to the Area Secretary. Please note that the motions were amended after our last committee meeting and circulated to all.

A proforma was used to record the business part of the AGM meeting. Next year, we should perhaps extend this, as other points are often worthy of note. In retrospect, I feel we should have mentioned as an addition to the minutes that we thanked Eleanor for the many years of service that she had given Glasgow Ramblers before 2011 and after the new group was reformed. She also was on the Area Committee for many years representing them regularly at General Council. After our last committee meeting in October, Gerard wrote to both Eleanor and Nicola. Unfortunately, Eleanor replied to say that for personal reasons she was standing down. Eleanor had indicated that she would attend our AGM and we looked forward to thanking her in person. On our behalf, Gerard sent her a thank you card. Just this week we also heard from Nicola who is overwhelmed with work at the moment.

Magnificent Eleven Update. CW

I am in the process of updating the four parts of the walk on Ramblers Routes

For social distancing reasons, things are at a standstill re waymarking. We are trying to source 30 poles and we have a design for the roundels and ready to order. We had a meeting to discuss Glasgow City Council's response to the leaflet and agreed some changes re use of their logo and acknowledgements.

The walk has been led in full on two occasions and shortened on another.

Re Walk Highlands tweet that people have been searching for walks in Glasgow, I have contacted them about putting the route on to their site. Also giving them information about other linked walks that we can recommend within the city boundary.

Email received on 6th January from a freelance journalist saying that she hoped to include the walk in an article for Walk magazine about "green routes". The focus is on Manchester and London but she wants to include others. Danny Carden had written some words based on the The Living Cities article I wrote for Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Membership Secretary's report. CW

275 members

Changes since beginning of October we have welcomed 11 new members but 5 have resigned, 5 have let their membership lapse and 2 have moved to another group

Glasgow Ramblers Winter Challenge. CW

After the AGM, Catherine met through Zoom with Sandra, Catherine V and Kirsty and we talked about how to set up the challenge.

We have many members who would like to have a walking companion. Kirsty agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for members who would be happy to introduce a new walk and for those looking for the opportunity to visit a new green space or park but unsure of where to go. We have about a dozen members.

Walk Glasgow Parks has been very successful and apart from a few parks in the East of Glasgow we've almost completed a visit to them all. Some have been visited weekly including Queens Park which has been in the news. We set up a blog on wordpress which hopefully after the challenge ends will be of use to people looking for new places to walk. There are several walks linking parks and greenspaces offering an introduction to the wonderful places previously unknown to us and all within the city.

Unfortunately, this challenge and any group walks have excluded many of our members who live out with the city boundary. However, our group walks have been joined by members from other groups who reside within the city and cannot at present walk with their own group. However, all group walks are currently suspended

The blog is on this website - walkglasgowparks.wordpress.com and twitter [#walkglasgowparks](https://twitter.com/walkglasgowparks)

Covid Officer. CW

In a moment of panic before the last walk, I realised reading the Coronavirus Guidelines, that we needed to appoint a Covid Officer. I read the documents, took the online test and now have the certificate. Steve also intends to do the short course and we can keep each other right.

Secretary's Report 12th January 2021 Gerard McCrear

From midnight on 4th January, the Scottish Government stated that everyone should stay at home where possible. Ramblers Scotland sent an email on the afternoon of 4th January stating that all Ramblers group walks and activities are suspended until, at least, the end of January.

Assemble - Under the Ramblers Covid Guidelines for restarting group walkers, leaders have to be registered on Assemble. Communication with Ramblers Scotland has allowed the list of Walk Leaders within the group to be updated including our new Walk Leaders. Thanks are due to the team at Ramblers Scotland for speedily updating with new advice and guidance in these difficult times. Previously in the later months of 2020 the restart of group walks had commenced due to the efforts of Walk Leaders who had offered a variety of walks.

AGM successfully held by Zoom in November 2020 and was followed by an entertaining quiz.

Walk the Parks in City of Glasgow. Aim to keep members active, challenged and inspire fellow members.

Ramblers Scotland Newsletter in October, November, December covered the following points: Covid walk guidelines & restrictions, Mapping Scottish Paths,

Save Coul Links, Success in removing unofficial hill tracks, Information about Scottish Council 2021, Walks in Winter, App update, Speedy Walking, Fees freeze, Walk Leadership & Navigation training. Ramblers GB newsletter topics included: Assemble, App improved, Successes in 2020, Membership growing, Response to Highway code changes.

Email from Land Commission – Advisory group on changes to Land & Property Tax, New protocol on Local Authority Management of Common Good land aim to encourage practical implementation of Scottish Government Land Rights & Responsibilities statement, Land for Housing, Virtual Public meetings will re-commence in January 2021 starting with Dundee.

Also received various emails from holiday, IT companies and Facebook reminders plus there have been a few enquiries about joining our group.

Treasurer's Report Alan Watt

Main account

The balance at 8/01/21 was £5000.71.

Significant items of income since the October committee meeting:

Funding from Area £435.00

Wee Green Grant from Glasgow City Council £3881.28 to designated funds (Mag 11)

Significant items of expenditure since the October meeting (pending so not showing in balance):

Zoom account, 2 months £28.78

Recce expenses £37.00

Self Funded account

The balance at 8/01/21 was £856.31

No significant items of income since the last committee meeting

No significant items of expenditure since the last committee meeting

Notes:

Argyll Backpackers hold our deposit for hostel accommodation in Ardrishaig delayed from October 2020 to April 2021. This amounts to £480.00.

The balance in the Social Fund includes £464.00 of deposits from members for the Ardrishaig weekend.

Jan 2021