

	Present Marjory Anderson (MA), Terry Cassidy (TC), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW).
1.	Apologies Frances Arthur (FA), Geoff Der (GD).
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting held on 19th March 2025 a - Accuracy as record of meeting - BP noted errors on pages 2 and 3 as follows: Item 3a (Chair), under heading "September coach trip" replace payment "...could come from the Social Fund with refunds from members ..." with "... could come from the Social Fund pending refunds from members ..."; Item 3b (Treasurer), under heading "Re Social Fund", add: "It was agreed that Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Travel Ltd should be asked to send future payments to the Social Fund account. BP to send account details to RWH Travel Ltd."; and Item 3 ACTIONS, add, after existing third bullet point: "BP to send Social Fund account details to RWH Travel Ltd and request that future payments be sent to that account." Those present agreed that subject to correction, the record was accurate and could be approved and uploaded to the website. b - Matters arising (ACTION points from 19th March Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re #2 Minutes of March Committee meeting</u> - HS to amend January 2025 minutes re Teams costs and send to GD to post on website - DONE. - HS to send future minutes drafts as PDFs – DONE AS FROM MARCH 2025. - SW to contact BASP re first aid trainer dates in September / October with the aim of booking the West of Scotland Cricket club as a venue – DONE – the British Association of Ski Patrollers outdoor first aid trainer and the Cricket club have been booked for 14th September. - SW / YF / others to discuss ways of remembering Catherine Watt's life when this is appropriate – IN PROGRESS – YF suggested the Mag11 anniversary walk might be a suitable occasion – SW and YF agreed to chat with Alan Watt when it felt right to do so.. - SW to ask Jim Riddell what he did and who his contacts were – DONE – however Jim has not replied. It was agreed that it would be best to start afresh with the contacts being made by YF. <u>Re #3 Reports and matters arising</u> - YF / SW to arrange for survey link to be included in the April newsletter – DONE – see Chair's report attached. - SW to include information on the September coach trip in the April newsletter - DONE. - BP to send bank account details to YF and SW so these can be provided to members for bank transfers for coach trip payment - DONE. - BP to send Social Fund account details to RWH Travel Ltd and request that future payments be sent to that account - DONE. - Information on refund of recce expenses to be included in a future newsletter – ON HOLD – TC recently emailed walk leaders including information on recce expenses.. - GD to investigate / address website issues: the placing of the walks list; visibility of the three lines (to see webpage tabs on the mobile version); possible Cotswold discount on the home page; clearer information on joining Ramblers; remove text re twice yearly programme – IN PROGRESS. <u>Re #6 AGM 2025</u> - YF / SW / HS check out potential venues – DONE – Pollokshaws Burgh Hall has been booked – 15th November, deposit paid. HS agreed to put together a summary in respect of all venues contacted (prices, suitability, etc) for use in future years.

	• ALL to discuss speaker ideas with Virginia / Annette / any others if they have the opportunity – SUPERSEDED – YF has secured a speaker – Colin Drysdale, social media presence and author of fiction and, of the very recently published, “<i>Glasgow Uncovered: Eighteen Walks Through Its Past, Present and Future</i>”. • The post-AGM walk was discussed – SW is local and has a suitable walk which she suggested FA might lead. TC noted that FA led an interesting walk in the Pollokshaws area some time ago so that was another possibility. SW thought that if interest was the same as last year then two walk leaders would be required. <u>Re #7 Access officer</u> • YF to contact Jessy Field – DONE – see Chair’s report attached. <u>Re #8 AOCB</u> • SW to add succession planning to the next Committee meeting agenda – DONE. <u>ACTIONS</u> • HS to amend March 2025 minutes re bus trip payments and RWH Travel payments and send to GD to post on website. • SW / YF to discuss the idea of remembering Catherine Watt’s life during the Mag 11 anniversary walk. • GD to investigate / address website issues: the placing of the walks list; visibility of the three lines (to see webpage tabs on the mobile version); possible Cotswold discount on the home page; clearer information on joining Ramblers; remove text re twice yearly programme. • SW / FA / TC to consider post-AGM walk.
3.	<u>Social and other events</u> <u>Social events</u> • SW reported on behalf of Pauline Werninck re: Social darts followed by lunch in Glasgow city centre (Sat 17th May), six have signed up; Summer lunch at the Brig o’ Doon Hotel in Alloway associated with a walk (Sat 7th June), 12 have signed up, 16 are needed to secure the room without paying a booking fee, if there are insufficient numbers then the lunch can be at a restaurant in Ayr. • There was discussion as to why relatively few had signed up for the summer lunch – it is summer, members may be doing other things; there is also a walk listed for the following day. <u>September coach trip to Ayrshire</u> • SW reported that only 25 have signed up – 40 are needed to fill the bus and so make the costs requested of members reasonable. • YF thought this meant there was too high a risk of our Group losing money on it. She has already spoken to Ian Brooke who has been leading the Ayrshire Coastal Path walks – he has agreed to work out a way to do the final section using car shuttling. • It was agreed that YF should cancel the trip with the bus company and SW should email those who had expressed interest and also include information on the cancellation in the next newsletter. <u>First aid course – 14th September</u> • SW reported that 10 have signed up, 12 are required. GD has said he will attend if required for the numbers (his training will not have lapsed by September). • It was agreed that there is still plenty of time and personal approaches to those who might be interested seem to work well. <u>Possible Pitlochry weekend in 2026</u> • This idea has been raised by members and there seems to be growing informal enthusiasm. • Re timing, previous weekends away have been both May and September. • Re accommodation, SW noted that Glasgow Young Ramblers had a weekend in Pitlochry recently and got a good deal; YF suggested Pitlochry Hydro. • Re walk leaders, various suggestions were made: Navid Faroutan has experience of

	leading Ben Vrackie; John McNulty knows the area well; Alistair and Agnes McLellan may be interested. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF cancel the September trip with the bus company. • SW email those who had expressed interest in the trip and also include information on the cancellation in the June newsletter. • YF / others to approach members re attending the first aid course.
4.	Social media / communication • YF highlighted the survey results in her Chair's report (attached). • MA has spoken to a few people on walks – some do not want to read through the newsletter and have requested member emails about particular (separate) issues. It was agreed this was not realistic. • YF suggested that although the survey showed Facebook was not particularly popular with members, it should be retained as an advert to attract new members. • HS wondered about the blogs, given mixed opinions / interest from members and the burden they add for walk leaders. It was agreed that there should be no pressure to produce them and that a few photos with no text was adequate. • YF concluded that we should continue to communicate with members as we have been doing and that feedback on the survey should be included in the next newsletter. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF / SW to include feedback on the communication survey in the June newsletter.
5.	Succession planning • SW reported that FA may now be happy to continue as Membership Secretary but doing this on a fairly minimal basis (SW and BP reply to Facebook queries). • SW would do another year as Group Secretary but suggested that it would be ideal if some other/s could shadow her and / or take on a part of the role. YF thought that SW was currently performing too many roles and the communications part of the job needed separating off. MA agreed to take this on – Facebook and the monthly newsletter. • It was agreed that the two other most urgent roles were IT/website (GD has done this job for many years and would like to hand it over in the not too distant future) and Access Officer (vacant); it was also agreed that the skills required for IT/website meant this would probably be most difficult to fill.. • Various names were suggested for potential new committee members and / or holders of these roles. • It was agreed that all committee members should raise committee membership / these roles with others during walks. <u>ACTIONS</u> • MA and SW to work together on the comms handover to MA. • All to raise committee membership and particularly the IT/website and Access Officer roles during walks.
6..	Governance – role of Groups and Areas in Scotland • BP had attended a Ramblers Scotland meeting on this topic just prior to the Group committee meeting. He suggested that he circulate his notes for the Group committee to discuss at our next meeting. • BP noted that during the meeting he had suggested that a document he drew up in 2007 on the role of Areas in Ramblers Scotland be re-circulated because many of those attending had said they did not know their purpose. • YF noted that the next Area Council meeting is 29th May.

	<u>ACTIONS</u> • BP to circulate his notes from the 13th May Ramblers Scotland meeting on the role of groups and Areas. • SW to ensure Governance is included as an agenda item for the next group committee meeting.
7.	Reports NB – at the previous Group committee meeting it was decided that to reduce meeting times, reports would, in future, be taken as read, with committee members invited to comment. <u>a. Chair</u> • YF highlighted the in-progress reinstatement of the Glasgow City Council Local Access Forum. GCC are keen that once it is set up, there is a rep from Glasgow Ramblers. • BP noted two minor errors in the report: Glasgow Young Walkers has a Convener (not Chair); and Strathclyde Area has a Council (not committee). <u>b. Treasurer</u> • No comments on the report. <u>c. Membership secretary</u> • YF noted that Group numbers continue to rise. BP reported that all groups in our Area, in Ramblers Scotland and Ramblers GB have seen rising membership. • YF said that more important than numbers of new members was numbers who were actually active. TC highlighted a new member (Jeanette Somerville) who has expressed interest in walk leading – he will buddy her with this. <u>d. IT/website</u> • No report. <u>e. Access and countryside</u> • No report. <u>f. Secretary</u> • SW highlighted new videos for walk leaders – information on these was provided in a recent Ramblers Volunteers email (30th April “...a special update, dedicated to highlighting where you can access support and training for your volunteer role”). She wondered whether these should be brought to members’ attention? It was agreed that since it is difficult to find information and support for walk leaders (e.g. how to act as a sighted guide) on the Ramblers GB site, because it appears in various places, it might be useful to have a Walk Leaders section on the Glasgow Group website with links to this information (but not to all the compulsory training). This could be added to gradually over time. • YF reminded the Committee that one member had asked how the financial contribution to the Group from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays was used. SW suggested this be included in the Annual Report. • SW informed Committee members that the proposed Ramblers Scotland filming on the 31st May Mickle Bin walk would not take place if there were fewer than eight participants. <u>ACTIONS</u> • TC to buddy new member as walk leader when appropriate. • GD to set up a Walk Leader Resources section on our Group website. • SW to include use of RWH financial contribution (to pay for the first aid course) in the Annual Report.
8.	Walks and events programme <u>a. Walks programme</u> • TC reported that this is looking healthy for the next couple of months. • On the weekend of 7-8th June there is the summer lunch and associated walk on Saturday and a walk near Gourrock on Sunday – TC commented that it will be interesting to see the final numbers for these. There was some discussion on the advisability of putting on two walks on a single weekend – YF thought it could work well if the walks weren’t too similar.

	- BP offered to put on a shortish evening walk fairly soon – adding to this new aspect of our Group's programme. <u>b. Any incidents or anything to report</u> - None.
9.	AOCB - YF asked about deadlines for the AGM and Annual Report. <u>HS note as Minutes Secretary</u> – I checked back with the 2023 Constitution which reads: <i>"In the first quarter of each financial year, the Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group, of which not less than twenty eight days' notice shall be given in writing to each member of the Group ... Any proposal for such alteration [TO THE CONSTITUTION] 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 fourteen days' notice of this meeting, giving the terms of the proposed alteration, shall be given to the members of the Group."</i> With the AGM now set for 15th November, this means the deadlines are: 18th October for informing members of the AGM; 25th October for proposed amendments to the constitution to be submitted; and 1st November for members to be informed of any such amendments. - As noted in his Treasurer's report (attached), BP was advised by email that our Group's application for the free "Microsoft for Non-Profits" had been successful, and there did not appear to be any limits on the length of meeting which can be set up. However an hour into this Group Committee meeting, the Teams access was terminated. Luckily BP had not cancelled his Zoom subscription, so the Committee meeting continued that way. BP agreed to check out whether it is possible to access longer Teams meetings. <u>ACTIONS</u> - BP to check out Teams access via our current free "Microsoft for Non-Profits" membership.
10.	Next meeting Wednesday 23rd July 2025, 7pm – Zoom / Teams meeting.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair

Yvonne's highlights and updates from 20 March to 13 May, 2025

Communications survey

We had 24 responses to our recent communications survey which was carried out on Survey Monkey. There were 10 questions, most were multiple choice but some did ask respondents to give qualitative comments.

In broad terms, a majority of those who responded find the website and the monthly newsletter useful and engaging. Respondents are less positive about Facebook and the Ramblers App and our after-walk blogs get a mixed reaction.

Some of the key findings include:

- Most respondents use the website (87.5%) to get information about walks and events followed by the monthly newsletter (83.3%) and emails (62.5%)
- The monthly newsletter is the channel people most enjoy engaging with (79.1%) followed by the website (62.5%)
- Facebook and the Ramblers' App are the least popular channels among respondents to the survey
- 25% of respondents think the monthly newsletter is excellent while another 58.8% say it's interesting and useful. That means a total of 84% of respondents are highly engaged with the newsletter
- 87% say the website is very or pretty useful. Only two respondents say they either never go on the website or don't find it at all useful.
- After-walk blogs get a mixed reaction. 42% say they only 'sometimes' read them, 25% say they always read them and 29% say they usually read them. One person never reads them and one person comments that it's just another thing for walk leaders to do.
- Respondents either don't use Facebook at all (42%) or say Ramblers Facebook posts don't interest them (8%) or that they enjoy them only a little (25%). Only 17% say they enjoy looking at our Facebook posts.

You can see the full results including people's comments by using this link:

https://uk.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-EXm3_2B8bQdrM8WXxasp91eg_3D_3D/

Joint walks with Glasgow Young Walkers

Our joint walk with Glasgow Young Walkers on Sunday April 27 was a reasonably challenging circuit (at least for some of us!) from Lochwinnoch station up to Misty Law. It was attended by eight Glasgow Ramblers and three young walkers, one of whom brought a dog. Bringing a dog is allowed in the Young Walkers' group although the owner is meant to consult with the leader before turning up with their pet in tow. Despite some gloomy weather and boggy terrain, the walk

featured some great views across remote landscape and was rounded off with a stop in a Lochwinnoch pub.

The walk was led by Adrienn Hortobagyi who is also Convener of Ramblers' North Strathclyde Area. She is keen to organise future joint walks with us and we're due to catch up soon to discuss ideas. Any input would be gratefully received.

It is worth noting that the pace was faster overall than on most current Glasgow Ramblers' walks and so future joint walks with the young walkers might appeal to a section of our membership, bringing more variety to our programme.

Evening walks

I was delighted the sun shone on April 9 for our first evening walk of the year; a short three-mile jaunt round a section of the Magnificent 11 from Linn Park into and around King's Park. It was attended by six people including: one new member on her very first walk; another member on his first walk; one member from Helensburgh Ramblers and three regulars. Although the numbers were low, it would seem that evening walks may help us reach members who don't, or can't, come on our longer weekend or weekday walks.

Local Access Forum

I have been in touch with Jessy Field, Outdoor Access Officer, at Glasgow City Council. Jessy is currently in the process of working with colleagues to reinstate the Local Access Forum (LAF). The LAF has been dormant as the Outdoor Access Officer post was empty for several years. Reinstating the Forum needs to go to committee for approval and this is due to happen in the next month. Jessy will then invite individuals and organisations to become involved. She very much wants Glasgow Ramblers to be part of the LAF and will be in touch with us when she has clarity around a timeline. We should prepare for this by recruiting a representative from our membership who would become our 'local access champion' and be part of the LAF.

Meantime, Jessy has invited us to contact her if there is anything specific we would like to engage with the council on. She is also happy to meet in person.

Yvonne Flynn May 2025.

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Treasurer (NOTE current balances and expenditures available on request)

Teams

As I have advised by email our application for the free "Microsoft for Non-Profits" has been successful, and there does not appear to be any limited on the length of meeting which can be set up. The free version allows for up to 10 users. I have still to work out how other users can be added, but the Committee may wish to discuss what other Committee members should be appointed as additional users.

Social Fund

I still do not have information available as to whether there is any residual amount from a previous legacy. As agreed at the March 2025 Committee meeting, I have requested that Ramblers Worldwide Holidays send future payment to the Social Fund Account, and have received an acknowledgement from them. Also as agreed at that meeting, I passed on the Social Fund Account details to the Group Chair and Secretary, so that these could be provided to members for bank transfers in connection with the September 2025 coach trip to Ayrshire.

Barry Pottle – May 2025

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Membership Secretary

Since 19/03/2025 membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	31
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	2
	Members who have moved to the Area	0
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	4
	Total joiners	36
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	10
	Members whose membership has lapsed	6
	Members who have moved Group	1
	Members who have left the Area	0
	Bereavement	-
	Total Leavers	17

On 09/05/2025 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is **383** this is an increase of 19 since the last Committee meeting in March 2025.

Frances Arthur - May 2025

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IT Website

No report for this meeting, there will be a website update at the next meeting.

Geoff Der - May 2025

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Access and Countryside

No report.

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

Numbers update

Coach Trip 25, First Aid Course 10.

Walk Leader resources

Re last volunteer email, is it worth bringing all of these to our walk leaders attention?

The Walking Partnership

Statement showing monies earned by your group members who have travelled on one or more of our range holidays between 01 Nov 2024 and 30 Apr 2025.

Reference	Tour Code	Tour Name	Start Date	Contribution
A186384	51790	Artistic Umbria (Grade 3)	21 Dec 2024	£20
A182225	41800	Complete New Zealand (Grade 4/SS)	28 Jan 2025	£30
A181625	26800	Complete Madeira (Grade 5)	04 Nov 2024	£20
A186384	51790	Artistic Umbria (Grade 3)	21 Dec 2024	£20
A189759	26130	Portugal's Wild Atlantic Coast (Grade 4)	23 Mar 2025	£20
A188148	56200	Jerez and Los Pueblos Blancos (Grade 3)	31 Mar 2025	£20
			Total	£130

Filming

Ramblers Scotland have requested to film at the Meikle Bin walk on Saturday 31st May to produce a video that would showcase what's great about sociable group walks, what it means to participants, and why people should consider getting involved. You can see a couple of recent films they've produced for the Ramblers here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nyWYUyz28U>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj-fwTDEhtU>

Sandra West May 2025