

	Present Frances Arthur (FA), Terry Cassidy (TC), Geoff Der (GD); Yvonne Flynn (YF); Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW). Note: YF left the meeting during discussion of item 5. Sub-items (d) and (e) were brought forward for discussion before she left. Sub-items (b) and (c) were discussed after she left. Also attending Jim Riddell (JR).
1.	Interim arrangements - chairing Barry Pottle agreed to chair the meeting (whilst remaining unwilling to accept the title of Group Chair).
2.	Apologies Suzi Bateman (SB).
3.	<u>Minutes of Committee meeting held on 4th June 2024</u> a - Accuracy as record of meeting - Those present agreed the record was accurate and could be approved and uploaded to the website. b - Matters arising (ACTION points from 4th June Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re #3 Minutes of March Committee meeting</u> - SW to check whether the draft November AGM minutes had been circulated to those who had attended - DONE. Minutes were circulated, only one comment, noting accuracy. - HS to send pdf of final 26th March Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website - DONE. - BP to report back once he hears from Jeannie Cranfield (Ramblers Scotland Volunteer Development Officer) re personal accident insurance for both sighted guides and the blind or partially sighted person themselves - DONE. Jeannie Cranfield had repeated that volunteer sighted guides WERE covered by public liability insurance and confirmed that this DID include the visually impaired person themselves claiming against either the walk leader or Ramblers. However, like all walkers apart from walk leaders, sighted guides were NOT covered by personal accident insurance, so could not make a claim if they themselves fell, unless it could be proved that this was the fault of the Ramblers or the leader. - TC to make the register of volunteer guides available to all walk leaders – IN PROGRESS. It had been sent to some but not all walk leaders; TC would send it to all. - BP to apply to Charity Digital for reduced zoom costs and if accepted to name himself and TC as hosts – SEE #4.b TREASURER'S REPORT. - HS to liaise with Pearce Institute in respect of audiovisual equipment – the Committee may need to provide a laptop, projector and screen for the AGM speaker – SEE #8 AGM. - GD to add website text on how to join Ramblers, similar to that on the websites of some other Groups (e.g. https://www.bearsdenandmilngavieramblers.org.uk/communication-2/join-our-group/) – IN PROGRESS. There was some discussion on what was required and it was AGREED that GD should reinstate 'How to join Ramblers UK' to the front page of the Glasgow Ramblers website. - GD to check out a system for automatically posting across Apps - DONE. GD asked Ramblers UK IT staff whether there were systems which would allow this – including posting from the Glasgow Ramblers website – and was told that there are not. - SW to investigate how to pin 'How to join' text on X and Facebook – IN PROGRESS. SW now knew how to do this and would copy the wording re joining from the Glasgow Ramblers website once GD had reinstated it. - SB to feed back on how other Groups handle PR / social media / communication – IN PROGRESS. - YF to pull together some thoughts and recommendations on comms strategy AND

Committee to decide whether to focus on X or Facebook **AND** SW / YF / others as required to co-ordinate a members' survey (Survey Monkey / hard copy) re how information is received (email, social media, etc) and understood, and preferences in respect of this – ON HOLD until after the AGM as this represented a significant piece of work.

- GD to add a website page with walks offered over the next month by other local Groups - DONE. GD had added <https://www.glasgowramblers.org.uk/general-information-for-walkers/what-to-do-when-a-walk-is-full.html> which included a link to walks offered by other local Ramblers Groups over the coming month <https://www.glasgowramblers.org.uk/local-groups-walks.html>. This was based on information which feeds in automatically from Walks Manager, so did not include Groups (such as Bearsden & Milngavie) which did not upload their walks to Walks Manager.
- GD to add Women's Day walk track to website – IN PROGRESS. YF needed to send the track.
- SB to provide Scottish Council meeting report for circulation – IN PROGRESS.

Re #4 Reports and matters arising

- BP asked GD whether there was any update to his June report of "*difficulties among some members in respect of displaying walk details since the changeover to Walks Manager – however the original complainant did not respond to the software support team when asked to provide more details*". GD had been told that Ramblers IT staff were aware of some problems on older iPhones; he had also removed an old walks page that was appearing on Google searches. SW reported that a member who had bought a new iPad was now having no difficulties.
- SW to buy 20 tick removers and distribute some to TC, FA and Margaret Duffy with a reminder that they should be given out to non-members as well as members who requested one - DONE. SW had already given out most of them on her own walks and thought most regular walkers already had one. She would buy 10 more for distribution.
- JR to ask GCC to ensure the Mag 11 is easily visible to those browsing the 'Walking and Heritage Trails' page of their website rather than requiring a specific search – SEE #5.d MAGNIFICENT 11 UPDATE.

Re 5 Walks and events programme

- BP had reported to the June Committee meeting that, as North Strathclyde Area Secretary, he had only been copied in to comments from one local Group in respect of Ramblers new walk leader guidance. He had not received any other comments. Although the feedback page on the Ramblers website had specifically indicated that responses would not be given to comments, the Group which had submitted comments had asked for a response. However, BP had been told that they had received no reply from Ramblers GB.
- BP had also reported to the June Committee meeting that he had submitted comments on the feedback page on behalf of North Strathclyde Area, querying how much in the guidance was a requirement of insurers Vs how much was simply a recommendation of Ramblers (because this might impact on any claims by a Group which had not complied with Ramblers recommendations). As mentioned above, the feedback page had indicated that responses would not be given. BP indicated that, because his comments had raised a specific query about insurers' requirements, he would email Central Office for a response.
- TC to email walk leaders to ask them to make sure they look at the new guidance – IN PROGRESS.
- YF to ensure Aviemore Weekend walk leaders claim full recce expense refunds – DONE. BP reported that some had still not claimed, and YF indicated that she would remind them..

ACTIONS

- HS to send pdf of final 4th June Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website.
- TC to send the register of volunteer sighted guides to all walk leaders.
- GD to add 'How to join Ramblers UK' to the front page of the Glasgow Ramblers website.
- SW to pin 'How to join' text, based on the wording on the Glasgow Ramblers website on X and Facebook.
- SB to feed back on how other Groups handle PR / social media / communication.

	• YF to send GPS of her Women's Day walk to GD for addition to Glasgow Ramblers website. • SB to provide Scottish Council meeting report for circulation. • SW to purchase and distribute 10 more tick removers. • TC to email walk leaders to ask them to make sure they look at the new guidance. • YF to remind Aviemore Weekend walk leaders to claim recce expenses.
4.	Reports and matters arising a – Chair • No report as the Group did not currently have a Group Chair. b – Treasurer (financial report available on request) • The financial report showed balances in the 'Main' and 'Social Fund' accounts; SW asked what the Social Fund was for? BP was unsure, but thought it was for social events when money was collected from attendees for deposits etc; it also included a legacy which was given with the stipulation that the money NOT be spent on Ramblers business. He agreed to investigate further regarding the use of the Social Fund, and whether there was any residual amount from the legacy. • BP's report included information in respect of the Group Budget submission for Financial Year 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025. Glasgow Ramblers had requested £1,200 and the Area Treasurer had acknowledged receipt of the Budget submission and funding request. Approval of the Area's budget request (including the requests from Groups) would be made by Ramblers UK, results would be announced mid October. • As agreed at the June Committee meeting, BP had been investigating the possibility of a 50% discount on Glasgow Ramblers Zoom subscription via Charity Digital. However, it transpired that Ramblers GB was already registered with Charity Digital and BP had been told that the admin to enable individual Groups to claim the discount could not be justified. BP's report noted that a Zoom Pro subscription, with two users, paid annually, would be £311.76, inclusive of VAT. BP also noted that costs shown on the Teams website indicated this to be a lot cheaper (£95.04 annually, inclusive of VAT, for two users). There was discussion of Teams, which some Committee members had used. GD asked whether it was compatible with Macs and iPads, YF reported that it was. GD also wondered whether it needed to be set up with named users – BP believed that it did. It was AGREED to try Teams on the basis of its cost, but initially with only one user (BP). c – Membership Secretary (report below) • FA's report noted that on 8th August, <i>"the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 361 this is a decrease of 4 since the last Committee meeting in June 2024"</i>. d – IT / website • Nothing to report. e – Access • Nothing to report. f – Secretary's correspondence (report below) • <u>Promotional Goods, ideas</u>. SW had arranged for the resident of a property close to one of the entrances to Linn Park to keep the box in the park topped up with Mag 11 leaflets. She would bring Ramblers mugs etc to the AGM for distribution. • <u>The Ramblers' Strategic Ambition 2024</u>. See https://www.ramblers.org.uk/opening-way-ramblers-strategic-ambition. SW noted as interesting that the Mag 11 is featured by Ramblers as an example of success in respect of their Outcome 1 <i>"Improved provision, quality and information on access, paths and rights of way"</i>, while at the same time we were concerned about its future and relative lack of promotion. She also noted that the document included a photo of Glasgow Ramblers Andy West, with visually impaired walker Terry Robinson, in respect of Outcome 3 <i>"Improved participation of communities that have the least access and most barriers to the outdoors"</i>. • <u>AGMs</u>. SW noted that information on the Glasgow Ramblers AGM (16th November) and Area AGM (25th January, 2025 – Cumbernauld) has been uploaded onto Glasgow Ramblers website.

	<u>ACTIONS</u> • BP to take out a Teams subscription with one user (himself). • SW to take Ramblers promotional goods to the AGM.
5.	Walks and events programme a – Walks programme • TC reported that, apart from the September weekend away, the walks programme was looking very thin from mid September. He would email all walks leaders asking them to consider leading over the next few months. • YF thought that we should try putting on more short / easy walks, including on the same days as longer walks, to increase the total number of walks. HS recalled that SB had expressed interest in leading shorter walks and that it might be a way of attracting new and / or less confident walk leaders. b – Any incidents or anything to report • None. c – New Walk Leader guidance • TC agreed to email all walk leaders alerting them to this. d – Magnificent 11 Update • <u>Maintenance</u> JR reported that he had been speaking to the countryside rangers, who were keen for people to help with Mag 11 path maintenance, so he had given them YF's name. YF (our representative on the so-far inactive 'Friends of the Magnificent 11' group) stated that our role was to promote walking the route (as happened a few weeks ago when some very enthusiastic Forth Valley Ramblers walked it), rather than provide maintenance. GM agreed that maintenance was the responsibility of the countryside rangers. • <u>Promotion</u> ○ Information on the Mag 11 was now available on the GCC website https://glasgow.gov.uk/Magnificent11Walk but was not specifically listed among the walks featured on the Walking and Heritage Trails page https://citizen.glasgoc1-prd.gosshosted.com/heritagetrails. This meant it would not be found by someone just browsing through this. All agreed it would be ideal if it could be further promoted by being featured here. ○ JR had been in touch with Jessy Field (new Glasgow Council Access Officer) to say that he thought the route should also be included in the Walking and Heritage Trails section of the website and was also a good candidate for inclusion in the Core Paths Plan. Her reply agreed that the Mag 11 should be more prominent on the GCC website and promised to find out who updated that website section; she also agreed as to its potential for being added as a Core Path. JR also noted that Gavin Corbett (Ramblers Scotland's new Policy and Advocacy Manager) was an expert on Core Paths - JR had spoken to him recently re some legal aspects of the Mag 11 route description on the GCC website. JR had also spoken to Allison Greig (Senior Countryside Ranger for Glasgow) re designating the route as a Heritage Trail. She had told him that there was currently no mechanism for hosting new Heritage Trails on the GCC website as the person who had dealt with this was no longer in post. ○ JR wondered what / whom we could call on to provide any text which might be required in respect of designating the Mag 11 as a Heritage Trail. As well as route leaflets, the Glasgow Ramblers website included a Mag 11 page https://www.glasgowramblers.org.uk/mag11 with a link to a PDF providing a brief history of the development of route; the route was also featured in WalkHighlands https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/glasgow/magnificent-11.shtml. ○ GD thought the walk would be a better fit with the Core Path criteria ("<i>a network of safe and unobstructed routes throughout the city</i>"), since it was not really history or buildings, however JR thought "heritage" was about people, including those involved in development of the path. He was also concerned that the route crossed a busy road, which might cause difficulties in respect of a Core Path designation; YF thought this would be a good reason to lobby for a pedestrian crossing to be created.

	- o It was AGREED that JR continue to lobby his various contacts in order to promote the Mag 11, with the eventual aim of designating it a Core Path and / or Heritage Trail. e – 2024 Weekend away – Aviemore, Fri 20th to Mon 23rd September • YF reported that all was in hand. Four people had pulled out, including one from the Lairg Ghru, so the programme had needed some amendment. <u>ACTIONS</u> • TC to email all walks leaders asking them to consider leading over the next few months – and to include the idea of shorter / easier walks. • TC to email all walk leaders alerting them to new guidance. • JR to continue to lobby in order to promote the Mag 11, with the eventual aim of designating it a Core Path and / or Heritage Trail.
6.	Social Media / Communication • Several issues as noted in #3 – ON HOLD until after the AGM as this represented a significant piece of work.
7.	First aid • SW noted that the last Glasgow Ramblers first aid training was in April 2023, so certificates would be out of date by next Spring. Ramblers UK recommended outdoor first aid training. It was therefore AGREED that a repeat British Association of Ski Patrollers Outdoor First Aid Training event should be arranged, since this had seemed excellent in 2023. Costs had been included in the Glasgow Ramblers 2024-25 Budget. BP advised waiting to book the course until we were sure the full sum requested towards the Budget had been approved. <u>ACTIONS</u> • SW to contact BASP re Outdoor First Aid Training once BP informed her that the budget including provision for this has been approved.
8.	AGM 2024 and preparation of annual report • HS had now been told by the Pearce Institute that the room we had booked (Fairfield Hall) could be provided with a large TV plus HDMI cable; wifi was NOT available. SW would email the speaker to check how she wanted to provide her slides (email; memory stick; own laptop) to enable us to plan. • SW had circulated last year's Annual Report (3.5 sides, 1,600 words) to Committee members because she wondered whether the 2023-24 report should be shorter. The consensus was that it should not, although GD thought reports of reports could be cut – which would enable the Scottish Council section to simply say that some Glasgow Ramblers members attended plus a statement that a full report could be provided on request. <u>ACTIONS</u> • SW to email the speaker to check how she wanted to provide her slides. • ALL who contribute to the Annual Report to begin to consider content.
9.	Next meeting • Wednesday 2nd October, 7pm – zoom meeting (subject to SW checking on availability of Committee member SB not at the present meeting, and of YF, who had left the meeting prior to this point).
10.	AOCB • JR had recently spoken to the Chair of Glasgow Young Walkers (GYW) who had expressed interest in Mag 11 maintenance. He had a name but no contact details – BP had the person's email address and agreed to pass it on. <u>ACTIONS</u> • BP to pass email address of GYW Chair on to JR.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair's report – none as no current Group Chair.

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Treasurer's Report – financial details available on request.

Group Budget submission for Financial Year 2024/25

I circulated to Group Committee members by email on 2nd July the Budget submission which I had sent to the Area Treasurer. I subsequently circulated on 6th July the Reserves Calculator, which should have been part of the Budget submission, but which I had overlooked to complete. In my email of 2nd July, I indicated that I had requested funding of £930 for the year 2024/25. However, in my email of 6th July, I indicated that I had increased this claim to £1,200.

The Area Treasurer has acknowledged receipt of the Budget submission and funding request. He advised that the approval of the budget request is made at Central Office: Area Treasurers are there just to check for any anomalies and be a "post box". He understands that the results of the Central Office review will be announced mid October.

Zoom subscription

In my email to Committee members on 22nd June, with a draft of the Group Budget, I explained that, as agreed at the May Committee meeting, I applied to Charity Digital for the 50% discount on Zoom subscription. When I completed the online form, it required me to specify our Charity Registration Number. Of course, the only Registration Number we had was the one for the Ramblers as a whole. When I submitted the application, I got the response "Organisation is a possible duplicate. Registration failed". When I queried the issue using the chat facility, I was told that "Ramblers' Association would need to register with its own details, and apply for offers which it can then provide to your team".

I was subsequently told that the Ramblers was in fact already registered with Charity Digital, and that the account contact was Paul Strong at Ramblers' Central Office. I contacted him and he advised that the paperwork involved, in enabling individual Groups to claim the discount, was such that it was not justifiable, and he recommended that we take out a subscription at the normal rate.

A Zoom Pro subscription, with two users, paid annually, would be £311.76, inclusive of VAT. (Unfortunately, in the Group Budget, I had allowed for the figure shown on the Zoom website, which was exclusive of VAT.) This is a little less than twice the amount which the Group is currently reimbursing for a subscription in my personal name, because it is cheaper to pay annually than monthly.

Teams appears to be a lot cheaper. As far as I can tell from their website, the cost for two users, paid annually, would be £95.04, inclusive of VAT. However, I am not familiar with Teams, so I would need to investigate further to ascertain whether it would be suitable for our purposes.

Barry Pottle
August 2024

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Membership Secretary

Since 04/06/2024 membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	27
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1
	Members who have moved to the Area	0
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	0
	Total joiners	28
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	27
	Members whose membership has lapsed	5
	Members who have moved Group	1
	Left the area	1
	Total leavers	34

On 08/08/2024 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 361, this is a decrease of 4 since the last Committee meeting in June 2024.

Frances Arthur
August 24

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IT / Website – no report

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Access and Countryside – no report

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

1. Promotional Goods, ideas
2. The Ramblers' Strategic Ambition 2024

Sandra West
August 24