Glasgow Ramblers Committee Meeting 17th January, 2023

Present
Frances Arthur (FA), Terry Cassidy (TC), Geoff Der (GD), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), Alan Watt (AW), Catherine Watt (CW), Sandra West (SW).
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
None.

3. <u>Minutes of Committee meeting held on 19th September 2022</u>
a - Accuracy as record of meeting
- FA noted that she was present but missed off the list.
- Those present agreed the rest of the record was accurate and, subject to amendment of those present, could be approved and uploaded to the website.

b - Matters arising (ACTION points from minutes of 19th September)
re #5 Walk and events programme
- AW to co-ordinate longer walks programme – ONGOING – discussed at 27th Sept Walk Leader meeting, website has walks for next couple of months, more unpublished on GWEM.
- GD to check whether it might be possible to automatically generate a printable pdf of future walks – ONGOING / PROBABLY NOT NEEDED – GD reported that it would be possible but difficult and AW that in future the possibility for and appearance of a potential pdf will depend on how walks appear via the new Walks Manager system. HS noted that we're now publicising the next couple of months' walks via the newsletter which allows members to plan ahead.
- AW to redraft boilerplate text for walk descriptions and circulate round walk leaders - DONE.
- BP to raise the possibility of dog walks coordinated at Area level at the next Area meeting – ONGOING – CW suggested this might be best raised at the upcoming Area AGM which more people would be attending.

Re #6 Committee roles
- AW to raise future walks coordinator role with walks leaders – ONGOING – for discussion at 23rd Jan Walk Leader mtg.

Re #7 next AGM
- BP to prepare draft Agenda and Annual Report for approval by the Committee - DONE.
- AW to prepare Financial Report for AGM - DONE.
- SW and FA liaise over member contact details and emailing / printing and posting AGM notices - DONE.
- CW, SW and HS liaise over AGM walk - DONE.

<u>Minutes of Committee meeting re AGM held on 24th October 2022</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
- All required actions were completed and the AGM held.
- CW noted that although Gerard McCrear had originally indicated that he was not willing to be re-nominated as Independent Adviser (as recorded in 24th October Minutes), he

	subsequently agreed to take on the role. **<u>Minutes of the Group AGM held on 15th November 2022</u>** **a - Accuracy as record of meeting** • Those present noted no inaccuracies apart from one mention of 'Chairman' rather than 'Chair', but the Minutes require formal approval at the next AGM. **b - Matters arising** • BP wondered if we should revert to circulating the AGM minutes to all who had been present. This was previously done when the AGMs were in-person but did not occur following the 2020 and 2021 zoom AGMs. Since BP noted all attending in 2022 it would be possible. CW thought it was now probably too late for these members to comment on accuracy. It was agreed that GD would post the Minutes on the website for information as 'draft'. • BP noted that at the AGM it was agreed that GM would attend North Strathclyde Area Council, filling one of the three places to which our Group is entitled. Since BP is being proposed as Area Secretary, he will be attending in another capacity. We therefore have two unfilled places. No other Committee member wished to attend. **ACTIONS** • BP to raise dog walks at Area AGM. • HS to amend 19th September Minutes (FA present) and AGM Minutes (Chair) and forward them, along with the 24th October Minutes to GD. • GD to post Minutes on website.
4.	**Committee Roles** **a - Membership Secretary** • Currently FA who is happy to continue. CW noted that she is second Membership Secretary and holds the list of names for sending the monthly newsletter. It was agreed that FA and CW should continue in these roles. **b - Minutes Secretary** • Currently HS who is happy to continue. This was agreed. **c - Walks Programme Coordinator** • AW wishes to hand over this role. Although not obligatory, he thought it best if it was taken on by a Committee member who could then feed-back at Committee mtgs. • GD volunteered to take on the role of helping with GWEM / Walks Manager. • CW suggested that the most important thing was collective: all Committee members should be asking people to lead walks. AW noted that once someone has led one walk, they generally become more confident and committed – but bringing new leaders in is harder. • AW would be happy to talk about the role to anyone interested – but noted that it is not 'set' and that different groups do different things. SW wondered about the time commitment; AW said it was very varied. CW commented that even if Walk Leaders put together a 5-6 month programme, someone still needs to be responsible for it going onto GWEM in a tidy and consistent way. • TC said he would be willing but was worried about insufficient IT skills / knowledge. **d - Access and Countryside officer** • Currently JR who is happy to continue. This was agreed. **e – IT / website** • Currently GD who is happy to continue. This was agreed. **ACTIONS** • AW and TC to discuss Walk Programme Coordinator role. • All to raise walk leading with members when appropriate.
5.	**Reports and matters arising** **a – Chair**

	• No report as we do not currently have a Group Chair. **b – Treasurer** • BP was elected Treasurer at the AGM. However, the handover from the former Treasurer, AW, had been delayed while the process of making Unity Trust Bank aware of this was ongoing. This had now been completed, so the handover should take place shortly. The Treasurer's report was therefore compiled by AW. • There were no comments on the report and nothing significant of note. • GD pointed out that he remains second signatory, which was previously convenient as he lives close to AW – but not to BP. Since no Committee members live close to BP, it was agreed that GD would remain as second signatory and anything requiring his signature could be posted; in fact, almost no cheques are issued now. **c – Membership** • The report shows a total of 303 members of the Ramblers currently allocated to Glasgow Group, a decrease of 6 since the September committee meeting. • It was assumed that inconsistencies in numbers automatically drawn from the Ramblers database identifying joined / left and change in total Members resulted from these stats being based on slightly different dates. • BP noted that 13 had resigned and wondered why. FA said she did not recognize most names, so they were either passive members or relatively recent joiners. CW suggested they may have received 12 months' membership as a Christmas gift. **d – IT / website** • GD's report notes that although he looks after the local website, highly skilled volunteers do most IT work on the local group websites – e.g. back-ups; software updates. He had been concerned because one, Chris Vaughan, is stepping down, but has learnt that there have been several volunteers to replace him, so, depending on their competence, things may be OK. AW noted that Chris Vaughan has been far more responsive than Ramblers Central and his departure will be a loss. • AW reported that one local group had asked for a survey on Walks Manager priorities / issues to be sent to all local groups. We have already submitted feedback re Walks Manager, having taken part in the pilot. AW will circulate the survey to Committee members and co-ordinate our response. **e – Access** • None. **ACTIONS** • AW to circulate Walks manager survey to Committee members, collate and return responses.
6.	**Presentation to Scottish Council** • CW reported that we have been asked, and Gary Linstead has agreed, to do a 5-minute talk on the Magnificent 11 walk to Scottish Council. The aim is to try and encourage other groups to think about doing something similar.
7.	**Walk and Events Programme** **a - Magnificent 11** • AW reported that work on drainage to the Beech Walk was completed in late 2022. It is currently very muddy due to the works but should dry to a hard surface later in the year. • Last week several marker posts were removed and an information board sawn off very solid wooden posts in the Gallowhill area. The quality of the sawing suggested this was done by someone with some expertise; presumably this person does not want the walk in their area. • GD wondered whether we should add the Mag11 to our walks programme annually, to coincide with the 30th June anniversary of its opening. It was agreed this was a good idea. **b - Walks programme and Walk Leaders' meeting** • The next Walk Leaders' mtg is scheduled for 23rd January.

	• AW will add car sharing to the agenda – the issue was raised at the AGM. • SW noted that she is still collecting the names of members willing to drive passengers to walks – currently around six. AW wondered whether the walks blurb might be altered to suggest those with cars could apply to join a walk more than two weeks in advance. It was agreed this was a good idea since it would enable the leader to plan more easily. • FA requested that dog friendly walks be added to the agenda. **c - Dog Friendly Walks** • FA encouraged BP to raise this at Area level to spread the number of groups offering these walks. • FA reported that she has now led three dog friendly walks and may offer another, this time at the weekend, but aiming not to displace an ordinary weekend walk. **d - Any incidents or anything to report** • None reported apart from transport (buses / trains) issues. **e - Weekend away in September** • YF reported that potential accommodation has been identified – Sleep Huts in Lamlash, but volunteer walk leaders are still needed. • YF wondered how best to arrange accommodation: block-book or ask people to book themselves? CW has found asking people to book their own accommodation much easier. SW reported that around 16 have already expressed interest. TC thought that it might already be difficult to get accommodation for that number if the date was the September Weekend (22-25th). AW suggested emailing all group members, telling them about the Sleep Huts and other potential accommodation. • YF agreed to contact the Sleep Huts to ask about availability and prices and to draft the group email to be sent out quickly. **f - Walks Manager Pilot** • No further issues to note. **g - Introductory Walk** • SW had circulated a Ramblers Scotland email to the Committee following up from their 2022 Introductory Walks pilot in which our group participated: *"The main take away is we've amended the guidance for groups post pilot and we are now encouraging all groups to run and market their own introductory walks to see how they get on. If your group would consider running a further one later this year, do let me know …"* It was agreed that we would leave this until 2024. **ACTIONS** • AW to ensure: Mag11 anniversary walk; car sharing, including idea that drivers might apply to join a walk more than two weeks in advance; and dog friendly walks are discussed at 23rd Jan Walk leader mtg. • YF to contact Sleep Huts re availability and prices and draft email to be sent out quickly.
8.	**Next committee meeting** • **DAY 21st March, 7pm – zoom meeting.**
9.	**AOCB** • CW reported that Jeannie Cranfield (Ramblers Scotland) has been in touch to ask why we have not previously nominated the Mag11 walk for the Scottish Walking Awards. Nominations for the 2023 awards are now open – see https://pathsforall.org.uk/whats-on/event-details/scottish-walking-awards-2023. This suggests it should be nominated; CW also suggested Stockingfield Bridge and possibly Carmunnock Community Council (help with Mag11). CW would be willing to submit nominations on behalf of our Committee; SW, who has been asked by a journalist to provide information on the benefits of the Walking awards, would be happy to help. **ACTIONS** • CW and SW to submit nominations for Scottish Walking Awards (deadline Sunday 19th March).

SUBMITTED REPORTS

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

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Treasurer’s Report – available on request.

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Membership Report

Since the last Committee meeting in September 2022 memberships figures are as follows:

New to Ramblers	21
Rambler members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1
Rambler members who have re-joined Glasgow Ramblers	0
Members who have resigned	13
Members whose membership has lapsed	11
Members who have moved to another Group	0
Members who moved to another Area	0

On 12/01/2023 the total **membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 303** this is a decrease of 6 since the last Committee meeting in September 2022

Frances Arthur
12/01/2023

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IT / Website Report

There are a couple of issues to do with the website.

Ramblers IT Support
The first issue is the future IT support for all Ramblers group websites. The person who provides the main IT support for group websites, Chris Vaughan from South Derby, is giving up the role.
He has called for volunteers to take on all or part of the role. We might be lucky but I suspect we'll struggle to find someone with both the commitment and IT skills that Chris has provided.
This is really just for noting and monitoring.

New Walks Manager
Secondly, we have also been asked to complete a survey of what features groups would want from the new Walks Manager. We took part in a trial of the Walks Manager and provided feedback but should still complete the survey.

Geoff Der – January 2023

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Access Report – nothing to report