

	Present Terry Cassidy (TC), Geoff Der (GD); Yvonne Flynn (YF); Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW).
1.	Apologies Marjory Anderson (MA), Frances Arthur (FA).
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting held on 15th January 2025 a - Accuracy as record of meeting - BP noted errors on p3 (RE Teams – “It was agreed ...”) and p4 (associated fifth action point) – Microsoft 365 is free and not £3.50 per month as stated. Those present agreed that subject to correction, the record was accurate and could be approved and uploaded to the website. - It became apparent that the Word document circulated to Committee members was not wholly visible to all – presumably PC/Mac formatting issues. It was agreed that HS would send future drafts as PDFs. b - Matters arising (ACTION points from 15th January Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re #2 Minutes of January Committee meeting</u> - HS to send pdf of final version of October 2024 minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website - DONE. - SW to contact BASP re first aid training - DONE. The information provided by BASP and circulated to Committee members is: NUMBERS -trainers operate on a ratio of 1:12; a minimum of 6 candidates is required for a private course. FIRST Vs REPEAT ATTENDERS - new people can join the course along with people who have attended in the past. TIMING - 9am- 5pm (with the trainer taking an hour to set up & about 40 mins to clear away at the end). VENUE - It's up to Glasgow Group to find a suitable venue. For 12 candidates a 40m² room is recommended; an outside grass area is needed close by for the scenarios; the trainer will bring laptop & projector, a screen/blank wall & flip chart would be helpful; the trainer needs to be able to park close by. COST - depends on trainer's travel & expenses. Committee members have made various venue suggestions. SW has emailed and HS has visited the West of Scotland Cricket Ground. This would be suitable but is unavailable during the cricket season so the training would need to be in the Autumn. YF wondered about covering the costs, BP noted that some of the Social Fund could be used if there was insufficient in the Main Fund. <u>Re #3 2024 AGM, draft minutes and matters arising</u> - GD to upload the draft 2024 AGM minutes to the Group website - DONE. <u>Re #4 Reports and matters arising</u> - SW to ensure AGM speaker ideas included on the next Committee meeting agenda - DONE. - SW to ask Jeannie Cranfield to update her Scotland Paths Maintenance list with the names of the two new Mag 11 Rangers - DONE. YF has provided Jeannie with the new GCC rangers contact names (Fiona and Lynsey) and she asked to be kept informed. - YF to follow up on the Abbey Coaches booking for the Sept Ayrshire walks – DONE – see #3 Chair's report. - TC to email Walk Leaders with the Mid / Back Marker request for the Rhu Gathering – DONE – HS had already expressed interest, no other Walk Leaders have informed Committee members of their interest in this but they may have contacted Claire Exley directly. - BP to obtain the free non-profit version of Microsoft 365 and see what it enables – IN PROGRESS – see #3 Treasurer's report. - BP to find out what the Social Fund can be used for - DONE – see #3 Treasurer's report. - SW to request a trip-based breakdown of the most recent sum received from Ramblers

	Worldwide Holidays Travel Ltd – DONE – circulated to Committee members. Briefly, our Group receives payment of: £10 per person booked on UK holidays; £20 short haul and £30 long haul holidays. We received £270 from 15 holidays taken between 01/05/2024 and 31/10/2024.. • GD to check that the Glasgow Ramblers 'Committee' email has been updated to reflect current membership - DONE. • SW to include information on Walking Glasgow in the next Newsletter - DONE. • SW / YF / others to discuss ways of remembering Catherine Watt's life when this is appropriate – IN PROGRESS. The tribute to Catherine by Jeannie Cranfield (Ramblers Scotland Development Officer) at the Scottish Council event was noted. • YF and BP to attend Ramblers governance review sessions - DONE. Both have provided reports (BP to the Committee, YF in her Chair's report). YF asked if, now we have more awareness of the role of the Area, might there be more opportunities for our Group to be involved at this level? BP noted that: the Area should be a mechanism for Groups to get together and share ideas; only two of our Group's four places on the Area Committee are currently filled (by GM and BP); he is Area secretary; there are four (hybrid online / in person) meetings per year, the next is 29th May. Since the Glasgow Committee can appoint to an Area vacancy, it was agreed to appoint YF. • All to consider the request to contact local councillors re cuts to access funding – NOW SUPERSEDED. <u>Re #6 Social Media / Communication</u> • YF to put together a member survey re channels are used – DONE – see #3 Chair's report. <u>Re #7 Access Officer</u> • HS to contact Ramblers Scotland re Access Officer role requirements – DONE – the job description has been circulated to Committee members.. • SW to ask Jim Riddell what he did and who his contacts were – IN PROGRESS – see #7 Access. <u>ACTIONS</u> • HS to amend January 2025 minutes re Teams costs and send to GD to post on website. • HS to send future minutes drafts as PDFs. • 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. • SW / YF / others to discuss ways of remembering Catherine Watt's life when this is appropriate. • SW to ask Jim Riddell what he did and who his contacts were.
3.	Reports and matters arising – NOTE reports attached at the end this document a - Chair <u>RE Communication and engagement survey</u> • YF had circulated a brief Survey Monkey draft round Committee members and revised it following comments. Its focus is: most and least popular useful / popular communication channels; how to improve in order to reach more people more effectively. The link will be included in the April newsletter. • It was noted that the free version of Survey Monkey allows for 40 responses which is likely to be adequate. GD wondered what we should do if more people were interested. It was agreed that we should create an identical copy with a new invite link. <u>RE September coach trip to Ayrshire</u> • YF reported that following a recce, a 9.5 mile section of Ayrshire Coastal Path and a shorter 7-8 mile walk, both finishing at Ballantrae are suggested. HS wondered if the two walk lengths were not sufficiently different; YF thought the coastal walk was fairly difficult but shortening the alternative would be considered. • YF asked how to organise payment for the bus (£810 for the day due to Abbey Coaches on 7th August)? BP suggested this could come from the Social Fund pending refunds from

members (£16-20 per head). SW was concerned about having sufficient funds to also pay for the BASP first aid course around the same time. It was agreed to include information on the trip in the April newsletter and to ask for payment by the end of May. BP will send account details to YF and SW so these can be provided to members for bank transfers.

RE Ramblers engagement on governance review

- Both YF and BP attended (separate) online sessions. HS asked if they thought these had told Ramblers GB anything they didn't already know? BP noted that the sessions were focused around specific questions so it was clear they were already aware of, for example, lack of clarity over the roles of Groups, Areas, Regions and the Central Office.

b - Treasurer

RE Teams

- BP has applied for the free 'Microsoft for Non-Profits' which includes Teams. He had to provide a charity registration number (he used Ramblers Scotland) and is concerned that he will be told this is already registered.

RE Social Fund

- BP noted that what we call the Social Fund, Ramblers Central calls 'Self-funded' and their 'Guidance for Treasurers' outlines what it can be used for: day walks, holidays and socials. Analysis of our Social Fund shows it to have been used for these purposes, with costs then being refunded by members. SW asked whether this meant the Fund was ever used to pay for anything outright? BP thought it could be – but it would need to be for charitable purposes.
- GD suggested that the first aid course would be a good use of the Fund because it contributes to the Group; in addition, members who have contributed to the Fund via the Ramblers Worldwide would be able to see that their money had been put to good use.
- 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.
- GD wondered whether, if fewer than 12 Glasgow Group members were interested in the course, we could invite members from the North Strathclyde Area to attend and receive a refund from the Area for their costs? BP was unsure, but noted that in any case, Glasgow Group's funds come from the Area, so it would all be the same pot.

RE Recce expenses

- YF asked whether BP had received any claims – he has not. It was suggested that the newsletter could include an item on refunding recce expenses and this may encourage some new Walk Leaders.

c - Membership

- FA's report notes that on 15th March, total Glasgow Ramblers membership = 364; an increase of 13 since the January Committee meeting.

d – IT and website

- Nothing to report but GD had asked Committee members to look at the Strathkelvin Group's website which has been modelled on that of our Group but may have some better features. In particular, their walks list is on the left of the webpage and so shows up first when viewed on a mobile phone. SW noted that the most frequently asked question is 'how do I join a walk'? This is presumably because they have not scrolled down the page.
- SW also noted that the three lines (to see webpage tabs on the mobile version) are more visible on the Strathkelvin site whereas they are almost invisible grey on ours. GD agreed to look at this – but the Strathkelvin site uses a more recent colour palette so changing the colour / visibility may not be possible with the way our website is set up.
- SW also wondered if having the Cotswold discount on the home page was useful.
- BP thought information on joining Ramblers was clearer on the Strathkelvin site.
- BP noted that our website still says we produce a twice yearly programme.
- GD agreed to investigate / address these issues.
- GD has noticed that our website says 'Copyright Glasgow Ramblers' and wondered if this was OK? BP said it was – the site was produced by an individual on behalf of the Group.

	e – Access and countryside • Nothing to report. f – Secretary report and correspondence • Nothing to report. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF / SW arrange for survey link to be included in the April newsletter. • SW to include information on the September coach trip in the April newsletter. • BP to send bank account details to YF and SW so these can be provided to members for bank transfers for coach trip payment. • BP to send Social Fund account details to RWH Travel Ltd and request that future payments be sent to that account. • Information on refund of recce expenses to be included in a future newsletter. • 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.
4.	Walks and events programme a – Walks programme • TC noted that the programme is looking good. One weekend now has two walks planned so it will be interesting to see how this goes. • GD wondered if walks were filling up? TC said they are; it was noted that since members can't book onto a walk until two weeks beforehand, only walks happening within that time-period would ever be marked 'full'. • SW wondered about offering evening walks, noting that a speaker at Scottish Council had said how successful they were. YF already has one planned for April, SW will offer her Scottish Council walk for an evening in May and BP will also one forward. b – Any incidents or anything to report • An incident on the 8th February Seven Lochs Way walk was noted; an Incident Report Form had been returned to Ramblers Central and there are no ongoing issues.
5.	Social Media / Communication • Discussed under #3 Chair's report.
6.	AGM 2025 a – Venue • HS wondered if we should think of a good post-AGM walk (e.g. Pollok Park) and then see if there were venues nearby. SW noted that Pollokshaws Burgh Hall is just opposite the park. • YF suggested that if we can find two or three good venues (to include the Pearce Institute) then we could rotate round them. • It was agreed that YF, SW and HS would investigate potential venues (sports clubs, halls) in respect of availability, facilities and costs. b – Speaker • It was noted that both Virginia Kearse and Annette Bonar have suggested potential speaker. It was agreed to follow up on this. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF / SW / HS check out potential venues. • ALL to discuss speaker ideas with Virginia / Annette / any others if they have the opportunity.

7.	Access Officer - YF noted that unless we have an established contact within Glasgow City Council (GCC), it is unclear what a Glasgow Ramblers Access Officer would do; GCC has an Outdoor Access Officer (Jessy Field) but no Local Access Forum (LAF). (NOTE the Glasgow Ramblers June 2024 Committee meeting minutes say Jim Riddell had spoken to Jessy Field about reviving the LAF.) BP suggested that without a LAF there could perhaps be direct one-to-one contact between our Group and GCC. YF thought the problem with having no LAF was that there is lack of accountability. It was agreed that YF would contact Jessy Field. - YF wondered whether / how we might recruit a Group member to the Access Officer post? HS asked why it had not been a Committee role; BP believed this was just because when Jim Riddell had the role he didn't want to be on the Committee (although he attended most meetings). BP thought the job description received from Central Office looked rather daunting. <u>ACTIONS</u> - YF to contact Jessy Field.
8.	AOCB - GD raised this issue of succession planning for Committee roles. It was agreed that it should be included on the agenda for our next Committee meeting. - SW noted that Pauline Wernicke is hoping to arrange two events: digital darts; and a summer event. - SW asked whether the newsletter links worked properly; it was agreed they did. <u>ACTIONS</u> - SW to add succession planning to the next Committee meeting agenda.
9.	Next meeting Wednesday 13th May 2025, 7pm – Zoom / Teams meeting. It was agreed that in order to make meetings shorter, all reports would be taken as read.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair

Yvonne's highlights and updates from January 15 to March 18, 2025.

Communications and engagement survey

A survey to gauge members' views on our communications channels has now been drafted and feedback from committee members incorporated.

The survey is short and designed to gain insight into:

- which communications channels are most popular and useful among members;
- which channels if any are not being used; and
- what we could improve to reach more people more effectively.

This should allow us to evaluate how we best use volunteer time and resource on communications.

The survey will be done on the free version of Survey Monkey allowing for 40 members to give their feedback on our current communications channels.

The survey will go out with the April newsletter and will stay open for three weeks. Depending on the response rate we can send a reminder to people to take part. The results will be shared ahead of the next committee meeting allowing for a discussion on next steps. You can see the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KGLRG CZ>

September coach trip to Ayrshire

Planning continues for the proposed coach trip in September to complete the final section of the Ayrshire Coastal Path.

A recce of the 16-mile section of the Path between Lenadlafoot/Ballantrae and Glenapp took place on March 12, led by Ian Brooke with Agnes and Alistair McLellan and me in attendance as advisors. Having done the full section and explored the area further, we are now proposing to offer ramblers two walks as part of the coach trip.

These would be:

- A stunning 9.5 mile section of the Ayrshire Coastal Path from Glenapp to Ballantrae (not the 16 miles to Lendalfoot originally proposed)
- A shorter 7 to 8 mile walk through the Stinchar Valley starting and finishing in Ballantrae.

Both walks would end at a very friendly cafe in Ballantrae before return travel to Glasgow around 4pm on the coach.

This will result in a shorter day and adjustment to the timing of the bus booking with Abbey Coaches.

The date for the trip is scheduled for Saturday 6 September with pick-up at Partick Subway station at 8am, now returning to Partick around 5.30pm/6pm (instead of 8pm).

50 seats are available on the coach, circa £16.20 to £20 a head. Payment for the bus is due on August 7 and I would welcome views on how best to pay and then manage taking payments from members to cover this.

By offering the shorter 9.5mile section, it does leave a 6 mile section between Ballantrae and Lendalfoot undone. For those who want to complete the full Ayrshire Coastal Path, Ian will run this section as a separate walk in August using cars.

We are now ready to start promoting the coach trip to gauge interest and I propose we do this in the April newsletter.

Magnificent 11 update

I have had one email from members about issues identified on the Mag 11 which I reported to the Glasgow City Council Rangers, Fiona and Lynsey.

I recently walked a short section myself and was pleased to see improvements had been carried out to the fencing and fallen trees on the first section in Linn Park, making it feel safer.

I have an evening walk scheduled on Part 1 of the Magnificent 11 on April 9 as part of our on-going checks of the route. This will provide an opportunity to engage again with the rangers, acknowledge improvements and report on any further issues identified. It would be good to see more short walks on the other three sections over the months ahead. I will also lead a walk on the full route to coincide with the third anniversary of the opening of the Mag 11 in July.

I would encourage everyone to continue reporting issues and improvements along the Mag 11 to me so that I can share with the council rangers.

Engagement on governance review

I attended an online session on 26 February as part of the current review of the governance of Ramblers being led by Lucy Robinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees. The session was designed to gather early views to inform the thinking of a Working Group which has been set up to look at the Ramblers 'governance model nationally.

Fellow committee member Barry Pottle, who also attended a session, has provided our committee with an excellent and comprehensive report on the direction of the review and issues raised during the discussion.

My key takeaways from the session were:

- The governance model of Ramblers feels unnecessarily complex to many of us
- Members report there is too much duplication (across Centre/Areas/Groups)
- There is a general lack of clarity over what Areas do
- There is a real sense of too much bureaucracy and administrative burden on volunteers
- There is a question mark over whether the Board of Trustees has the right mix of skills and experience and whether an alternative approach to appointing Trustees needs to be considered.

The working group will now look at all the views shared during the February sessions. Further engagement will take place at General Council in April and from there the working group will bring forward specific proposals for further engagement. There is no ask of us currently and no need for us to consult or submit a formal response. Yet. Watch this space.

Scottish Council event in Glasgow

Thanks to all who helped make the Scottish Council event, hosted in Glasgow on Saturday 15 March, a great success. It was good to feel connected to the wider Ramblers movement, its values and its central purpose to help more people access and enjoy walking outdoors.

Our team of volunteers played an important role in ensuring the day went off without a hitch. Thanks to Terry, Geoff, Andy, Pauline, Lesley, Paula and Suzi for welcoming people and co-ordinating proceedings during the main business of the day.

Big thanks also to Helen, Sandra, Frances (and me) for leading walks and Geoff, Andy, Annette and Pauline for backmarking. The tight timetabling meant that leading four walks around Glasgow city centre on a Saturday afternoon was quite a challenge. But - thanks in part to the spring sunshine - we pulled it off admirably.

There were some great speakers at the event. I was particularly interested in the night-time adventures of Munro-bagger Alan Rowan though I'm not proposing to put any mountain moon walks on our programme any time soon. I was equally inspired by Irene McGuigan and the work she has done through her Local Access Forum in Angus and by Natalie Corner who has set up twice-monthly evening walks in Livingston.

For many of us a highlight of the day was the fitting tribute paid by Ramblers Scotland Development Officer Jeannie Cranfield to the late Catherine Watt, our former Chair and friend. In her speech Jeannie said Catherine gave so much to Ramblers over many years and praised her involvement not just in Glasgow Ramblers but in the wider work of Ramblers Scotland and in supporting Glasgow Young Walkers. She singled out Catherine's tireless work, alongside others, to bring the Magnificent 11 to fruition as a recognised route. Recommending the Mag 11 to everyone, she told them they could now find the route on Walkhighlands. "I very much doubt if any of that would have happened without Catherine's involvement. She leaves a great legacy for the people of Glasgow. Our heartfelt thanks to Catherine for her contribution and to her husband Alan."

Yvonne Flynn
March 2025

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Treasurer (NOTE current balances and expenditures available on request)

Teams

I have applied for the free "Microsoft for Non-Profits", which includes Teams (although it is not clear what length of meeting can be set up under the free version). I have received an acknowledgement, but the application was only made on 9th March, so I have not yet received confirmation as to whether or not the application has been successful.

I had to provide the Ramblers 'charity registration number in the application (Ramblers is registered both in England & Wales and in Scotland – I used the Scottish number). When I previously applied for the discounted Zoom subscription, I was told that there was already an account held by Ramblers Central Office, and that we would have to ask them to allow us to use their account. However, the response I got from Central Office was that the administration involved in providing this to Groups was more than it was worth. It may well be that there will be same result this time.

The North Strathclyde Area Convener, Adri Hortobágyi, mentioned to me in an email yesterday that she is researching another potential platform for video calls, which she believes is free and may have fewer limitations than Zoom.

In the meantime, I have not yet cancelled my Zoom subscription (although I have stopped having the subscription charge refunded to me from the Group Bank Account). Therefore I set up the Group Committee meeting of 19th March on Zoom. I will not terminate the Zoom account until an alternative platform is in place.

Social Fund

I indicated at previous Committee meetings that I would investigate regarding the use of the Social Fund and whether there is any residual amount from a previous legacy.

What we call the Social Fund, Ramblers Central Office calls "Self-Funded". The Appendix to this report contains excerpts from the "Guidance for Treasurers" produced by Central Office, referring to Self-Funded accounts. Whilst this is quite lengthy, it contains the answer to the Group Committee's question on what the Social Fund is used for: the cost of day walks (largely coaches), holidays and socials.

I have analysed financial information from October 2016 to date, and have noted that the Social Fund was used for income (i.e. payments from participating members) and expenditure relating to:

- Christmas Dinner 2017
- Arran weekend 2018
- Berwick weekend 2018
- Anstruther weekend 2019
- Peebles coach trip 2019
- Creetown weekend 2019
- North Berwick coach trip 2019
- Proposed Braemar weekend 2020
- Proposed Rob Roy Way coach trip 2020
- Ardrishaig weekend 2021
- Christmas dinner 2022

When a leader submits recce expenses, but asks for these to be donated back to the Group, these are shown as a transfer from the Main Account to the Social Fund.

In some other cases, the person organising the event has collected monies and paid expenditure, separately from the Social Fund. This seems to be contrary to the guidance from Ramblers' Central Office, which states: *"any transactions relating to self-funded activities which are handled by the Area or Group should be made through a Ramblers bank account and not an individual's Account"*.

At present, I do not have information available as to whether there is any residual amount from a previous legacy. The legacy was received during the period 1989-2010 when I was not involved with Glasgow Ramblers, but I do recall it being discussed after I became involved again in 2011. I think that my records from that time are in my garage, but are currently inaccessible due to the amount of other stuff in my garage. I do intend to reorganise my garage, but this will be dependent on weather, as everything will have to be taken outside to be sorted.

A final point is that some Groups think that their Social Fund is "their" money and nothing to do with Ramblers. This is not correct. The Ramblers' Articles of Association state: *"Any assets or funds of a group that are held by its Committee (or other governing body) or members on behalf of the group will belong to Ramblers. Where a group is dissolved, its assets and funds will immediately transfer to the area of which the group forms part. Further, it is a criminal offence to use funds obtained in the name of a charity for any purpose other than promoting the charity's purposes. Monies in any Group's Social Fund were obtained by the Group as part of the Ramblers, a registered charity, and therefore must be used for the purposes of the Ramblers"*.

Barry Pottle
March 2025

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Membership Secretary

Since 15/01/2025 membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	17
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	3
	Members who have moved to the Area	1
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	1
	Total joiners	22
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	6
	Members whose membership has lapsed	5
	Members who have moved Group	2
	Members who have left the Area	0
	Bereavement	1
	Total Leavers	14

On 15/03/2025 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 364; this is an increase of 13 since the last Committee meeting in January 2025.

Frances Arthur
January 25

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IT Website

No report but a request to have a look at the Strathkelvin Group website.

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Access and Countryside

No report

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

No new correspondence.