

Glasgow Ramblers Committee Meeting 21st March, 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).
1.	Interim arrangements - chairing Barry Pottle agreed to chair the meeting (whilst remaining unwilling to accept the title of Group Chair).
2.	Apologies None. (Note that although Jim Riddell attends meetings in his capacity as Access and Countryside Officer, he is not a Glasgow Ramblers Committee member.)
3.	<u>Minutes of Committee meeting held on 21st January 2023</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 21st January) re Minutes of Group AGM - BP to raise dog walks at Area AGM - DONE. Two other groups currently run these, another is considering doing so. There was no interest in organising dog walks on an Area basis. BP has passed contact details from the other three doggy groups to FA who will suggest to them that any group running a dog walk could share this with other groups. AW commented that hopefully this will be possible via the new Walks Manager system. - HS to amend 19th September Minutes (FA present) and AGM Minutes (Chair) and forward them, along with the 24th October Minutes to GD - DONE. - GD to post Minutes on website - DONE. re #4 Committee roles - AW and TC to discuss Walk Programme Coordinator role - DONE. TC has taken on this role. - All to raise walk leading with members when appropriate - ONGOING. CW may have identified someone. re #5 Reports and matters arising - AW to circulate Walks Manager survey to Committee members, collate and return responses – DONE. However AW noted that it is likely to have little impact since it was circulated long after the initial trial with several groups, including ours, following which feedback was provided. re #7 Walk and events programme - 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 - DONE. - YF to contact Sleep Huts re availability and prices and draft email to be sent out quickly - DONE. re #9 AOCB - CW and SW to submit nominations for Scottish Walking Awards (deadline Sunday 19th March) - DONE. Nominations submitted in three categories: Research and Innovation - Prof Deirdre Heddon and walkcreate; Public Walking Champion - Gary Linstead; Most Improved Route - The Magnificent 11. ACTIONS - HS to amend 17th January Minutes (FA present); GD to post Minutes on website. - FA to contact other doggy walk groups re sharing any future dog walks.

	• All to continue to raise walk leading with members when appropriate
4.	Reports and matters arising a – Chair • No report as we do not currently have a Group Chair. b – Treasurer • BP reported that very few transactions had occurred since January: The Main account had received the regular Area payment and paid out two months' zoom subscriptions; there had been no transactions into or out of the Self-Funded account. • BP wondered how frequently walk leaders should be asked / reminded to submit recce expense claims – AW thought probably every 6 months, so about now. c – Membership • The report shows a total of 300 members of the Ramblers currently allocated to Glasgow Group, a decrease of 3 since the January committee meeting. • GD wondered if Ramblers had now stopped issuing membership cards? Committee members thought this might be the case – in which case there might need to be more use of the App (which includes a digital membership card if needed for group walks or discounted purchases), despite some technical issues. FA will phone the Help Desk to check. • FA noted that the standard 'Welcome to Glasgow Ramblers' letter sent to new members doesn't mention the App. She suggested replacing the info on COVID in the letter with info on the App. • GD noted that there already is some App info on our website 'Members' section'. d – IT / website • GD has added CW's history of the Mag11 to the website - https://www.glasgowramblers.org.uk/GRdocs/mag11/BackgroundtoMag11.pdf • GD's report notes that currently the next (up to) six walks are shown on the main, <i>home</i> page of the website – which may be all some people look at, particularly those who only look on phones, where navigating is trickier. When more than six walks are published in GWEM the full list is given on the <i>walks</i> page. He wondered whether we should increase the number of walks shown on the home page (to a higher limit / all current walks) or, as he has just done, add a sentence to the home page to the effect that a full list is given on the walks page. • There was discussion on the pros and cons of showing more / all walks – a longer list could clutter the home page; people might then not regularly check and so could miss any updates; potential issues for those accessing the walks programme via the main Ramblers website Glasgow page. • It was agreed to stick with the additional 'a full list' sentence, but to emphasise this so more eye catching. e – Access • None. ACTIONS • BP / TC to liaise over asking / reminding walk leaders to submit recce expense claims. • FA to ask Ramblers Help Desk whether membership cards continue to be issued (plus what the default contact preferences are for new members – see #6e). • FA to amend welcome letter, removing COVID info and adding App info (plus re contact preferences and implications of 'no email' – see #6e). • GD to add bold / emphasise 'a full list' sentence on home page.
5.	Walk and Events Programme a – Walks programme • TC reported that the programme is covered until 10th June, and that he has had suggestions for a couple of Fife-based walks in May / June. • He wondered if there was anything more he should be doing to generate walks (e.g. messaging walks leaders with blank dates)? AW suggested looking ahead for gaps, also

	that the newsletter walks list shows any gaps over the next two months. TC will send a prompting email to walk leaders. • AW noted that he used to hold walk leader meetings about three times a year – YF thought that they focused minds. It was suggested that the next meeting could be June to encourage gap filling. b - Any incidents or anything to report • None reported. c – Dog walks • Already discussed – see #3b. d – Weekend away in September • YF reported that 32 have booked, most in the Sleep Huts, all but two in Lamlash – and a dinner venue has been booked for the Saturday • YF has drafted a programme – two walks per day, which should ideally be increased to three, given the size of the group. She has booked the Holy Isle ferry (max 12) for the Saturday and will also contact all those booked to ask who is taking cars, in order to plan transport to the walks. • AW will contact an Arran-based friend and Lucy Wallace (former Ramblers Scotland President, now a Vice President, also Arran-based), who might lead walks. • YF wondered if emails to those booked should come from her personally? CW thought yes, but cc Glasgow Ramblers. AW noted the exception to personal email was if money was being requested – YF said it wouldn't be, since all accommodation, transport and dinner costs were being paid directly by those attending (she will recover Holy Isle ferry costs on the day). e – Walks Manager key contact • AW had circulated an email, received 10th March: <i>“Please choose a key contact to work with us over the next few months to support the move from GWEM to Walks Manager. ... Your key contact should be an existing volunteer who has a good overview of how your group or area manages walks, is happy using online systems, and will be available to support other volunteers over the next few months. If you don't choose a key contact, your walk programme coordinators will be selected by default. Please coordinate with other volunteers in your group to nominate one key contact, by Monday 20 March.”</i> Since the deadline was before this Committee meeting, he had asked if other Committee members were interested, otherwise he would put his own name forward, given that he was our contact for the 2022 Walk Manager trial. Committee members were all happy to agree and thanked AW. f – Mag 11 waymarking requirements • SW has received a request from Gary Linstead (GL) for funding to reclaim / replace / add roundels to waymarking posts – the request is for 10 'part 3', 10 'part 4' and 20 arrows. CW thought it might be quite expensive, so needed to be a Committee decision. • AW recalled the cost had been £4 each previously, but would presumably be more now, especially as not all identical. Our budget includes £400 for 'practical work'. Note that this should be the last such order as GL is in the process of setting up a 'Friends of the Magnificent 11' group which would then take responsibility for future developments and maintenance. • It was agreed that AW would contact Metrosigns for a quote and circulate this to the Committee for a decision. g – Glasgow Ramblers Summer Event • CW reported that a member (Pauline Werninke - PWe) has suggested a summer walk plus lunch / early evening meal. CW has suggested Lochwinnoch. All agreed this was a good idea. • CW will let PWe know and ask if she'd like someone to assist with walk leading. TC suggested Saturday 17th June as a possibility. ACTIONS • TC to email walk leaders re gap-filling and to consider arranging a June walk leader
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	meeting. • YF to email September weekend attendees re who is taking cars. • AW to contact additional potential Arran walk leaders. • AW to ask Metrosigns for Mag 11 roundels quote and circulate to Committee for decision. • CW to contact PWe re firming up Summer event (possibility of Lochwinnoch, 17th June, question of who will lead).
6.	Other business a - Scottish Council including delegate report • Paula Wise (PWi) attended Scottish Council on 4th March as a Group Representative and her report had been circulated to the Committee (BP noted an error in the report re the date of the inaugural meeting of the Council which should be 1985 not 1935). • Since she enjoyed the meeting and found it informative, PWi has suggested that new members be encouraged to attend. HS thought we therefore needed to start thinking about this earlier than the next AGM. BP, AW and CW reported all having attended in the past, enjoying and learning something. b - Diversity • SW had circulated some thoughts to the Committee, prompted by a request from a visually impaired walker who would like to join a walk. She wondered what our policy should / could be, given varying walker needs and varying types of walks. She noted that although information was available re visual impairment, it was lacking in respect of people with other needs. • CW reported that the Group has previous experience of people: with visual impairment; with learning difficulties (plus a carer); with a carer (unclear why). • HS was concerned about responsibilities – who and how? • AW thought that just as when a leader may need to take responsibility for turning away or bailing out someone who turns up ill-equipped for a mountain walk, so a leader might also need to decide to do the same with someone who they judge as unable to complete the walk for other reasons. • TC thought that given that correspondence with the particular visually impaired person suggested they were experienced, he was happy for them to join his next (easy canal) walk and would ask on the day how they he wanted it to work (e.g. others guiding). • AW raised a more general point – should people be obliged to make any potentially problematic issues clear every time they go on a walk? There are information sharing concerns. • CW highlighted RNIB information on being clear about what help people want, particularly around touching – it is important to ask them and then, presumably, share with others on the walk. GM recalled a walk attended by someone who had had a stroke – the leader told everyone else; SW thought that in these circumstances the leader should check what the person wanted others to know. • SW was concerned about how to handle future requests. It was agreed these people should be told to always let walk leaders know about any special needs they may have. • GD noted that 'What you need to know' before going on a walk already includes telling the leader about health conditions and wondered if this could be broadened – current wording <i>"Anyone with a health condition, where there is a possibility that treatment may be required during a walk, must inform the leader in advance and give full details of the treatment which might be required. This is not intended to place any extra responsibility on the leader, but rather to protect the leader against incidents arising from no prior warning being given."</i> • [NOTE – following the Committee meeting it was agreed that this issue should be included on the agenda for the next Walk Leaders' meeting.] c - Scottish Ramblers Gathering • This is <i>"a weekend away adventure organised by and exclusively for Ramblers Scotland members"</i>, to be held in Aviemore, 28th April to 1st May. • SW wondered if anyone was going. No-one was aware of anyone planning to attend; CW

	said she had never been but people have reported enjoying it. d - Scottish Walking Awards • Already discussed – see #3b#9. e – Access to our Newslette • SW noted that not all members are accessing the Glasgow group newsletter because their contact preferences are 'no email'. • GD wondered what new members were asked about contact preferences? FA did not know, but thought it would be useful to add a note re this in the welcome letter, in particular pointing out that 'no email' means missing out on Newsletters. • HS suggested asking the Help Desk re default preferences for new members. FA agreed to do this – and also suggested the importance of word of mouth, since she had spoken to people who were disappointed not to have known about the Arran weekend because they did not receive the Newsletter. • AW wondered about going through the list of all who have said no to emails. CW responded that this had been done in the past, but is a big job with a huge spreadsheet. AW thought only around 50% of Glasgow members have signed up to receive the Newsletter. • YF wondered if we could email all Glasgow members re their contact preferences? CW said no, because of GDPR restrictions – the only time we contact everyone is re the AGM, and this requires sending hard copies to some. • GD wondered if there could be some text for new members highlighting that if people choose 'no emails' they will miss out on Newsletters. CW said yes, but this would not solve the problem for existing members. ACTIONS • FA to include note re contact preferences and implications of 'no email' in welcome letter (plus info re App – see #4c). • FA to ask Ramblers Help Desk what default contact preferences are for new members (plus whether membership cards continue to be issued – see #4c).
7.	Next committee meeting • Tuesday 13th June, 7pm – zoom meeting.
8.	AOCB • CW reported that she and AW have around 30 Glasgow Ramblers mugs and wondered what to do with them. Suggestions included giving them: to walk leaders as a thank-you; to those attending an in-person AGM; to anyone submitting a good photo for the website.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

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

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Treasurer's Report – nothing significant to report.

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Membership Report

Since 01/01/2022 the memberships figures are as follows:

New to Ramblers	14
Rambler members who have moved to the Area	1
Rambler members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1
Members who have resigned	12
Members whose membership has lapsed	11

On 16 March 2023 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 300, this is a decrease of 3 since the last Committee meeting in January 2023.

Frances Arthur
16/03/2023

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IT / Website Report

No report from the website as no changes.

However, the committee might consider a possible change to the way the walks are displayed. Currently the next (up to) 6 walks are shown on the main, home page of the website. When there are more than 6 walks published in GWEM the full list of walks is given on the walks page. I suspect the home page of the website was limited to 6 walks to save space when there were more things on that page. Over the past couple of years the home page has been simplified a bit so there is more space on it. So the question is should we increase the number of walks shown on the home page?

If so, should we

(1) increase it to another higher limit or

(2) show all current walks or

(3) add a note to the home page to the effect that a full list is given on the walks page?

It may be possible for this note to only appear if there are actually more than 6. I'll look into that.

Geoff Der – 20/03/2023

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Access Report – nothing to report

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Scottish Council Delegate Report

2023 SCOTTISH COUNCIL AGM

Stirling. 4th March 2023

Glasgow Representative's Report

I attended the SC AGM together with over 100 other delegates. It was an enjoyable, convivial day and offered an opportunity to meet some key office holders from Ramblers' head offices as well as from other Scottish groups. The official minutes will doubtless provide an accurate record of the meeting. This report sets out my personal 'takeaways' and impressions which will hopefully be interesting and useful for the Committee.

I feel that another Glasgow Rambler should be offered the opportunity to attend the 2024 AGM. As the event provides an insight into the Charity overall, attendance would be useful for walkers taking part in introductory walks to welcome potential new members. As I see it, this person could be a new member and not necessarily someone from the Committee. One comes away with a renewed sense of belonging which is important for all members but especially for new members.

The Stirling Court Hotel is a good venue for this event. Its position means that most delegates are likely to be able to get there and back in a day, thereby keeping down costs.

This AGM was the current convenor's last AGM. Alison Mitchell has held the post for a seemingly very long time. She was presented with a cut glass vase to thank her for her work. (It would have been nicer had it been filled with spring flowers). She reminded us that the inaugural meeting of the Council was -surprisingly - 23rd February 1935.

The former treasurer's work was also recognised; he was presented with a silver Quaich (no whisky)

We have a shiny new CEO who took up his post in July last year. He was formerly, with the Scouts. Ross Maloney is a dynamic, restless individual. He appears keen to make his mark as a forward-looking force to be reckoned with. All good. The gist of his introductory talk was to remind us that Ramblers is a charity that exists for the benefit of the public and that the societal challenges we face are as relevant today as ever. Ross feels that the Ramblers' values do not always shine through; the public's perception of the Charity needs to change. It would be difficult not to agree.

Ross went through the positive achievements of the past year including the fact that 40,000 walks were undertaken throughout the UK, the successful roll out of our new branding, the digital improvements to the website (which I personally have yet to feel the benefit of) and the effective way the Charity handles risk to walkers. We apparently got 2 million 'views' on social media, mainly Facebook (which to me seemed rather underwhelming).

Updating the Ramblers' to appeal to younger people was a theme that ran throughout the AGM. We have an aging population (don't we all know it) and as a charity we have to raise funds to survive. We must welcome people from all backgrounds and ethnicities.

It was therefore apposite that the President, Zahrah Mahmoud, had prepared a video which we all watched. It was charming and warm but the message – that access to the outdoors is more difficult for Muslim women like herself – came through loud and clear. For people like me – white, middle class, aging and privileged, like the majority – it was a wake-up call to be much more aware of our potential market and the need to find the most effective way to attract young people from all backgrounds.

Two walkers from Glasgow Young Walkers talked about their experience of the Out There Award. They were a breath of fresh air although they were a little let down by the technology. This didn't prevent their youthful sense of fun and goodwill from shining through. One thing that struck me from their presentation is that one of the 'Barriers to Entry' is the cost of hill walking equipment. We're all aware of this but it might be an idea for the Ramblers to consider how to help out. Our own branded products is a good start I feel.

There was also a much anticipated presentation by Garry (Glasgow Council Ranger) of the opening of The Magnificent 11 with some great photos of those involved in bringing the Route to fruition. He's a great ambassador for Glasgow's outdoors in general.

Both Brendan Paddy and Ross Maloney highlighted the tremendous victory of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. I found this more interesting than I had anticipated and managed to get the only available copy of the Code. (If anyone would like it please let me know). The approval of the Scottish Parliament on 1st July 2004 means that it will be exceptionally laborious to get the Code amended or altered in any way. Nevertheless Perth & Kinross Council are pressing for a formal review of the Code and wealthy landlords are clearly not fully on board, as witnessed by aggressive signage and high stiles. Something to watch.

Finally there were 4 new members voted onto the RSSC during the meeting. I thought all of them were of high calibre. I was particularly pleased that Jaroslava Polednova was nominated. She's originally from the Czech Republic (when it was part of Czechoslovakia). Her passion for walking and her gratitude to Ramblers transcended her grasp of our impossibly colloquial mother tongue.

Paula Wise
Glasgow
06/03/2023

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Glasgow Ramblers Diversity and Inclusion Discussion Point

Glasgow Ramblers encourage members from all abilities and backgrounds. We have had those on walks with additional requirements, we've trialed dog walks, family walks and offered introductory walks.

There has been a recent request to accommodate a visually impaired walker. This discussion is both about that walker's individual requirements [NOTE – REMOVED FROM THIS ATTACHMENT AS INCLUDES PERSONAL DETAILS] and the wider discussion about inclusion of all.

This will not be the only request that is received.

- Is there a process to accommodate these?
- Have we had requests like this previously?
- How have these been dealt with?
- Who makes the decisions about who can or can't join a walk?
- Is it something to be discussed at a walk leaders meeting?
- Should it be included in the walk risk assessment?

For information, Ramblers have an agreed Equalities and Diversity Framework which can be found using this link

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity-framework.aspx>