

	Present Frances Arthur (FA), Terry Cassidy (TC), Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), 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 Suzi Bateman (SB); Geoff Der (GD); Yvonne Flynn (YF – who provided a written report).
3.	<u>Minutes of Committee meeting held on 26th March 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 26th March Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re AGM minutes</u> - BP asked for confirmation that the draft November AGM minutes had been circulated to those who had attended. SW thought so but would double-check. BP thought that if not, it was probably too late to ask for comments re accuracy now. <u>Re #3 Minutes of January Committee meeting</u> - HS to send pdf of final 23rd January Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website - DONE. - BP to follow up with Jeannie Cranfield on whether sighted guides could be covered by personal accident insurance – IN PROGRESS. Jeannie Cranfield was out of office and is yet to respond. BP noted that he had also asked whether the third party liability insurance covered the sighted guide against a claim by the blind or partially sighted person themselves, in the event of the latter suffering an injury which they alleged was the fault of the sighted guide. - TC to email all members re becoming a sighted guide, including Amar Latif video link - DONE. TC had received a small number of volunteers. FA asked about progress on / the status of the register of volunteer guides because some walk leaders had asked whether there were people willing if required. BP said that, once the register was compiled, it should be made available to all walk leaders. TC thought it was unlikely that there would be more volunteers and confirmed that all those on the register were aware that their details would be circulated to walk leaders. FA noted that some volunteers only wanted to guide for part of a walk, so two or more per walk would often be needed. - TC to write a brief Newsletter piece re sighted guide register - DONE. - YF to draft and circulate website text re blind and visually impaired walkers – DONE. The April Newsletter included the following: <i>“Becoming a sighted guide. Glasgow Ramblers is an inclusive group and, as such, we welcome blind and visually impaired members on our walks. The committee has decided to compile a register of members who are willing to help with guiding a blind person on a walk. For anyone curious about what is involved in guiding a blind person you can follow the link below. This takes you to an information page and a short YouTube video hosted by Ramblers President, Amar Latif. https://www.traveleyes-international.com/guiding-a-blind-person/ If you are willing to help with guiding on our walks, can you please respond to my email address; terencepaulcassidy@gmail.com. I will then add your name to the list. Our Guiding Register will simply comprise a list of names which will be circulated to the walk leaders. The register will allow walk leaders to assess whether there are sufficient guide resources</i>

available for each walk. An email has been sent out inviting you to join the register should you be happy to guide. It is worth noting that anyone acting as a guide on one of our walks is covered by the Ramblers UK insurance policy.” YF sent text to GD and this has been added to the website here <https://www.glasgowramblers.org.uk/general-information-for-walkers/walking-with-partial-sight-or-blindness.html>.

- BP to set up next Committee meeting with SB as alternative host as a test - ATTEMPTED. As with TC, this did not work and BP received a ‘not a licensed user message’. It was agreed that this meant an account would need to be set up in the name of Glasgow Ramblers.
- BP to investigate reduced zoom costs for non-profit making bodies (HS to provide link) - DONE. Arrangements would be not directly with zoom but via Charity Digital – this cost £15 + VAT for administration and a decision as to whether the Group would be eligible for a discount. BP thought that the Group should be eligible, since it complied with all their conditions. A discount was only available for an annual fee and details of named hosts would need to be given. With a discount, having two named hosts would cost the same as just BP currently. It was AGREED that BP should go ahead and apply, and if accepted should name himself and TC as hosts.
- ALL to consider attending a ‘Safety on Group Walks’ online meeting – IN PROGRESS. FA, SW and SB had all attended.

Re #4 Matters carried over from previous Committee Meeting

- HS to sound out Pearce Institute as November AGM venue - DONE. The Pearce’s Fairfield Hall had been booked for the morning of 16th November; HS had provided BPs details re payment. The room had large windows and, currently, no audio-visual equipment, so it might be necessary to provide a laptop, projector and screen for the speaker. However, there was a small kitchen area, so hot drinks could be provided – and there were cafes both at the Pearce and locally.
- SW to contact Karen Murdarasi as AGM speaker - DONE. Karen Murdarasi had accepted and was available on 16th Nov.
- 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.
- GD to check out system for automatically posting across Apps – IN PROGRESS.
- All with access to back ends of Group social media accounts to pin ‘How to join’ at the top – IN PROGRESS. SW had access to X and Facebook and would investigate how to pin text.
- SB to feed back on how other Groups handle PR / social media / communication – IN PROGRESS.
- All with access to back ends of Group social media accounts to provide numbers - DONE. These were sent to YF who was considering how to pull together some thoughts and recommendations on the Group’s comms strategy. In a written note YF commented that numbers were fairly low for both X and Facebook, that focusing on just one outlet might be more efficient, and that the Committee would need to decide which would be best.
- SW to ask walkers where / how they expected to receive information – IN PROGRESS. SW noted that direct emails on single topics worked (e.g. re September 2025 trip); she had had no feedback on a new Newsletter format – embedded within the email rather than attached, so no additional clicking required – YF’s feedback was that in her opinion it was much more engaging. FA commented that there remained a surprisingly high number of members who barely / did not access information digitally and / or had difficulty responding via email; SW noted that there were still some problems with Walks Manager in respect of email replies to walk leaders. In her written note, YF wondered whether the Committee could do a short survey of members on this, to gather actual views rather than anecdotal feedback. She suggested this could be done on Survey Monkey and included in the next Newsletter. BP pointed out that this would exclude all those who do not access information digitally; HS suggested it could go with the AGM mailing (hard copy to those who requested it).

- YF to pull this information together – IN PROGRESS. See above.

Re #5 Reports and matters arising

- BP asked whether there should have been an action point in respect of “... *some [members] were ignoring the request to wait until 2 weeks beforehand to contact the walk leader. HS suggested posting this info at the start of the walk description to ensure that it was read*”. SW reported that she had done this for her walk/s and FA that this had not occurred for her recent walk/s.
- BP asked for feedback in respect of “*SW had circulated a request from Camglen Radio for someone who would be willing to talk about the Ramblers, the walks and benefits of walking. TC had agreed to do this, with input from Jeannie Cranfield*”. TC reported that he had done this, it was very informal and he did not think it would impact on membership as Camglen has a small audience.
- GD to add a website page with walks offered by other local Groups over the next month – IN PROGRESS.
- SW to email all members re a potential week away in September 2025 - DONE. SW received 40 responses; 37 members are currently interested.
- ALL to think of the best use for promotional goods – NO IDEAS!
- YF to send a track of her Women’s day walk to GD for the website posting – IN PROGRESS. YF had sent the track but GD still needed to add it to the website.
- SW to ask Jeannie Cranfield re the Ramblers Central list of ‘Glasgow Walks’ AND SW to include ‘Glasgow Walks’ on the next Agenda – SUPERSEDED. Ramblers Central had added a ‘contact us’ note if any walk on <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/> was out of date.

Re #6 Walks and events programme

- TC to ask new walk leaders to check preferences for contact details and experiment with contacting them himself - DONE. TC thought the issue might be resolving: no-one had been in touch with him about problems with contact details recently; and a new development on Walks Manager was that, as you started adding walk details, it added your contact details.
- JR to contact GCC re gap in Glasgow Parks Ranger service and implications for the Mag 11 - DONE. See #4e Access Report below.
- YF to circulate draft September weekend trip programme - DONE.

Re #7 Report of Scottish Council 16th March 2024

- SB to provide Scottish Council meeting report for circulation – IN PROGRESS.

ACTIONS

- SW to check whether the draft November AGM minutes were been circulated to those who had attended.
- HS to send pdf of final 26th March Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website.
- BP to report back once he hears from Jeannie Cranfield re personal accident insurance for both sighted guides and the blind or partially sighted person themselves.
- TC to make the register of volunteer guides available to all walk leaders.
- BP to apply to Charity Digital for reduced zoom costs and if accepted to name himself and TC as hosts.
- 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.
- 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/>).
- GD to check out a system for automatically posting across Apps.
- SW to investigate how to pin ‘How to join’ text on X and Facebook.
- SB to feed back on how other Groups handle PR / social media / communication.
- YF to pull together some thoughts and recommendations on comms strategy.
- Committee to decide whether to focus on X or Facebook.
- 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. • GD to add a website page with walks offered over the next month by other local Groups. • GD to add Women's day walk track to website. • SB to provide Scottish Council meeting report for circulation.
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) • There were no comments in respect of the current balances. • BP had circulated to Committee members an email from the Area Treasurer, indicating that funding was available to Groups to purchase tick removers. The amount available to Glasgow Group would be £276.00. He asked the Committee to decide: (1) whether to claim such funding; and (2) how to distribute the tick removers, if purchased.. SW and TC provided information on costs – roughly £4.50-£5.00 each – and the Committee thought that many members would already have one. It was therefore AGREED that SW would buy a small number (N=20) using Group funds and distribute some to TC, FA and Margaret Duffy (who as walk leaders should cover most walkers), who could in turn give them out to any walkers (including non-members) who wanted one. It was not considered necessary to claim funding from the Area. c – Membership Secretary (report below) • FA' s report noted that on 30/05/2024 <i>“the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 365 this is an increase of 4 since the last Committee meeting”</i> and that one more very recent joiner meant membership stood at 366. • FA had also noticed that over 80% of leavers did so after only one year's membership. d – IT / website (report below) • GD was not present at the meeting, but his report had noted: (1) 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; and (2) recent software upgrades have required removal of some forms from the Glasgow Ramblers website (only really for the suggestions box, which was rarely/never used) and also mean the website might be slower than usual to respond for a while.. e – Access (report below) • JR's report noted that Glasgow City Council (GCC) had appointed a new Outdoor Access Officer (Jessy Field) and that he had spoken to her about reviving the Local Access Forum (LAF) and reviewing the Glasgow Core Path network. • He had also spoken to the Senior Countryside Ranger for Glasgow (Allison Greig) about concerns regarding future maintenance of the Magnificent 11 (Mag 11). Although she had recently gained an additional Ranger, in part to fill Gary Linstead's post, their numbers were still low and she felt that the new Ranger would likely be covering more ground than just the Mag 11. A Mag 11 walk on 21st May as part of Glasgow Life Walking and Wheeling Festival was led by one of the Countryside Rangers with Gary Linstead also in attendance; the Castletoun Trust volunteers were also featuring a Mag 11 walk soon. • JR also spoke with Allison Greig about GCC not having any reference to the Mag 11 on their website. A few days later a new GCC website page appeared with a few words about Countryside Rangers and a link to the Group Mag 11 walking route – available here https://glasgow.gov.uk/Magnificent11Walk. [HS note as Minutes Secretary – on checking this link, it appears to be nested under 'Walking and Heritage Trails', but the Walking and Heritage Trails page does not mention the Mag 11, which means it would not be discovered by anyone just browsing rather than specifically searching.] f – Secretary's correspondence (report below) • <u>AGM update - venue, speaker, posts, walk.</u> See above for AGM arrangements discussion. SW reminded the Committee that FA would be standing down as Membership Secretary,

	so a replacement, plus more ordinary Committee members will be needed. In her written report, YF volunteered to lead a post-AGM walk if no others wanted to do this. • <u>Refugee festival - come walking with Glasgow Ramblers, email circulated to Committee.</u> The Committee thanked JR who responded to the request to lead a walk on 18th June. • <u>Ramblers North Strathclyde Area AGM 2025 venue, email circulated to Committee.</u> BP reported that Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Group had now volunteered to host this meeting, so it was agreed that Glasgow Group should not offer to do so this time. • <u>Potential weekend away in 2025, update.</u> SW noted, as reported above, that 37 members had expressed interest and she was expecting SAGA to get back to her with costs by mid June. Twenty members had requested single rooms, currently the costs were based on 12 singles but nothing had been confirmed. The most likely location was Calpe, where a variety of walks were available; walking guides would be provided. • <u>Promotional Goods, ideas.</u> As above – no good suggestions. ACTIONS • 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. • 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.
5.	Walks and events programme a – Walks programme • TC noted this was looking healthy until mid August, with just a couple of weekend gaps. b – Any incidents or anything to report • None. c – New Walk Leader guidance • BP (who was also North Strathclyde Area Secretary) reported that at least two Groups within the Area were not happy with the new guidance (available here https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/walk-leadership). He had suggested Groups submit their own responses, but copying him in so the Area was aware of their comments. He had received one so far. • BP described how, at Area level, there was concern over 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. Area Council's view was that there should therefore be minimal recommendations from Ramblers beyond what is required by the insurers.. • SW liked the new guidance and suggested that the risk assessment template should match it. She commented that the Group had been doing most of what was recommended anyway, the only issue was the recommended ratio of walkers to walk leaders (Easy and Easy Access 1:10; Leisurely and Moderate 1:8; Strenuous 1:6; Technical 1:4). BP thought that since most walks have walk leaders attending as walkers, the Group probably did comply with the suggested ratios. • GM wondered how walk leaders felt about now being required to complete training modules. TC noted that these only took about two hours and the consensus among Committee members was that the training increased confidence and reassured leaders that only common sense is required, rather than particular competences. • SW wondered whether walk leaders should be emailed to make sure they looked at the guidance. TC agreed to do this. d – Summer lunch Friday 19th July • SW reported that about 10 had registered. e – Magnificent 11 Update • YF's written note on this largely reflected JR's Access report. She went on the Mag 11 walk, co-led by Gary Linstead and another ranger, as part of the Walking and Wheeling Festival, as did JR. The route was in good shape apart from small issues with waymarks and trees down, but everything was (getting) fixed. As reported by JR, the most important

	news was that Gary Linstead's position had been filled. f – 2024 Weekend away – Aviemore, Fri 20th to Mon 23rd September • YF's report noted that this was all in hand: walkers had chosen their walks; leaders were in the process of or had already recce'd their walks; numbers attending were stable at 32; four had indicated they might not attend the group dinner; and arrangements were being made to pick up Lairg Ghru walkers from Rothiemurchus. • YF would load the individual walks onto Walks Manager closer to the time and mark them FULL, as was done last year. • YF asked about recce expenses for the walk leaders which were obviously fairly significant. It was AGREED that these should be fully refunded. <u>ACTIONS</u> • TC to email walk leaders to ask them to make sure they look at the new guidance. • YF to ensure Aviemore walk leaders claim full recce expense refunds
6.	Social Media • Discussed earlier in meeting – see #3 – Matters carried over from previous meeting.
7.	Next meetings • Wednesday 14th August, 7pm – zoom meeting (subject to SW checking on availability of Committee members not at the present meeting).
8.	AOCB • None.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

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

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Treasurer's Report – financial details available on request.

Tick removers

I circulated to Committee members an email from the Area Treasurer, indicating that funding was available to Groups to purchase tick removers. The amount available to Glasgow Group would be £276.00.

The Group Committee should decide:

- (a) whether to claim such funding, and
- (b) how to distribute the tick removers, if purchased.

Barry Pottle

May 2024

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Membership Secretary

Since 20/03/2024 membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	40
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1
	Members who have moved to the Area	2
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	1
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	18
	Members whose membership has lapsed	7
	Members who have moved Group	1

On 30/05/2024 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is **365** this is an increase of 4 since the last Committee meeting in March 2024.

Frances Arthur

May 24

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IT / Website

1. Some people have been having difficulty displaying walk details since the changeover to Walks Manager. I reported this to the team who support the software that displays walks. They say that they have come across the problem with some older iPhones and they asked for details from those having the problems. I requested details from the original complainant but didn't receive a reply. Information would be welcome from any members currently having the problem.
2. The software used to maintain the website was recently upgraded. They are not aware of this causing any major problems. However, the website may be slower to respond for a while. The upgraded software no longer supports some forms that our website was using (only really for the suggestions box). So I have removed this page. To my knowledge, it was rarely used, if ever.

Geoff Der
May 2024

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Access and Countryside

Glasgow City Council (GCC) have appointed a new Outdoor Access Officer, Jessy Field. She has been in post about five weeks. I managed to speak with her last Thursday (30th May) and we spoke about reviving the Local Access Forum (LAF) and of reviewing the Glasgow Core Path network. (It is recommended that the Core Paths be reviewed every ten years or so).

I spoke recently with Allison Greig, the Senior Countryside Ranger for Glasgow, mentioning our concerns regarding future maintenance of the Magnificent 11 (Mag 11) walking route in Glasgow. She confirmed that she had recently gained an additional Ranger, in part to fill Garry Linstead's post. This took their numbers to around 6, still well down on their original figure of around 18. She felt that the new Ranger would likely be covering more ground than just the Mag 11, understandable given the small number of Countryside Rangers in post.

She mentioned that there was an upcoming walk of the Mag 11 on 21st May as part of Glasgow Life Walking and Wheeling Festival. This would be lead by one of the Countryside Rangers (Gavin Finbow) with the new Countryside Ranger and the new Glasgow Council Access Officer also possibly in attendance. I signed up for this and enjoyed a good walk in pleasant weather, stopping for a picnic at Castlemilk Stables where I was informed that Castletoun Trust volunteers were also featuring a Mag 11 walk soon. The new Ranger and the new Access Officer did not in fact make an appearance though Gary Linstead did.

I also spoke with Allison Greig about GCC not having any reference to Magnificent 11 on their website. She agreed that this should be done and spoke with the GCC webmaster regarding this, copying me in to the email conversations. A few days later a new page on the GCC website appeared with a few words about Countryside Rangers and with a link to our Mag 11 walking route.

Historical note: When the Glasgow Local Access Forum was set up around 2003/4 I served as representative of Ramblers and other walkers/path users. The LAF Officer at the time was Jolyon Gritton and meetings were chaired by Councillor Margaret Sinclair JP, both very enthusiastic members who have since moved on/retired. The original Forum had just over 20 members comprising representatives from User Groups, Land Owners and Managers, Agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), Paths for All, Scottish Enterprise, NHS, Police, Training Organisations, Glasgow University and various Glasgow City Council departments. Over the next year or so this was whittled down to a core group of about 12, with various others being invited when necessary. A useful feature of the Forum in its early days was holding meetings in various venues throughout Glasgow so Forum members could not only discuss outdoor problems but indeed visit them.

Jim Riddell
June 2024

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

1. AGM update - venue, speaker, posts, walk
2. Refugee festival - come walking with Glasgow Ramblers, email circulated
3. Ramblers North Strathclyde Area AGM 2025, email circulated
4. Potential weekend away in 2025, update
5. Promotional Goods, ideas

Sandra West
May 24