

Minutes of the Meeting of Glasgow Ramblers Group Committee

5th October 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom.

1. **Present** – Gerard McCrear, Alan Watt, Catherine Watt, Barry Pottle, Geoff Der, Gareth Morgan. Jim Riddell also attended.

Gerard will be leaving the committee at the upcoming AGM. Catherine thanked him for all the work he has done for Glasgow Ramblers as a Committee member, as a former Treasurer and current Secretary and Membership Secretary. Also for his work with the small group developing the Magnificent 11.

For the past year and in the absence of a minute secretary, the Chair has taken the minutes. It was agreed that this is not a tenable arrangement and the Committee agreed that shorter, action minutes would be accepted. Alan agreed to take these at this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th August

- a) The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and a number of amendments made. They were deemed to be accurate.
- b) Matters arising to be dealt with under reports.

3. Reports

Reports had been received from the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary. A nil report was received from the Access Officer. There was a verbal report about the Glasgow Ramblers' website.

Treasurer – 7 people who did not manage to attend the Ardrishaig Weekend away had paid either a deposit or the whole amount. As the whole hostel had been hired at a fixed cost for the weekend, the Committee decided that refunds could not be made from the Social Fund. The Chair to convey this information to the member enquiring about a refund.

CW

Website – Geoff had amended the home page to highlight the Magnificent 11 and was to update the section for walk leaders' resources, taking account of information on the Ramblers website and Assemble.

GD

4. Ardishaig Weekend – very successful.

5. Walks programme – no incidents reported, next walk Magnificent 11. AW

6. Arrangements for the AGM on 23rd Nov. with follow-up walk on Saturday, 27th Nov. using Zoom

- a) Agenda - similar to last year, meeting at 6.45pm, guest speaker at 8pm (subsequently changed to a 7pm start) GM, CW
- b) Ian Brooke to be invited to chair the formal part of the meeting. CW
- c) Minutes of the 2020 AGM to be circulated. GM
- d) Annual report to be completed. CW
- e) Speaker to be contacted. CW
- f) Financial statement to be completed and approved by the independent examiner. AW

- g) Papers to be emailed or posted to members according to their communication permissions. For those receiving emails, the Zoom link would be emailed nearer the time of the meeting. For those receiving the papers by post, details of how to request the Zoom link would be provided. Papers to Barry for copying and posting by 18th October. **AW, CW, GM, BP**
- h) Nominations will be sought for office bearers, independent examiner, representatives to North Strathclyde Area Council and Scottish Council.
- i) With several current Group Committee members leaving the Committee, members will be encouraged to consider joining the Committee. **All**
- j) Dates for motions (7 days before the AGM) and proposed changes to the Glasgow Group Constitution (28 days before the AGM) were agreed as per the Group Constitution which Geoff will put on the website. **GD**

9. AOCB

- a) Magnificent 11. The leaflets will be available by mid-October and a distribution list will be made up. This will include councillors, MPs, MSPs, Glasgow Life locations, some schools, Ramblers groups etc **CW, GM, AW**
- b) Jim had written to Luddons Construction thanking them for their work on the Kelvin/Allander Walkway.

Reports received prior to the meeting and circulated to the committee.

Chair's Report October 2021

I emailed Hildegard at Ramblers Scotland to say that the committee had considered the proposed minor amendments to the Constitution and were in agreement. She thanked us and forwarded the email to Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee.

Walks programme

The group's rolling programme of walks is going well and a mention in the monthly newsletter seems to serve as a reminder to any potential walk leader that we are always needing walks.

Weekend Away in September

Ian and Bobby organised a very successful trip to Ardrishaig. 15 stayed at the Argyle Backpackers Hostel, 3 in BnBs, 2 in a camper van and 2 in their own home. One wee "incident" - when the group turned up at a local hotel for an evening meal just as two members of staff had walked out! Both Ian and Bobby have been profusely thanked.

Recruiting Volunteers

Last month, I attended a Zoom meeting about recruiting volunteers. This was led by Jeannie Cranfield and Ed Wilson from Ramblers. It was interesting and focussed on the reasons that people volunteer.

Creative Walking

I was invited to walk with Prof Dee Heddon, from the drama department at the University of Glasgow. Her current research project is centred on "creative walking" during the Covid outbreak.

Quote from the project - "We know that walking is good for people in all sorts of ways. It helps with physical and mental health. A year is a long time to be walking the same paths around the local park so we are also keen to know of creative activities that can be done while walking, or walks that are themselves creative, have helped sustain people's motivation, increased their enjoyment in walking, or offered ways for people who are physically distanced to connect creatively and imaginatively."

Both Ramblers Scotland and Glasgow Life are collaborating with the project and Dee wanted to know how we as a group had tried to connect members during lockdown through "creative walking. It may be of general interest to know that Dee recently walked with and interviewed Claire Balding. The programme can be listened to on BBC Sounds - search for Ramblings and look for "The turquoise sea and white sands of Ardnamurchan".

Speaker after the AGM

As already intimated, I've been in touch with Paddy McKenna from Cassiltoun Housing Association. and suggested she and Stuart Whittaker deliver their talk at 8pm after the business part of the AGM. Re a walk the following Saturday, at the very least they will suggest a route. Or they might lead the walk and open up Castlemilk Stables for us.

Magnificent 11 Update

By the time of the meeting the waymarking should be finished. The credit for putting up the large roundels on lamp posts and the small roundels on the posts goes almost entirely to the stalwart trio of Gary, Gerard and George from Friends of Linn Park. The Friends Groups of Fernbrae Meadows and Castlemilk Park also helped in their own localities.

The leaflet will be published in the next fortnight. As per the leaflet, the maps, route instructions and places of interest are now in a downloadable form accessible from the home page of the Glasgow Ramblers website. In time we would hope to flesh out some of the instructions and add photos of difficult turnings. Also, we may add a brief history of the project similar to the article produced for Living Cities on the Scottish Wildlife Trust website. Breaking news if we know of any diversions to the route especially in Part 4 where lots of tree planting is planned. Also what wildlife a walker might expect to see each month. Photos of walkers and path maintenance teams.

Ramblers Scotland Newsletter gave the link to the GR website and members were invited to send a SAE to the secretary to receive a copy.

Next steps - general circulation of leaflets and the possibility of a launch in the Spring

Catherine Watt October 2021

Secretary's Report October 2021

Scotland is at Level Zero of Coronavirus regulations. Updated guidance is available from Ramblers Scotland and Transport Scotland.

On Assemble, Walk Leaders can access the Updated Recce form which is required to be completed and submitted to info@glasgowramblers.org.uk The form is then kept for 3 years by the Secretary.

Also available to assist the WL is a Walk register form that can be used to list walkers details which is to be kept by WL for 3 weeks for track 'n' trace.

Introductory Walks project has been further postponed till Spring 2022. Catherine Watt has volunteered to lead a walk around Lochwinnoch.

Recent Ramblers Scotland Newsletters covered the following points:

Scottish Council 5th March 2022 online, Scottish Paths Map, Seaside Wildlife, Dalwhinnie Access petition, Fees freeze, Events Calendar, First ever appointment of Paths Champion – Dr Sandesh Gulhane MSP, Navigation, Responsible Walker, Rewinding, Power of Walking, Mag 11 way marking & leaflets

Ramblers GB newsletter topics included: Coronavirus update, AGM guidance, Training update

Land Commission newsletter – Housing Land Market major overhaul, Blogs, Reinstated Public Meetings, Tenant Farm Commissioner

Also received various emails from holiday, IT companies and Facebook notifications.

Gerard McCrear October 2021

Membership Report October 2021

Since the last meeting new to Ramblers	7
“ “ “ “ “ to Area	3
“ “ “ “ “ to Group	3
“ “ “ “ re-joined the Group	0
“ “ “ resigned from Ramblers	3
“ “ “ lapsed	2
“ “ “ “ moved Group	1
“ “ “ “ moved Area	0

Membership total is 285 on 1st October 2021 which is an increase of 7 since the last GGC

Gerard McCrear October 2021

Treasurer's report available on request.