



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL HELD AT THE CONCORDE SUITE, NEC BIRMINGHAM ON 1 APRIL 2023

1 Welcome and introduction

Rebecca Dawson, chair of the board of trustees, welcomed members of General Council to the NEC and thanked everyone for making the journey to Birmingham for what would be a busy day. She then introduced the staff team to the meeting: the new chief executive, Ross Maloney, and the executive leadership team (ELT), Tom Platt, Glen Walker, Suzy Russell, and Clive Sanders; Simon Kellas, head of governance; Richard Sharp and the regional engagement team: Nicky Wilson, Diane Simcoe, Claire Watkins and Vanessa Slawson. Also present were guests Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, Ramblers Scotland convener, trustee candidates Peter Adkins, John Arnoldi and Ian Cable, and volunteer Janet Davis who would be taking the minutes.

Apologies for absence had been received from Stuart Maconie, Malcolm Petyt, Paddy Tipping, Ronnie Forbes and Jan Wardell.

Before inviting the chief executive and the ELT to present the annual review, Rebecca took a moment to remind council of the Ramblers' core values. As an organisation we seek to be inclusive, inspiring, empowering and responsible. Inclusivity was a golden thread, running through everything the Ramblers undertakes.

2 Annual review

Ross Maloney, chief executive, said that it was a pleasure to be at general council at a time when the Ramblers had a lot to be proud of. He had joined the organisation in July 2022 and had found it a hugely welcoming experience. He had met many members and volunteers since that time across the country. Passion and enthusiasm abounded and there was an exciting journey ahead as we worked towards creating a country fit for walkers during a period of great social change and its associated challenges.

Tom Platt, director of operations and advocacy, described some of the major campaign initiatives of the past year. There had been diligent work under the *Don't Lose Your Way* (DLYW) project, with 750 new DLYW volunteers recruited. Rights of way training had increased, with over 1,000 people participating in two online sessions. Legal action to safeguard the rights of the public to use the network continued with a number of successes. The Freedom to Roam campaign had been relaunched. This was a subject close to the hearts of many ramblers. The Labour Party had indicated publicly that, in government, it would work towards extending existing rights of access. In London, under the banner of the Green Routes campaign, Inner London volunteers were successfully pushing for a network of high-quality routes in the capital. It was hoped this work could be extended to other cities. Work prior to the last mayoral elections in London

had led to the production of Transport for London's *Leisure Walking Strategy*, the first of its kind in England. Across the organisation, volunteer path maintenance teams now numbered 150 and continued to maintain and improve the network.

In Scotland, the Scottish Paths Map had been launched. This was an online resource which had been strongly supported through social media and, in Wales, the *Paths to Wellbeing* project, funded by the Welsh government had been well received.

There had been thousands of led walks, involving over 20,000 walk leaders and there had been 30,000 Ramblers wellbeing walks. Walk leaders were the biggest group of volunteers and almost 1,300 walk leaders had completed the online Walk Leadership Foundations e-learning training. New content was being developed to help walk leaders prevent and manage incidents on walks.

Following the debates at General Council in 2022, the board had re-examined the approach to risk management. The journey had not been easy but it was essential to avoid confusion and to present walk leaders with a workable solution. A working group had been established which had benchmarked procedures across the sector. A survey of Ramblers walk leaders had been undertaken and 1,700 leaders had responded. The refreshed approach focussed on standards not standardisation. The new resources were being developed to give walk leaders the skills and confidence they need to manage risk in a way that is proportionate to that walk. The hope is to have the new system being launched from October. Until this is in place, we are asking all walk leaders to continue to follow existing arrangements. There would be further conversations and opportunities to comment on this over the summer.

Clive Sanders, director of income and marketing, spoke about efforts to grow the membership and support income. Membership is now over 102,000 and has recovered to pre-covid levels. 15,500 new members had been recruited but the challenge lay in retaining members and evolving the supporter base. However, growth in non-member supporters continued. A new initiative *Let's walk together* had been fronted by the TV celebrity, Jimmy Doherty and reached 12 million people. This had been externally funded and took a different approach to walking, seeking to change perceptions of the Ramblers. The range of partners with whom Ramblers was working had expanded: corporations were keen to work with charities. Of note was direct funding from Sport England to support work on equality, inclusion and diversity.

Suzy Russell, director of finance, performance and impact, acknowledged that Ramblers digital projects had not had a smooth passage. An external review had been commissioned to learn lessons and the ELT would be ensuring that those would be implemented in future projects of this nature and scale. The new website and Walks Manager would be launched shortly. Tests and pilots had been undertaken on Walks Manager and she thanked everyone for their patience while this work had been undertaken. Development of the new facilities would be ongoing and staff would be available to help volunteers as the work continued.

Glen Walker, director of people and organisational development, said that Ramblers had 25,000 volunteers delivering on a huge range of initiatives ranging from walks with refugees, campaigns against unsuitable countryside developments, installing gates in place of stiles, and producing podcasts. He acknowledged that there had been problems with Assemble as a means of providing information and guidance to volunteers but said that it would be reviewed over the next year and that volunteers would be engaged in

this process. In particular, the board had asked about the possibility of moving some information from Assemble to the website.

On behalf of the board and the ELT, Ross thanked everyone for their contribution to the successes and ongoing work of the Ramblers.

3 Financial report

Michael Penny, honorary treasurer, introduced the financial review and annual accounts which had been examined and been given a clean audit opinion by the auditor. Accounting for charities was complicated but the key figures spoke for themselves. Total income in the last financial year had increased from £9.7m at the end of September 2021 to £11.7m at the end of September 2022. Expenditure was £10.2m in 2020/21 compared to £12.8m in 2021/22. Broadly speaking, spending was matching income.

Sources of income were varied. Although membership income had dipped it had now bounced back to pre-covid levels and stood at £3.6m. Subscription rates had been frozen in October 2021 but the board had decided to increase rates by 5.5% in October 2022, half the rate of inflation at the time. Legacies were an important source of income and, in 2022, 55 legacies had been received, the largest of which was over £200,000. Such generous donations enabled Ramblers to continue its work. The People's Postcode Lottery (PPL) was also a very important source of income with over £3.1m in the last year.

Area and Group activity generated £1.9m but it was notable that this activity hadn't returned to pre-covid levels.

In summary, Michael said that the Ramblers was in a healthy financial position in cash terms but the board needed to keep the reserves under review to ensure they were compliant with Charity Commission guidance. Total general reserves at 30 September 2022 stood at £3.8m which was sufficient to cover between three and nine months establishment and core staff costs.

Michael said that it had been a successful year and he thanked the board, the ELT, staff and all Area and Group treasurers for their contribution to that success.

4 Questions on the annual report and accounts

Charlie Bigley (Staffordshire area) asked whether the Walks Manager had been an expensive mistake. Ross Maloney said that in retrospect it had been a difficult journey and as alluded to there had been many lessons learned from the experience.

John Ireland (Greater Manchester and High Peak area) asked if the review of the IT issues would be made public. Ross Maloney said that would not be possible because it was commercially sensitive, but that the board would maintain oversight of the implementation of lessons learned for projects of this nature and scale in the future.

John Esslemont (Motions review committee) said he was concerned that compulsory training for walk leaders would lead to a decline in the number of walk leaders. Tom Platt said that as a charity, the

Ramblers had to show that it was taking action to minimise risks as far as is reasonable and practicable. The organisation needed to have tools and resources which provided suitable cover for all walk leaders. Walk leaders wanted clear guidance and the new package which would comprise online training and a handbook was proportionate and would ensure that all leaders knew what was expected of them.

Cath MacKay (vice president) asked how this training would be implemented at group level. Tom Platt said that detailed conversations on this would take place between now and September. The online training already existed but input from existing volunteers was needed. Ross said that this was the first stage in the journey and that the need to work in partnership with volunteers was acknowledged.

5. Approval of the minutes of General Council 2022

Council approved the minutes of General Council 2022.

6. Appointment of auditor

The appointment of the firm of Crowe UK LLP was proposed by Michael Penny (honorary treasurer), seconded by Malcolm McDonnell (board of trustees), and approved by council.

7. Appointment of president and vice presidents

Stuart Maconie, the current president, stood down as president after six years. A video prepared by Stuart was played to General Council. He had been honoured and flattered to be president and was happy to continue to support the Ramblers as a vice president. The chair thanked Stuart for his contributions to flagship initiatives on which his media experience and influence has been invaluable.

It was proposed by the chair, and seconded by Lucy Armitage (board of trustees) that Amar Latif be elected as the next president. A video prepared by Amar was played to General Council. He was honoured to be considered for such a prestigious position and looked forward to playing his part in the Ramblers mission to inspire people, regardless of their mobility and ability to enjoy the outdoors. Amar was elected *nem con*.

No new nominations for the position of vice president had been received. The following current elected vice presidents were proposed for re-election *en bloc* by Mark Chung (board of trustees) and Helen Tranter (board of trustees): Sir Richard Lloyd Jones, Jonathan Kipling, Cath MacKay, Alan Mattingly, Dave Morris, Malcolm Petyt, Brian Reader, Paddy Tipping and Keith Wadd. All vice presidents were elected *nem con*.

The following past presidents automatically remained as vice presidents: Kate Ashbrook, Andrew Bennett, Julia Bradbury, Chris Hall, Mike Harding, Chris Smith, and Janet Street-Porter. Stuart Maconie was added to the list as the most recently retired president.

8. Election of trustees

There were fourteen candidates for three vacancies (each for a three-year term). These were Peter Adkins, John Arnoldi, Gavin Baker, Ian Cable, Mark Chung, John Dixon, Martin Finland (withdrew before the ballot), Azeem Gopalani, Ian Hudson, Simon Kearey, Lida Naraghi-Shah, Stefan O'Connor, Richard Powell and

Rowan Williams. The election result was independently scrutinised by Cath MacKay (vice president) and Janet Davis (volunteer). The results were: Peter Adkins (17), John Arnoldi (13), Gavin Baker (24), Ian Cable (14), Mark Chung (70), John Dixon (7), Azeem Gopalani (14) Ian Hudson (15), Simon Kearey (14), Lida Naraghi-Shah (21), Stefan O'Connor (23), Richard Powell (17) and Rowan Williams (28). Gavin Baker, Mark Chung and Rowan Williams were therefore elected.

The Chair thanked the retiring members of the board, Richard May, Helen Tranter and Alison Mitchell, retiring convenor of Ramblers Scotland, for their work. The new convenor, Malcolm Dingwall-Smith was welcomed to the board. The two co-opted members of the board, Dan Firmager and Gulshun Rehman would continue to serve.

9. Election of motions review committee members

There were seven candidates for five vacancies. These were Kate Ashbrook, Sophie Clissold-Lesser, John Esslemont, Des Garrahan, John Ireland, Richard May and John Wainwright. The election result was independently scrutinised by Cath MacKay (vice president) and Janet Davis (volunteer). The results were: Kate Ashbrook (78), Sophie Clissold-Lesser (73), John Esslemont (62), Des Garrahan (46), John Ireland (69), Richard May (64) and John Wainwright (63). Kate Ashbrook, Sophie Clissold-Lesser, John Ireland, Richard May and John Wainwright were therefore elected.

10. Open motions: review of actions from previous years

Council noted the report of this review.

Questions and comments on other open motions

With reference to motion 2022 [1] (Simplification of risk assessments), John Baker (Merseyside and West Cheshire Area) said that the Ramblers insurance document referred to 'events' (i.e. non-walking activities), and asked how these would be covered in the context of risk assessment. Tom Platt said that conversations needed to take place on how these were dealt with. Published documentation did require risk assessments for organising events such as AGMs and none of that had changed.

With reference to motion 2022[4] (Strengthening Ramblers' role in protecting paths), Keith Wadd (vice president) said that he did not consider the board's response to be adequate and called upon the board to produce the report requested in the motion. Tom Platt said that a large proportion of the work undertaken by Ramblers was path work and that proportionate resources were being put into that work.

With reference to motion 2018 [4] (Roadside signage of public rights of way), Alan Austin (Powys area) asked if the motion could be reconsidered and not closed. Roadside signage was the most important thing for encouraging novice walkers to use the network. Tom Platt said that this work was a mainstream issue, one of a range of issues on which Ramblers worked with local authorities. Having a separate motion on this initiative was felt unnecessary.

With reference to motion 2022[6] (General Council meeting format), Barry Pottle (North Strathclyde area), asked why the board referred to General Council as a “relatively small group of members”. He considered this to be a dismissive description.

Charlie Bigley (Staffordshire Area) suggested that, in future, council members be invited to send questions about open motions in advance of the General Council meeting.

11. Report of the motions review committee (MRC)

Council noted the report of the motions review committee on 2023 motions. The committee was thanked for its work. The chair said that the increased number of motions and amendments this year had meant a lot of work for the committee and she urged areas to give careful consideration to the wording of both motions and amendments and to seek advice from staff when appropriate.

12. Appeal against a decision of the motions review committee

Inner London Area had submitted an appeal against the MRC decision to delete the opening paragraph of motion 2023 [6] which the committee said would be better placed at the start of the background notes. The appeal was proposed by Des Garrahan on behalf of the area. John Esslemont responded on behalf of the committee.

The appeal was declined by council. The wording of the motion therefore stood as set out below.

13. Motions submitted to General Council 2023

2023 [1] ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

The following motion was proposed by John Ireland (Manchester and High Peak area), and seconded by Oliver Cosgrove-Fearn (Manchester and High Peak area).

This General Council considers that the Ramblers should move towards implementing a system of one member one vote for future elections to the Board of Trustees.

Council therefore asks the Board to bring proposals for implementation of such a voting system for consideration by the 2025 Annual General Meeting of General Council.

The following amendment was proposed by Lucy Robinson on behalf of the Board of Trustees

In the first sentence, insert “democratic voting” before “system” and delete “of one member one vote”.

In the second sentence, insert “review alternative approaches, including one member one vote, and” before “bring proposals” and delete “for implementation of such a voting system”.

The amendment was accepted by the proposers and by council.

The substantive motion then read:

This General Council considers that the Ramblers should move towards implementing a democratic voting system - for future elections to the Board of Trustees. Council therefore asks the Board to review alternative approaches, including one member one vote, and bring proposals for consideration by the 2025 Annual General Meeting of General Council.

The substantive motion was carried.

2023 [2] ELECTING TRUSTEES AND VOTING ON MOTIONS

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to investigate and propose to General Council a more democratic way of electing trustees and of voting on motions.

Charlie Shepherd (Lake District area) said that he longer wished to propose this motion. No other member of Council wished to propose it. The motion therefore fell.

2023 [3] GENERAL COUNCIL FORMAT

The following motion was proposed by Des Garrahan (Inner London area), and seconded by Peter James (Norfolk area).

This General Council accepts the necessity of the changes to the format of the Annual General Meeting of General Council caused by the Covid pandemic, but urges the Board of Trustees to change the format back to the two-day format that was previously normal now that it is safe and legal to do so.

The following amendment was proposed by Dorset Area:

Insert “(including provision for visitors)” after “two day format”

The amendment was accepted by the proposers and by council.

The substantive motion then read:

This General Council accepts the necessity of the changes to the format of the Annual General Meeting of General Council caused by the Covid pandemic, but urges the Board of Trustees to change the format back to the two day format (including provision for visitors) that was previously normal now that it is safe and legal to do so.

The substantive motion was carried.

2023 [4] CAMPAIGN TO LOBBY ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HONOUR THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

The following motion was proposed by Malcolm Dixon (South Yorkshire and NE Derbyshire area) and seconded by Alan Pestell (South Yorkshire and NE Derbyshire area).

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to lobby the governments in England and Wales to ensure that highway authorities honour their legal obligations with respect to the preservation and protection of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Specifically the emphasis should be on:

- ensuring PRoWs are kept clear and safe to walk at all times, unless subject to any legal restriction;

- to ensure landowners and tenants honour their specific obligations relating to those aspects of PRow under their control with particular emphasis on ploughing and cropping;
- to ensure safety aspects of PRow preservation are enforced with particular emphasis on the use of barbed wire and electric fences;
- to promote the use of guidance given in BS5709 Gaps Gates and Stiles wherever appropriate.

The following amendment was proposed by Dorset Area:

Amend the start of the motion to read: 'This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to lobby the governments in England and Wales to provide adequate financial and technical support to local authorities to enable them to honour their legal obligations in respect of.....(continues)

The amendment was accepted by the proposers and by council.

The substantive motion then read:

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to lobby the governments in England and Wales to provide adequate financial and technical support to local authorities to enable them to honour their legal obligations in respect of the preservation and protection of the Public Rights of Way (Prow) network. Specifically the emphasis should be on:

- ensuring PRowS are kept clear and safe to walk at all times, unless subject to any legal restriction;
- to ensure landowners and tenants honour their specific obligations relating to those aspects of PRow under their control with particular emphasis on ploughing and cropping;
- to ensure safety aspects of PRow preservation are enforced with particular emphasis on the use of barbed wire and electric fences;
- to promote the use of guidance given in BS5709 Gaps Gates and Stiles wherever appropriate.

The substantive motion was carried overwhelmingly.

2023 [5] WILD CAMPING ON DARTMOOR AND THE NEED TO EXPAND RIGHT TO ROAM AND TO IMPROVE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES TO OPEN AND GREEN SPACES FOR EVERYONE

The following motion was proposed by Tim Spray (Devon Area) and seconded by George Coles (Devon Area):

This General Council deplores the outcome of the recent high court case which is that there is no right to wild camping on common land in the Dartmoor National Park. Council fears that this decision will be a deterrent to wild camping across England and Wales.

Council calls on the Board of Trustees to support the campaign to restore the right to wild camping on Dartmoor, and to make it a right on access land throughout England and Wales, as part of our effort to expand the right to roam, and to improve the opportunities for public access to open and green spaces for everyone.

The following amendment was proposed by the Motions Review Committee as a combination of three amendments submitted by Wiltshire and Swindon area, Dave Morris (vice president) and John Esslemont MRC):

In the second paragraph delete all words after “to restore the right to wild camping on Dartmoor, and to” and replace with “explore how the same right might best be extended to other suitable areas in England and Wales to improve the opportunities for public access to nature and green spaces for everyone.”

The amendment was accepted by the proposers and by council.

A further amendment had been submitted by Dorset Area:

To delete the text after ‘Dartmoor’ in the second paragraph of the motion, so that it reads: “Council calls on the Board of Trustees to support the campaign to restore the right to wild camping on Dartmoor.”

Dorset Area declined to propose this amendment but it was proposed by Dave Morris (vice president), and seconded by Charlie Morriss (Gloucestershire area).

After debate, the amendment was defeated (41 for, 56 against and 7 abstentions).

The substantive motion then read:

This General Council deplores the outcome of the recent high court case which is that there is no right to wild camping on common land in the Dartmoor National Park. Council fears that this decision will be a deterrent to wild camping across England and Wales. Council calls on the Board of Trustees to support the campaign to restore the right to wild camping on Dartmoor, and to explore how the same right might best be extended to other suitable areas in England and Wales to improve the opportunities for public access to nature and green spaces for everyone.

The substantive motion was carried.

2023 [6] LEISURE WALKING IN LONDON AND OTHER URBAN AREAS

The following motion was proposed by Des Garrahan (Inner London area), and seconded by Dick Dunmore (Inner London area);

This General Council welcomes the publication of the London Leisure Walking Plan and notes that the large proportion of the general population, and of Ramblers’ members, lives and walks in urban areas. To build upon the string of successes in London, Manchester and other urban areas, Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to invest a higher proportion of its focus and resources in urban walking than it is currently committing.

Council further calls upon the Board to ensure resources are invested at the highest level of the organisation:

- in the implementation of the London Leisure Walking Plan through the London Leisure Walking Forum;
- in ensuring that the strategy is emulated in towns and cities across Great Britain;
- in seeking all possible fundraising opportunities for urban walking in the future;
- in publicising these projects, locally and, if necessary, nationally, as well as across various social media platforms where appropriate;
- in reporting back, next year and in future years, to Council, on the progress on these initiatives.

The following amendment was proposed by Bekah Cork on behalf of the board of trustees:

In the second sentence, replace 'a higher proportion of its' with 'the necessary' and replace 'than it is currently committing' with 'in line with the organisational strategy'.

In the second paragraph, delete 'at the highest level of the organisation'.

In the third bullet point, delete 'all possible'.

In the final bullet point, delete 'and in future years'.

The amendment was accepted by the proposers and by council.

The substantive motion then read:

This General Council welcomes the publication of the London Leisure Walking Plan and notes that the large proportion of the general population, and of Ramblers' members, lives and walks in urban areas. To build upon the string of successes in London, Manchester and other urban areas, Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to invest the necessary focus and resources in urban walking in line with the organisational strategy. Council further calls upon the Board to ensure resources are invested:

- in the implementation of the London Leisure Walking Plan through the London Leisure Walking Forum;
- in ensuring that the strategy is emulated in towns and cities across Great Britain;
- in seeking fundraising opportunities for urban walking in the future;
- in publicising these projects, locally and, if necessary, nationally, as well as across various social media platforms where appropriate;
- in reporting back, next year, to Council, on the progress on these initiatives

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

2023 [7] ENSURING THAT AREA AND GROUP ACTIVITIES ARE BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY RAMBLERS' STAFF

The following motion was proposed by Colin Sefton (Kent area) and seconded by Robert Peel (Kent area)

This General Council is concerned that Areas and Groups do not always receive the quality of support they need and expect from members of staff. Council believes that this may be because staff:

- do not always have a good understanding of what volunteers in Areas and Groups do;
- do not fully appreciate how work is organised within Areas and Groups;
- underestimate the impact centrally proposed changes may have on efficient performance of Area and Group activities.

Council also considers that Area and Group Officer workloads are often already high, and in many cases excessive, and that additional requirements, especially those that use their time wastefully, may reduce Officers' willingness to continue in their roles.

Council therefore calls upon the Board of Trustees to ensure that, when members of staff take on roles that impact in any way on the work of Areas or Groups, they undertake an induction process which should:

- ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the work and processes in Areas and Groups that might be impacted;
- include a period spent shadowing or assisting with the work of relevant Area or Group Officers.

The following amendment was proposed by the motions review committee

In the first paragraph, delete the second sentence and the three bullet points from “Council believes...” to “efficient performance of Area and Group activities.”

The following amendment was proposed by Ronnie Forbes on behalf of the board of trustees

In the second paragraph delete “in many cases excessive, and that additional requirements, especially those that use their time wastefully,”.

In the third paragraph, after “ensure that”, delete “, when”.

In the third paragraph, after “members of staff”, delete “take on roles that impact in any way on the work of Areas or Groups, they”.

In the third paragraph, delete the colon and first bullet point symbol between “which should” and “ensure that”.

In the third paragraph, delete all text from “that might be impacted” to the end including the second bullet point.

The following motion was proposed by Surrey area:

In 2nd paragraph, 2nd line, delete “, especially those that use their time wastefully,”.

All three amendments were accepted by the proposers and by council.

The substantive motion read:

This General Council is concerned that Areas and Groups do not always receive the quality of support they need and expect from members of staff.

Council also considers that Area and Group Officer workloads are often already high, and that additional requirements may reduce Officers’ willingness to continue in their roles.

Council therefore calls upon the Board of Trustees to ensure that members of staff undertake an induction process which should ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the work and processes in Areas and Groups.

The motion was carried.

2023 [8] URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE SIGN ON

The following motion was proposed by Charlie Bigley (Staffordshire area) and seconded by Des Garrahan (Inner London area).

This General Council notes that many local Group and Area websites have developed password protected Members’ areas to provide special functionality which require the members to sign in.

Their inability to use their national sign in details is frustrating, demotivating and could readily be resolved by sharing of the existing software.

Council calls for urgent action on this matter, and recommends that the Board of Trustees establishes a small working party of technically skilled members to draw up concrete plans and costs for a national implementation of single sign on, and submit these to the Board for urgent consideration.

The motion was defeated.

The following motion which had not been put to the vote by the time specified on the agenda was, in accordance with Standing Order A12, remitted to the board of trustees for consideration.

2023 [9] TO RETURN TO MEMBER ACTIVITIES ALONGSIDE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (submitted by Gloucestershire area)

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to:

- return to Member activities alongside Volunteer activities so that Members do not need to register as Volunteers;
- make information for both accessible on the website;
- remove 'Volunteer' from Member role descriptions where it is not required.

14. Closing remarks

The chair brought proceedings to a close by thanking the retiring members of the board of trustees, Alison Mitchell, Helen Tranter and Richard May for all their work. They were each presented with personalised Ordnance Survey maps. She thanked all members of council for their wholehearted engagement with the motions. She said that, as an organisation, the Ramblers had many opportunities and she asked for patience as the board considered its response to the motions and the future strategy. She looked forward to a further engagement with council later in the year at which that strategy would be discussed.

Finally, she thanked the board, guests and staff for their contribution to the day, in particular Simon Kellas, the head of governance for his organisation. She wished everyone a safe journey home.

Kate Ashbrook, vice president, thanked Rebecca for her excellent chairing of the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 5.30pm.

GENERAL COUNCIL AGM ATTENDEES – 1 APRIL 2023

Council members in attendance (as of Saturday 1 April 2023)

Kate	Ashbrook	Vice president	
Cath	MacKay	Vice president	
Dave	Morris	Vice president	
Brian	Reader	Vice president	
Keith	Wadd	Vice president	
Bola	Anike	Trustee	
Lucy	Armitage	Trustee	
Mark	Chung	Trustee	
Bekah	Cork	Trustee	
Rebecca	Dawson	Trustee	
Dan	Firmager	Trustee	
Chris	Hodgson	Trustee	
Richard	May	Trustee	
Malcolm	McDonnell	Trustee	
Alison	Mitchell	Trustee	
Michael	Penny	Trustee	
Gulshun	Rehman	Trustee	
Lucy	Robinson	Trustee	
Helen	Tranter	Trustee	
Sylvia	Popham	Area-appointed	Avon
Jeff	Rowland	Area-appointed	Avon
Richard	Hanson-James	Area-appointed	Berkshire
Jason	Owen	Area-appointed	Berkshire
Trevor	Jones	Area-appointed	Bucks, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex
Bethan	Stark	Area-appointed	Bucks, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex
Richard	Anderson	Area-appointed	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Barry	Creamer	Area-appointed	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Chris	Simpson	Area-appointed	Ceredigion
John	Peck	Area-appointed	Cheshire East
Trevor	Park	Area-appointed	Cheshire East
Robert	Fraser	Area-appointed	Cornwall
Ken	Sharp	Area-appointed	Cornwall
Phil	Coates	Area-appointed	Derbyshire
George	Coles	Area-appointed	Devon
Tim	Spray	Area-appointed	Devon
Mike	Heckford	Area-appointed	Dorset
Tom	Halstead	Area-appointed	East Yorkshire and Derwent
Mike	Cannell	Area-appointed	Essex

David	Radford	Area-appointed	Essex
John	Andrews	Area-appointed	Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside
Ian	Fraser	Area-appointed	Glamorgan
Jeffrey	Roberts	Area-appointed	Glamorgan
Michele	Holden	Area-appointed	Gloucestershire
Charlie	Morriss	Area-appointed	Gloucestershire
Oliver	Cosgrove-Fearn	Area-appointed	Greater Manchester and High Peak
John	Ireland	Area-appointed	Greater Manchester and High Peak
Angie	Blowman	Area-appointed	Hampshire
Peter	Rush	Area-appointed	Hampshire
Mike	Goodwin	Area-appointed	Herefordshire
Marika	Kovacs	Area-appointed	Herefordshire
Al	Maceachern	Area-appointed	Hertfordshire and North Middlesex
Patricia	Segui	Area-appointed	Hertfordshire and North Middlesex
Sam	Adams	Area-appointed	Inner London
Dick	Dunmore	Area-appointed	Inner London
Des	Garrahan	Area-appointed	Inner London
Michael George	Slater	Area-appointed	Isle of Wight
Robert	Peel	Area-appointed	Kent
Colin	Sefton	Area-appointed	Kent
Charles	shepherd	Area-appointed	Lake District
Geoff	Mullett	Area-appointed	Lincolnshire
Nigel	Wass	Area-appointed	Lincolnshire
John	Baker	Area-appointed	Merseyside and West Cheshire
Nigel	Bird	Area-appointed	Merseyside and West Cheshire
Peter	James	Area-appointed	Norfolk
Penny	Clarke	Area-appointed	North and Mid Cheshire
Anton	Woolford	Area-appointed	North and Mid Cheshire
Philip	Baugh	Area-appointed	North East Lancashire
Michael	Counter	Area-appointed	North East Lancashire
Karine	Davison	Area-appointed	North Strathclyde
Barry	Pottle	Area-appointed	North Strathclyde
John Elwyn	Williams	Area-appointed	North Wales
Malcolm	Winstanley	Area-appointed	North Wales
Susan	Alcock	Area-appointed	Northamptonshire
Chris	Shaw	Area-appointed	Northamptonshire
Richard	Fletcher	Area-appointed	Northumbria
Nuala	Wright	Area-appointed	Northumbria
Judith	Anson	Area-appointed	Nottinghamshire
Sue	Rick	Area-appointed	Nottinghamshire
Richard	Birch	Area-appointed	Oxfordshire

Russell	Thompson	Area-appointed	Oxfordshire
Vanessa	Lewis Camacho	Area-appointed	Pembrokeshire
Alan	Austin	Area-appointed	Powys
Will	Tandy	Area-appointed	Shropshire
Robin	Downton	Area-appointed	Somerset
Anthony	Smith	Area-appointed	Somerset
Malcolm	Dixon	Area-appointed	South Yorks and NE Derbyshire
Allen	Pestell	Area-appointed	South Yorks and NE Derbyshire
Charlie	Bigley	Area-appointed	Staffordshire
Jimmy	Poole	Area-appointed	Staffordshire
Philip	Snelling	Area-appointed	Suffolk
Jennifer	Tyson	Area-appointed	Suffolk
David	Cooper	Area-appointed	Surrey
John	Dixon	Area-appointed	Surrey
Charles	Sutton-Smith	Area-appointed	Surrey
David	Purcell	Area-appointed	Sussex
Jonathan	Sullivan	Area-appointed	Sussex
Janet	Lockett	Area-appointed	Warwickshire
Sandra	Sutton	Area-appointed	Warwickshire
Mike	Church	Area-appointed	West Riding
Dorothy	Tod	Area-appointed	Wiltshire and Swindon
Glyn	Thomas	Area-appointed	Worcestershire
Alison	Tyler	Area-appointed	Worcestershire
Sophie	Clissold-Lesser	Motions review committee	
John	Esslemont	Motions review committee	
Gwyn	Lewis	Motions review committee	
Holly	Matthews	Motions review committee	
John	Wainwright	Motions review committee	
Phil	Wadey	National affiliate	Open Spaces Society

Apologies

Stuart	Maconie	President	
Sir Richard	Lloyd Jones	Vice President	
Malcolm	Petyt	Vice President (proxy)	
Paddy	Tipping	Vice President	
Ronnie	Forbes	Trustee	
Jan	Wardell	Area-appointed	Dorset

The names above are not a full list of current Council members, but reflect those Council members as of Saturday 1 April who were in attendance at, or gave apologies for, the 2023 AGM. NB Some changes to Council membership in the categories of both trustee and motions review committee member were made (with effect from the end of the 2023 AGM to the 2024 AGM) following retirements / elections at the 2023 AGM.

In attendance

Malcolm	Dingwall-Smith	Convener, Ramblers Scotland
Peter	Adkins	Trustee candidate
John	Arnoldi	Trustee candidate
Ian	Cable	Trustee candidate
Janet	Davis	Volunteer
Arthur	Lee	Guest

Staff

Ross	Maloney	Chief executive officer
Simon	Kellas	Head of governance
Tom	Platt	Director, operations and advocacy
Suzy	Russell	Director, finance, performance and impact
Clive	Sanders	Director, income and marketing
Glen	Walker	Director, people and organisational development
Richard	Sharp	Regional engagement manager
Diane	Simcoe	Regional engagement officer
Vanessa	Slewson	Regional engagement officer
Claire	Watkins	Regional engagement officer
Nicky	Wilson	Regional engagement officer