

## RAMBLERS SCOTLAND STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held on Monday 22 August 2022, 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Meeting held at the Parklands Hotel, Perth and via Zoom

### ATTENDANCE

#### RSSC

Alison Mitchell	Convener
Beth Dickson	Vice Convener (Interim)
Lucy Wallace (Zoom)	President
Andrew Bachell	Ordinary Member
Dave Rennie	Ordinary Member
David Webb (Zoom)	Ordinary Member
Martha Mattos Coelho (Zoom)	Ordinary Member
Mhairi Reid (Zoom)	Co-optee
Mike Gray (Zoom)	Honorary Treasurer
Sue Thomas	Ordinary Member

#### Staff

Brendan Paddy	Director of Ramblers Scotland
Claire Exley	Governance and Events Administrator

#### Ramblers GB

Rebecca Dawson (Zoom)	Chair, Ramblers GB Board of Trustees
Ross Maloney	CEO

#### Apologies

Tom Platt	Director of Advocacy and Engagement
Peter Bartos	Ordinary Member
Emma Corcoran	Ordinary Member

### 18/22 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### 19/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that A. Bachell would withdraw himself in the event of any discussions of cases concerning the Greenspace and Policy Office of Perth and Kinross Council.

### 20/22 SPECIAL THANKS

The Convener expressed thanks to Catherine Watt of Glasgow Ramblers who has worked tirelessly on the Magnificent 11 project. The eleven miles circular walk through Glasgow's Southside was officially opened on Thursday 30 June this year. RSSC send their best wishes to Catherine who was unable to attend the opening due to recent ill health.

### 21/22 CEO - ROSS MALONEY

The Convener extended a warm welcome to Ross Maloney, the newly appointed CEO of the Ramblers GB. Following introductions Ross provided some background having spent seven years at the Scouts as their Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer. Ross has been working alongside the Board of Trustees and looks forward to continuing the great work Ramblers do with the communities we serve. The next twelve months will be looking at impact, how to measure it and looking at the 10 Year Strategic Plan. There will be a consultative process that RSSC will engage in, and a refreshed Strategic Plan will be ready for implementation in October 2023.

### 22/22 APPROVAL OF MINUTE FROM RSSC APRIL 2022 MEETING

The Committee noted App 12: the minute of the meeting held on the 25 April 2022. This was approved as an accurate record.

### 23/22 MATTERS ARISING/ ACTION POINTS FROM RSSC APRIL 2022 MEETING

The Committee noted App 13: Action Points Update. There were no matters arising.

## **24/22 UPDATE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEE (BoT) MEETINGS**

The Convener provided an oral update on the Board of Trustee meeting held in June 2022.

It was noted that a revised mileage rate for volunteers would be agreed and effective from 01 October 2022.

The Democracy and Structure working group recommended changes to the BoT structure to build a more democratic and diverse charity.

Membership fees will increase by 5.5% effective from October 2022.

There is a new People and Culture committee focussing on organisational development.

The next General Council will meet on 01 April 2023 in Birmingham.

## **25/22 FINANCE UPDATE**

The Committee noted App 14. The Scottish Council accounts Oct-July 2022. The Treasurer invited any questions on the report. There were none.

The Committee noted App 15, the RSSC GB Report prepared by the Finance team, for the period 01 Oct 2021- 31 March 2022.

The Director provided a verbal update on the draft Scottish Council/ Scottish Office 22/23 budget effective from October 2022. Included in the budget was delivery of an in-person Scottish Council in 2023, a Parliamentary event at Holyrood and the end of our tenancy at Caledonia House- moving to co-working premises at The Melting Pot in Edinburgh city centre.

There is no plan to continue Introductory Walks as a national staff-led initiative as although the walks were a very effective way to recruit members, localised advertising to attract large numbers of attendees proved prohibitively expensive.

The Director would invite Danny Carden, Communications and Engagement Officer to the next meeting to report on lessons learned from the Introductory Walks initiative. **AP1**

## **26/22 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK REVIEW**

The Committee noted App 19, a summary of the review session held on Sunday 03 July 2022.

The CEO reported on the timeline for the 10 Year Strategic Plan review lead by Ramblers GB, Ramblers Scotland will have an opportunity to actively engage with that process.

The Chair of the BoT added that the strategy refresh is a substantial piece of work offering an opportunity to consider what our purpose is now and in the future, and not what it was in the past. There is a risk that not everyone will be happy with the direction of travel.

The Committee discussed member consultation during the review process and the requirement for updated member systems.

## **27/22 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee noted: App16, the business plan quarter 3 objectives 2021/22, App 17 the draft Business Plan objectives for 2022/23 and App18, the membership report.

The Director invited questions relating to the Business Plan.

The Committee discussed the membership report, noting the rise in membership but also the short-term impact on the reliability of the figures due to the implementation of the new membership database.

## **28/22 RESPONSIBLE ACCESS VIDEO CAMPAIGN**

The Director presented the social media Responsible Access Video Campaign 2022, outlining the objectives of the campaign, its success in terms of the number of young adults who watched the video and provided a link to the stats [bit.ly/VidResults](https://bit.ly/VidResults)

The Scottish Government partners who contributed financially to the campaign were very happy with the results and this has helped establish Ramblers Scotland as a valued and highly effective partner in promoted responsible access.

## **29/22 WORKING GROUPS AND SUB COMMITTEES**

Access: The Committee noted App 20, the draft minute of the Access Sub Committee meeting held on 23 June 2022. The Committee acknowledged the Access work undertaken by Helen Todd, Campaign and Policy Manager and thanked Andrew Bachell for his input. It was noted that Ramblers Scotland is hosting a Parliamentary event in Holyrood on 18 January 2023 – the content will be around the Land Reform Act (2003).

Search/ Co-Option: The Interim Vice Convener provided an update on the recent meeting of the Search/ Co-Option Sub Committee. App 21 was noted. Work will begin on an action plan and timeline.

The Gathering: The Convener and the President provided an update on their recent committee meeting. They are currently sourcing a venue for the event. The President requested access to the recent survey results. **AP2**

Scottish Council: The Committee were updated on the recent meeting of the Scottish Council subcommittee. It was agreed that this would be a one-day event at the Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling.

Office Bearers: This Committee met to discuss the terms of office of the Convener and the President. Succession planning has begun for these roles as they come to an end at the next Scottish Council.

### **30/22 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2023**

It was agreed that Scottish Council 2023, due to be held on Sat 04 March, would be a one-day in-person event. There are good public transport networks to the venue as well as on-site parking. Overnight accommodation would be offered to delegates who travel distances too far to return home on the same day.

The Dick Balharry Memorial Talk would be a separate event held online via Zoom webinar – this proved successful last year and opened the seminar up to a wider audience. Details on the content of the event will be brought to the next formal meeting in November. **AP3**

### **31/22 INFORMAL MEETINGS**

The Committee agreed there was value in the continuation of the informal meetings in the months where there is no formal meeting. The next meeting will be held on Friday 09 September at 4pm via Zoom, the topic will be EDI.

### **32/22 NEXT MEETING**

The next formal meeting is on Tues 15 Nov 2022, 4pm at the Apex Hotel in Dundee

### **33/22 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

To identify the RSSC Motions Committee representative.  
The Director and the Convener will attend the All Nations meeting on 14 November.

**Claire Exley, Governance and Events Administrator**  
**August 2022**

### **ACTION POINTS**

- AP1** The Director would invite Danny Carden to the next formal meeting to report on lessons learned from the Introductory Walks
- AP2** The Gathering survey results would be made available to the President.
- AP3** Content for the Dick Balharry Memorial Talk will be confirmed at the next formal meeting.



Signed..... Date.....  
Alison Mitchell, Convener  
Ramblers Scotland