

RAMBLERS SCOTLAND STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022, 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Meeting held at the Apex Hotel, Dundee and via Zoom

34/22 ATTENDANCE**RSSC**

Alison Mitchell	Convener
Beth Dickson	Vice Convener (Interim)
Andrew Bachell	Co-opted Ordinary Member
David Webb (Zoom)	Ordinary Member
Peter Bartos (Zoom)	Co-opted Ordinary Member
Mike Gray	Honorary Treasurer
Sue Thomas	Ordinary Member

Staff

Brendan Paddy	Director of Ramblers Scotland
Claire Exley	Governance and Events Administrator
Danny Carden	Communications and Engagement Officer
Jeannie Cranfield	Delivery Officer

Apologies

Emma Corcoran	Ordinary Member
Lucy Wallace	President
Martha Mattos Coelho	Co-opted Ordinary Member
Dave Rennie	Ordinary Member
Mhairi Reid	Co-opted Ordinary Member

35/22 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

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

The Convener reported the sad death of Rita Riddell, a dedicated member since 1955. Rita and her husband Bruce were instrumental in setting up Ramblers Scotland and establishing groups in Scotland in the early 1980's.

36/22 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.

37/22 APPROVAL OF MINUTE FROM RSSC AUGUST 2022 MEETING

The Committee noted App 22: the minute of the meeting held on the 22 August 2022. This was approved as an accurate record with one minor correction at point 21/22, the date should read October 2023 and not October 2024.

38/22 MATTERS ARISING/ ACTION POINTS FROM RSSC AUGUST 2022 MEETING

The Committee noted App 23: Action Points Update. There were no matters arising.

39/22 UPDATE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEE (BoT) MEETINGS

The Convener provided an oral update for the Board of Trustee meeting that took place online on Thurs 22 September 2022.

An outline was provided of the Board's new sub-committee structure. The sub committees are: Finance and Risk Committee, Nominations and Governance Committee, Strategy and Delivery Committee and People and Culture Committee.

The Committee received an update on the Theory of Change working group that is looking at a new GB 5 year strategic plan that will focus on Access and Access for Everyone. There will be a consultative process as the plans develop to ensure the strategy reflects appropriately across the nations and allow RS to adapt the business plan and activities accordingly.

The Convener updated the Committee on the Nations meeting that took place on 14 November, the focus was the newly reviewed Memorandum of Understanding, the agreement between the BoT and RSSC. A copy will be circulated to the committee for comment.

AP 01

40/22 FINANCE UPDATE

The Committee noted App 24 and 24b, the RSSC General accounts report and accompanying statement prepared by the Treasurer, for the period 01 Oct 2021-30 September 2022.

The Committee noted App 25, the RSSC GB Report prepared by the Finance team, for the period 01 Oct 2021-30 September 2022. The Committee discussed the report.

The Committee noted App 26 and 26b, the Gathering accounts and accompanying statement for the period 01 Oct 2021-30 September 2022.

41/22 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The Committee noted App 27 the 2022-23 Business Plan objectives. The Director noted that these may change in line with the updated strategy. The Director invited questions relating to the Business Plan 2022-23 objectives.

The Committee noted the Business Plan quarter 4 objectives 2021/22: App 28. The Director invited questions relating to the Business Plan Q4 objectives.

The Committee noted App 29, the membership report. The Committee discussed the recent increase in membership fees approved by the Board of Trustees. The Director highlighted two areas of growth: the development of the Walk Leadership courses and Introductory Walks. The Director invited questions on the membership report.

42/22 INTRODUCTORY WALKS REPORT

The Committee received an update from staff members Danny Carden and Jeannie Cranfield on the Introductory Walks initiative piloted over the summer months. Ten groups agreed to participate, and new audiences were reached through a Facebook digital marketing campaign. This was an expensive campaign and there were many lessons learnt from the pilot although in general it exceeded expectations with numbers of new walkers signing up and 70% turning up. 23% converted to membership, this compares to 4% conversion of non-members versus standard emails to non-members logged on the Walk register app. The success of the pilot, cost saving lessons, digital assets and a newly formed strategy have provided huge opportunities for future projects where groups can run their own initiatives with minimal staff support. It is hoped that going forward Groups will run 2-3 of their own introductory walks. Danny and Jeannie invited questions. The Committee thanked Jeannie and Danny for all their work on this project.

43/22 RSSC REPRESENTATIVE TO MOTIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee agreed M. Gray as the RSSC representative to the Motions Committee.

44/22 AREA AGM'S

The Committee noted App 30, the briefing pack 2022-23 and agreed RSSC representatives to join the Area AGM's as follows:

Area	Staff Rep	RSSC Rep
Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside	Jeannie Cranfield	Beth Dickson & Alison Mitchell

Lothian and Borders	Jeannie Cranfield	Sue Thomas
North Strathclyde	Helen Todd	Andrew Bachell & Alison Mitchell
Clydesdale to Solway	Brendan Paddy	Sue Thomas
Grampian	John Nicholls	Alison Mitchell

45/22 WORKING GROUPS and SUB COMMITTEES

Access

The Committee noted App 31, the Access Sub Committee draft minute of the meeting on 20 September 2022.

The Committee discussed the ongoing campaigns and acknowledged the work undertaken by Helen Todd.

Search / Co-Option

The Committee noted App 32, the notes of the meeting on 17 October 2022. The Committee thanked Beth for her work on the subcommittee.

Gathering

The Committee received a verbal update from A Mitchell on the recent meeting of the Gathering subcommittee. Committee members had been identified and arrangements and marketing for the event are under way. There are to be changes to the bank accounts details which were agreed.

Scottish Council

The Committee noted App 33, the notes of the subcommittee meeting held on 21 September 2022.

46/22 SCOTTISH COUNCIL/ DICK BALHARRY MEMORIAL TALK 2023: EVENT UPDATE

The Committee noted App 34, an update on the order of the day for Scottish Council taking place at the Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday 04 March 2023.

The Director provided an update on the Dick Balharry Memorial Talk, the date and potential panellists are still to be confirmed.

The Committee noted App 35, the minute of the formal business of Scottish Council 2022. This would be ratified at Scottish Council 2023.

47/22 PRESENTATION TO ALISTAIR CANT

The Convener reported that Alistair Cant, treasurer for over two decades, would be presented with a gift at Scottish Council 2023 to recognise his contribution to Ramblers.

48/22 DATES OF NEXT RSSC MEETINGS

The Committee noted the dates of future meetings, it was agreed that the December informal meeting would be rescheduled to January in order to accommodate the Welsh Project Manager who will present on the Paths to Well-Being project. The rescheduled date will be circulated in due course.

AP 2

The Committee agreed that the February 2023 formal meeting will take place in Edinburgh and it is hoped that this will be at the new Ramblers Scotland co-working office, The Melting Pot.

The Committee discussed the committee meetings going forward and it was agreed that a survey monkey would be circulated to all committee members to try and get suitable dates diarised.

AP 3

The Committee agreed the pre and post Scottish Council 2023 meeting dates and provisional times.

49/22 AOCB / ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that a timeline with actions would be drafted and circulated on the development of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work.

AP 4

UPDATE:

Funding is being actively sought (decision due early 2023) to recruit a part time officer to further develop our approach to equalities outreach work, with a focus on refugees and asylum seekers, and people from minority ethnic communities. Over 12 months we will take a 'learn by doing' approach to define and refine our offer.

The Committee noted the results of the membership survey will be circulated in due course.

The Committee discussed the importance of social events post Covid-19. Social events are organised and delivered by individual Groups or Areas and not RSSC although it was noted that the Gathering and Scottish Council events are lead by RSSC.

Claire Exley, Governance and Events Administrator
November 2022

ACTION POINTS

- AP1** Memorandum of Understanding to be circulated for comment – Claire Exley
- AP2** Date of the rescheduled informal meeting to be circulated – Claire Exley
- AP3** Survey Monkey to be circulated to the Committee – Claire Exley
- AP4** Timeline for EDI work – John Nicholls – see update at point 49/22



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