

Scottish Council 2021 Minute

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RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2021
MINUTE OF THE THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING
Held on Saturday 6 March 2021 via video conference

AGM BUSINESS

10.00am

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Convener Alison Mitchell welcomed everyone to Scottish Council 2021. Alison noted that little did we know that when we last held Scottish Council in North Berwick that this year it would not be in Carnoustie as had been expected but held via Zoom. Alison noted that it had been a difficult time for everyone over the past year with the Covid-19 restrictions in relation to getting out and about.
- 1.2 Alison welcomed Kate Ashbrook, chair of the Board of Trustees, Ronnie Forbes, Board of Trustees and Chris Hodgson, chair of the Welsh Council Executive Committee.
- 1.3 Alison thanked all the Ramblers Scotland staff for their work on the preparations for the AGM, as well as the Dick Balharry talk by Pammy Johal of Backbone (<https://www.backbone.uk.net/>) which had taken place on 26th March. The registered attendance at this talk was 283. Successes of the Year will take place this afternoon and 97 have registered to attend this event.
- 1.4 Alison noted the sad loss of four members of Ramblers Scotland (RS) over the past year. John Foster, a former President and Vice President, died in July 2020 aged 99 and had given long service to RS, attending meetings well into his 90s. Bruce Riddell died in 2020 and was also a former President and Vice President. He had a vision in the early 1980s for the expansion of RS across the border. David Grosz died at the end of 2018 and could be considered one of the founding fathers of RS. Owain Bristow died in September 2020 in a climbing accident. Messages of condolences were sent to all the families.
- 1.5 Alison reminded the attendees that the AGM business was being recorded and also provided guidance in relation to how to interact during the meeting using the chat function. Attendees were also encouraged to share their thoughts about the meeting via Twitter using the hashtag: #RamblersSC21.
- 1.6 The final request for nominations for ordinary membership of SCEC was announced, noting the closing time of 10.30am this morning.

2 QUESTIONS AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

(Paper 02)

- 2.1 Alison introduced Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland, and invited questions regarding the annual report. Brendan noted that he would normally highlight particular points from the relevant year, 2019-2020, and this would be undertaken during the afternoon session but he was happy to answer any questions now.
- 2.2 There were no questions and the acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by Bekah Cork (member of Glasgow Young Walkers) and seconded by Douglas Tullis (member of the Edinburgh Group).

3 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY OFFICERS (Paper 03)

- 3.1 Alison confirmed that one nomination for the post of convener had been received and that she remains as convener. One nomination for the post of treasurer had been received and Alistair Cant remains in this post. No nominations had been received for the post of vice convener which is therefore vacant.
- 3.2 Alison confirmed that Lucy Wallace remained as RS president and Ben Dolphin, Dennis Canavan, John Holms and Andrew Murray our vice presidents. It was noted that Cameron McNeish had effectively retired and has stepped down from his role as one of the vice presidents of RS.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
president	Lucy Wallace	Douglas Tullis	Beth Dickson
vice president	Dennis Canavan	Douglas Tullis	Beth Dickson
vice president	Ben Dolphin	Douglas Tullis	Beth Dickson
vice president	John Holms	Douglas Tullis	Beth Dickson
vice president	Andrew Murray	Douglas Tullis	Beth Dickson
convener	Alison Mitchell	David Fenlon	Jane Catto
vice convener	Vacant		
treasurer	Alistair Cant	Douglas Tullis	John Holms

4 FORMAL BUSINESS

- 4.1 No apologies had been received for attendance at the AGM and 70 individuals had registered to attend.
- 4.2 **APPROVAL OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2020 MINUTE**
(Paper 04)
Alison sought approval of the Scottish Council 2020 minute. Jim Forret was the proposer (representing Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside Area) and Douglas Tullis the seconder (Edinburgh Group).

5 UPDATE ON 2020 MOTIONS

Alison reminded delegates that there were no motions submitted to Scottish Council in 2020.

6 STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL AND GATHERING ACCOUNTS

(Papers 05 & 06)

- 6.1 Alistair Cant, honorary treasurer, provided details of the income and expenditure of the Scottish Council 2019-2020 audited accounts (Paper 05). The main change within the 2019-2020 income and expenditure accounts was the re-adjustment on spend in relation to training for Areas and Groups and also the Walk Leadership project. The balance being carried forward to 2020-2021 was almost £2,900. Since April 2020 there had been no physical meetings for the Scottish Council Executive Committee (SCEC) thereby saving costs.
- 6.2 In relation to the Scottish Ramblers Gathering Accounts (Paper 06), Alistair noted that it had been the intention to hold the Gathering in May 2020 but this had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions. The accounts show a sum relating to a small number of registration fees for the Gathering which were refunded but the registration fees for most individuals will be carried forward. A balance needs to be carried forward so that the Gathering can be planned for next year and to pay in advance for items such as coaches and hotel deposits.
- 6.3 Alistair noted that both Accounts had been independently examined and thanked the examiners for their work.
- 6.4 A question was raised in relation to online learning. Brendan offered to answer this question. Brendan noted that there were two ways in which the resources were being co-ordinated. It was noted that RS, particularly John Nicholls, was working with Ramblers GB to create a range of sessions, including a Walk Leadership package where basic issues are the same across GB. The second package of sessions is being delivered by the team in Scotland. This continues with the Walk Leadership conversations, as well as policy and advocacy work and capacity building training for Groups including treasurer's training.
- 6.5 There were no other questions. The acceptance of the Scottish Council accounts and the Ramblers Gathering accounts was proposed by Mike Gray (representing Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside Area) and seconded by David Webb (Edinburgh Young Walkers).

7 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND FINANCES REPORT

(Paper 07)

- 7.1 Alistair thanked the staff at Ramblers GB for compiling the Scottish Council summary report and noted that the Ramblers GB Accounts had still had to be audited. Alistair noted that the accounts included items specific to Scotland, including expenditure for SCEC and Scottish Council and income from membership and donations. Income has increased as has expenditure but the latter to a lesser extent. Some of the projects being undertaken by RS also have external funding, including the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL). £16,000 was also received by Ramblers GB in government grants in relation to the furlough scheme.

- 7.2 Alistair noted that the second page of the report contained income and expenditure in relation to Ramblers GB as a whole. A surplus of £966,000 was noted which relates to income from the PPL and different accounting years. Alistair noted that there had been considerable work done to turn the Ramblers GB finances around. Although the RGB financial report has not yet been audited, it provides an important context for RS finances. Alistair then invited questions.
- 7.3 One question was asked by a delegate in relation to how the deficit was covered. Alistair explained that the deficit includes an allocation of Ramblers GB central costs to RS, as we are part of a wider organisation. Ramblers GB made almost a £1,000,000 surplus in 2019/2020 and some of this money is invested in RS.
- 7.4 Alison thanked Alistair for his work on the accounts and also his reports.

8 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

- 8.1 The appointment of Paul Kenny as the independent examiner for Scottish Council accounts was noted. The appointment of David Fenlon as the independent examiner for the Scottish Ramblers Gathering accounts was noted. Scottish Council accepted both appointments.

9 ELECTIONS SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MOTIONS COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Alison noted that five nominations had been received from individuals wishing to return to SCEC for the year 2021/2022. These are: Bekah Cork, Beth Dickson, Elly Macdonald, Andrea Steel and David Webb. In addition, two nominations have been received from candidates seeking membership of SCEC: Muriel Kirkwood and Sue Thomas. There were therefore 7 nominations received by the stated closing date for SCEC ordinary membership, so no election was necessary.
- 9.2 Alistair clarified that the vice convener post remains vacant and SCEC can seek to fill this place. Also, there are up to three positions available through co-option.
- 9.3 Alison welcomed Muriel and Sue to SCEC. It was also noted that Douglas Tullis had served on SCEC for four and a half years. He had played a significant part in the constitutional review working group. Jay Wilson was also standing down, as was Mike Morris from the Blairgowrie Group, who was remaining as Chair of Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside Area. Jay Wilson would continue as a member of the access sub committee.
- 9.4 In relation to the Motions Committee, Barry Pottle, James Bennet and Liz Hunt had submitted nomination forms. As three positions are available on this committee and no other nominations had been received, no election was necessary.

10 APPROVAL OF MOTIONS ORDER PAPER (Paper 10a)

- 10.1 The convener of the Motions Committee, Barry Pottle, introduced the Final Motions Order Paper.
- 10.2 Barry confirmed that no amendments had been received to the four motions and no late motions had been received. He stated that if there was considerable debate around the four motions, then the motions section of the agenda could be extended to run until 1.45pm.

- 10.3 Barry noted that he would encourage members to think well in advance if they are considering submitting a motion to Scottish Council and to consult with their Ramblers Group and Area. Barry stated that the Motions Committee is happy to assist with the wording of motions.
- 10.4 Alison thanked Barry for presenting the Motions Order Paper and no comments were received from delegates.
- 10.5 The Motions Order Paper was duly accepted by Scottish Council.

11 MOTIONS

11.1 Motion 1 – submitted by Douglas Tullis and Alistair Cant, members of SCEC

- 11.1.1 Alison called on the proposer Douglas Tullis, a member of SCEC, to present the motion. The motion stated:

To amend the Constitution of Ramblers Scotland as follows:

- 1. Three yearly election and six year maximum terms for SCEC members*
- 2. Three yearly election for all honorary officers and six year maximum terms for the vice-convenor and honorary treasurer*

Douglas noted that, at the present time, all members of SCEC are elected for one year, with the exception of, the president and the convenor. Douglas also noted that the audit of RS appointed by sportscotland and undertaken in 2020 by KPMG in order to determine the extent to which governance arrangements were suitable to safeguard public investment, were critical of the election of members to SCEC on an annual basis. KPMG stated that posts should be for a longer but fixed term, to ensure an appropriate level of continuity but also the regular refreshing of the committee. Douglas noted that funding bodies also require the assurance of good governance within charities.

Douglas continued by noting that SCEC established a Constitution Working Group to examine the current Scottish Council constitution and to recommend improvements. The recommendations were circulated to all Groups and Areas for comments. Once the comments were assessed, the recommendations were put forward formally to the Ramblers GB Board of Trustees. The recommendations were approved by the Board of Trustees and would come into effect immediately if passed by Scottish Council.

- 11.1.2 The motion was seconded by Alistair Cant.
- 11.1.3 Barry Pottle stated that he wished to speak in a personal capacity, not as convenor of the Motions Committee. He felt that both three yearly election and maximum terms were a denial of democracy.
- 11.1.4 Alison invited discussion from the delegates. One delegate, who stated that she was 'for' the motion, noted that the three year terms of office would allow SCEC members to oversee particular RS objectives and to monitor progress over this period of time.

Douglas noted that he disagreed with Barry's arguments.

- Vote - The motion passed successfully. There were 2 votes against the motion and 3 abstentions.

11.2 **Motion 2 – submitted by Douglas Tullis and Alistair Cant, members of SCEC**

11.2.1 Alison called on the proposer Douglas Tullis, a member of SCEC, to present the motion. The motion stated:

To amend the Constitution and Standing Orders of Ramblers Scotland as follows:

- 1. Abolition of requirement for 12 months membership of Ramblers Scotland to stand for election to SCEC and provision to require that the convener, vice-convener and honorary treasurer be members*
- 2. Allowance of Proxy Votes at Annual and Special General Meetings*
- 3. To enable Scottish Council to meet electronically*
- 4. To abolish the current limits on the number of motions that can be proposed by the same proposers*
- 5. To clarify the power of SCEC to fill casual vacancies among the honorary officers and its elected membership*
- 6. To enable SCEC to meet electronically*

Douglas drew the attention of delegates to the details of these proposals in their Scottish Council papers. As had happened with Motion 1, these recommendations had been circulated to all Groups and Areas for comments. Once the comments were assessed, the recommendations were put forward formally to the Ramblers GB Board of Trustees. The recommendations were approved by the Board of Trustees and would come into effect immediately if passed by Scottish Council.

Douglas advised that all the amendments to the Constitution and Standing Orders should be approved, or rejected, in total. Motions 1 and 2 are part of a longer list of updates required to the Constitution and Standing Orders.

11.2.2 The motion was seconded by Alistair Cant. There were no questions or comments.

Vote - The motion passed successfully. There were no votes against the motion and 2 abstentions.

11.3 **Motion 3 – submitted by Alison Mitchell and Jay Wilson, members of SCEC**

11.3.1 Alison temporarily handed over the chairing of the meeting to Alistair Cant. Alistair called on the proposer, Alison Mitchell, to present the motion. The motion stated:

To amend the Constitution and Standing Orders of Ramblers Scotland as follows:

Omit the words ‘Scottish Council Executive Committee’ and the acronym ‘SCEC’ wherever they appear in both the Constitution and Standing Orders and respectively substitute ‘Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee’ and ‘RSSC’.

Alison noted that this change in name would make the role of the committee clearer, stressing the importance of its oversight of RS's strategic objectives and the devolution agreement, which permits the pursuing of specific objectives in Scotland by RS. The change of name had been put forward formally to the Ramblers GB Board of Trustees and had been approved and would come into effect immediately if passed by Scottish Council.

11.3.2 Alistair invited discussion from the delegates. A delegate stated her congratulations on all the work done on the motions. Another delegate noted that he did not think that a change of name for the committee would make a dramatic difference in relation to the awareness of the committee and the role it plays.

11.3.3 The motion was seconded by Jay Wilson.

Vote - The motion passed successfully. There were no votes against the motion and 7 abstentions.

11.4 Motion 4 – submitted by John Holms and Cameron McNeish, both vice presidents

11.4.1 Alison called on the proposer John Holms, one of Ramblers Scotland's vice presidents, to present the motion. The motion stated:

This Scottish Council is very concerned at the failure of many access authorities in Scotland to carry out their duties and responsibilities to uphold access rights, including those established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Scottish Council instructs the SCEC to work with staff and volunteers to:

- a. Build up our capacity within RS especially its members to counter such undermining of our access rights;*
- b. Press the Board of Trustees to increase the RS staff capacity dealing with access issues as soon as resources permit;*
- c. Continue to develop our links with other Scottish organisations, individuals and Government to ensure our valuable access rights are protected and promoted.*

John Holms noted that he has spent several years on RS's Access sub committee. He noted that no other country has such a substantial framework through which access to the countryside can be secured, including the 2003 Land Reform (Scotland) Act, as well as the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. He stated that there had been massive cuts in the number of Access Officers within local authorities across Scotland. Local authorities were also reluctant to go through the courts to enforce access rights. It was considered essential that a full time Access Officer post was secured for RS. This would also provide a good opportunity to help land managers to develop biodiversity within the landscapes that they manage and other issues.

11.4.2 Alison invited discussion from the delegates. It was noted by a delegate that local authorities only seem to use parts of the Act to stop access to certain areas, for example, when roadworks are planned.

It was noted by a member of RSSC that Access Officers are employed by local authorities and their staff are accountable to councillors. Local elections will be taking place this May and this is an opportunity to press for change.

Another member of RSSC stated that the two aspects of this motion contained in parts (a) and (c) are crucial to take forward, rather than part (b), which was considered unrealistic at the present time.

Other delegates spoke about the need to be 'creative' in terms of accessing funding for new posts, whilst another delegate stated that existing resources could be used to support path networks.

11.4.3 The motion had been seconded by Cameron McNeish.

Vote - The motion passed unanimously.

12 CLOSING REMARKS

- 12.1 Alison invited Kate Ashbrook, chair of the Board of Trustees, to provide closing remarks.

Kate noted that RSSC is now composed mainly of women and it is also notable that there is an increase in younger members of the committee. Ramblers GB has continued to support RS as a whole and this has enabled the three constitutional motions to be progressed, and then approved, at Scottish Council this year.

Kate thanked all the RS staff for their preparations for the Scottish Council AGM meeting. She also noted how the staff have continued to keep the membership engaged whilst walking activities have been severely curtailed or stopped and that the situation in Scotland, despite the limitations, is positive and welcoming.

- 12.2 It was noted by Alison that this year's Scottish Council was the first to be held on-line and she hoped that everyone would feel educated, inspired and re-energised by the end of Scottish Council.

It was also noted that Ramblers Scotland had taken a significant step forward in relation to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion issues by organising the presentation of this year's Dick Balharry Memorial Talk by Pammy Johal of Backbone, which had taken place on Friday 26 February. Alison also stressed the importance of Ramblers Scotland linking with other organisations, in order to focus more on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion issues.

Mention was made of the afternoon session which would include a series of presentations focusing on volunteer and Group successes, achieved since Scottish Council in 2020.

Alison thanked Scottish Council's guests Kate Ashbrook, chair of the Board of Trustees, and Ronnie Forbes, Board of Trustees and Chris Hodgson, chair of the Welsh Council Executive Committee.

The date of the next Scottish Council in 2022 will be Saturday 5 March.

Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland, also noted his thanks to the Ramblers Scotland staff in the chat section of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm

SUCCESS OF THE YEAR

2.00PM

13 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland, welcomed everyone to the afternoon session and explained the protocol for engagement via the chat section. Brendan noted that it was hoped that there would be a genuine dialogue and engagement during the session.

97 people had registered to attend the afternoon session.

14 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND – OUR YEAR

Brendan spoke about the importance of resilience when people are up against serious situations. He noted that he had previously worked for major international disaster response charities and he stressed the importance of family, friends and community contributing towards resilience in very difficult times and noted that the same was true of Ramblers Scotland. Many individuals had made sacrifices to support each other.

In less than a month after Scottish Council 2020 in North Berwick, the country was affected by lockdown. Enabling people to get outdoors was essential for health and wellbeing and this did put RS in the spotlight. RS was keen to work with other organisations from the baseline of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Brendan noted that 86% of RS Groups had returned to organising walks for their members by autumn 2020. He also noted that a number of Zoom meetings had been arranged by the RS team to find out the concerns and problems that the membership had been experiencing after resuming led walks. It was noted that there were formalities that had to be put in place to permit the resumption of led walks, including a formal risk assessment.

Brendan then discussed the appointment of Lucy Wallace as the first woman president of RS. Lucy's 'lockdown diary' has had tens of thousands of views on social media.

Brendan also noted the successful opposition to the development of a golf course at Coul Links, which would have had a significantly detrimental effect on rare plant life and the sand dunes themselves.

It was noted that RS Groups had been very creative in relation to how they engaged with their members during lockdown. This included Linlithgow Ramblers and the virtual climbing of a Munro on your household stairs.

Many new online learning opportunities have been launched by RS including a walk leadership e-learning package, policy and access workshops and treasurer's training.

Mapping Scotland's Paths had not been affected so much during lockdown. The project had highlighted that there were more than twice as many paths on the ground than were recorded on OS maps in parts of the pilot area.

The Remote and Rural working group had shown that although most Groups in these places were thriving, certain Areas were struggling. Brendan assured groups and volunteers that they will be able to obtain support from RS no matter how extensive the Area is and stressed the importance of welcoming new members.

It was also noted that RS is working with environmental charities in relation to areas where there was friction or damage caused to the countryside in relation to outdoor recreation. RS was looking at championing, along with other member organisations of the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance, the need to pursue investment in infrastructure in the countryside.

Brendan also highlighted the first ever Scottish National Walking Awards which would be announced in May, as well as the Ramblers Routes Competition, encouraging individuals to submit routes across Scotland that they know well.

15 OUT THERE AWARD

Sam Knight, young adult development officer

Passport to the outdoors

Sam noted that the two main barriers to accessing the outdoors were not knowing where to go and not having anyone to go with.

Prior to the Covid restrictions, the Out There Award was a three, non-consecutive, day course. Day one covered navigation training, equipment, safety on the hills and how to plan a walk. The second challenge day asked the group to plan and manage a walk and the third day involved volunteering work with an outdoor organisation.

In 2020, once restrictions permitted outdoor walks, the three days of training were cut back to two and both days were held entirely out of doors. Sam stressed the importance of the health and wellbeing of young people and providing a safe environment, once the opportunity arose to resume group walks with fewer individuals participating.

Opportunities had arisen, pre Covid restrictions, to work with NHS Lanarkshire and also the National Deaf Children's Society which Sam is now progressing.

Additional plans include providing the Out There Award training in the Tayside area and, once Covid restrictions permit, the training will be available across Scotland. There are also plans to work with Universities and Colleges with discussions underway with Queen Margaret University.

A short video clip from Flavia, Inverness Young Walkers, was shown as part of Sam's presentation. After completing the Out There Award, Flavia then had the opportunity to engage with a network of young walkers and she became a member of the newly formed Inverness Young Walkers.

16 VOLUNTEER AND GROUP SUCCESSES

16.1 Out There Every Day

Lucy Wallace, Ramblers Scotland president

Lucy discussed how she set herself a challenge at the start of November to get outside every day. It all started with a tweet using the hashtag: #outsideeveryday, which she is continuing to use. Lucy noted that she had been interviewed by the Scottish TV news programme, The Nine and was able to share some of the photos from her own followers. Lucy also noted that, living on Arran, she was grateful having such beautiful scenery right on her doorstep.

16.2 Walking with clients during lockdown and becoming a Ramblers walk leader

Jarka Polednova, walk leader, Tayside Young Walkers and Dundee Ramblers

Jarka noted that she, along with her clients, were all seriously missing going out on longer walks during 'lockdown'. Also, walk leaders in her Dundee Ramblers Group were not keen to re-start walks even with the safeguards that RS had put in place. As Jarka was building up her skills as a walk leader, she noted how very supportive other walk leaders were in her Group, sharing their own skills and knowledge.

16.3 Access sub committee update

Douglas Tullis, former member of the Scottish Council Executive Committee (SCEC) and the Access sub committee

Douglas stated that, currently, the Access sub committee consists of three Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee (RSSC) members and three non RSSC members. If anyone was thinking of joining the Access sub committee then they should contact Ramblers Scotland.

Douglas noted that it seemed incredible that almost 20 years after the Land Reform (Scotland) Act of 2003, that there were still many access issues causing problems for walkers across Scotland. This was illustrated with a photograph of a 'no entry private garden sign' which was encountered on an estate along the edge of the River Tay. It is RS's view that access rights do apply to this estate. It is important that RS challenges signs and notices like this, engages with the relevant local authority, and also other organisations when appropriate, such as Scotways.

In areas where building or construction work is taking place, physical barriers can prevent walkers from accessing core paths and restrictions can be proposed by building firms to remain in place for years rather than months.

Douglas noted that RS had received 44 access enquiries during the first 'lockdown' period between March and June 2020. Emergency Closure Request legislation due to Covid-19 was being used by landowners to prevent access to estates and golf courses.

Douglas stressed the importance of volunteers becoming involved in local access forums to make their voice heard. Douglas asked Helen Todd, campaigns & policy manager, if role descriptions for volunteers could be drafted in relation to addressing access issues both at Group and at Area level. Helen noted that policy workshops and also access workshops run by RS were available on-line.

16.4 Joan's last Munro - #hikethehoose!

Elaine Shepherd, publicity officer, Linlithgow Ramblers

Elaine spoke about Joan 'hiking' up and down the stairs in her house to the 'equivalent' height of Beinn na Lap, Joan's 282nd, and last, Munro. As well as Joan, 12 others took part in their own houses and all 'climbs' were devised according to Covid guidelines. Nearly £2,500 was raised for Scottish Mountain Rescue.

16.5 Launching a new group during lockdown

Eve Smillie, co-ordinator Inverness Young Walkers

Eve noted that when she moved to Inverness last year, Jeannie Cranfield, RS's delivery officer, asked her if she would help to launch a Young Walkers Group in Inverness. Covid-19 pushed back the launch of the Group until September 2020. Eve stated that there were now 19 members in their Group, including 7 walk leaders. Two members of the Group had joined after achieving their Out There Award.

The Group were careful to follow all the advice given by RS in relation to the Covid restrictions, including attending Covid officer training. They were able to organise a wide variety of walks. These included a mid-week social 'after dark' walk particularly important for those working from home, themed walks including Christmas night walks and walk 'roulette' where each member was matched with a different person each week to map out a walk and to see the landscape with fresh eyes.

Eve finished by noting how important those in the Group were to her personally.

Brendan noted in the chat section that, according to current legislation, it would be April 26 at the earliest before it would be possible to start group walks again within the limitations of Covid restrictions.

17 Other questions

Question in chat relating to Mapping Scotland's Paths

One of the delegates asked how the Mapping Scotland's Paths information would be made available to everyone. Brendan responded by stating that this project is asking volunteers to audit existing paths and record new paths, in their local area, across Scotland. In summer / autumn time, it is expected that information will be available as a digital resource covering particular areas of Scotland. Everyone will be able to access the data. The data can be used by others to create different on-line tools. RS is currently investigating additional funding sources so that the project can continue.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm.

Minute compiled by Hildegard Berwick, governance and events administrator.
13 April 2021

This Minute of Scottish Council 2021 were formally approved at Scottish Council 2022
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