

SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2022

RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2022 MINUTE OF THE THIRTY FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING Held on Saturday 05 March 2022 via video conference

AGM BUSINESS

10.00am

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Convener, Alison Mitchell, welcomed everyone to Scottish Council 2022.
- 1.2. The Convener's opening remarks included thanks to Walk Leaders who have continued on through the pandemic, to acknowledge staff and volunteers who make Ramblers membership a great experience. The Convener acknowledged the successful campaigning throughout the year in partnership with several organisations.
- 1.3. The Convener thanked all the Ramblers Scotland staff for their work on the preparations for the AGM and acknowledged the inspirational Dick Balharry Memorial talk that took place on 04 March 2022, presented by Andrew Painting and Dr Shaila Rao of Mar Lodge.
- 1.4. The Convener thanked the retiring Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant and acknowledged his dedicated service of over twenty-five years.
- 1.5. A warm welcome was extended to guests Rebecca Dawson, Ronnie Forbes and Kate Ashbrook from the Board of Trustees.
- 1.6. The Convener noted the deadline for receiving nomination forms was 10:30am.
- 1.7. The Convener noted the apologies from interim CEO Tanya Curry, Advocacy and Engagement Manager Tom Platt, RSSC President Lucy Wallace, RSSC Vice Presidents; Dennis Canavan, Andrew Murray and Ben Dolphin.

2. RAMBLERS SCOTLAND – Our Year

- 2.1. The Convener invited the Director of Scotland, Brendan Paddy, to present an update on 'our year'.
- 2.2. The Director of Scotland thanked all volunteers and in particular Walk Leaders for their resilience in keeping walks going throughout the last year.
- 2.3. The Director of Scotland provided an overview of the recovery process from the pandemic and the evident signs of growth. It was noted that membership is now higher than pre-pandemic levels, this creates an opportunity for more people to get involved. It was reported that some Walk Leaders had not returned to leading walks and the Director of Scotland appealed for all volunteers to update Assemble if they had retired from being a Walk Leader. Using online platforms has been instrumental in delivering training and there had been a marked increase in interest for training as it moved away from being 'classroom' based.
- 2.4. Brendan acknowledged the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we operate constitutionally and to evolve where required. The work of the Remote and Rural group was acknowledged.

- 2.5. Brendan provided an update on 'Helping everyone find their feet' and reported on the successes of the Walk Leadership and Out There Award initiatives.
- 2.6. Brendan provided an update on 'A Scotland designed for walking' and noted the increase in Scottish Government budgets for active travel and physical activity funding.
- 2.7. There are six Scottish Government partners with whom Ramblers Scotland are working alongside on the Responsible Access video campaign. Brendan acknowledged the work that Campaigns and Policy manager, Helen Todd was involved in around the Holyrood elections last May. One or more of the proposals put forward had been included in every party manifesto and it was noted that this level of engagement was rare.
- 2.8. Brendan reported on the current ongoing campaigns; Dalwhinnie level crossing and Glenborrodale had raised much interest. The Glenborrodale fundraising initiative had been very successful.
- 2.9. Brendan provided an update on Mapping Scotland's Paths and the ongoing success of the project. The detailed information that has been gathered allows people to plan walks that are suitable for them. It was noted that 150 volunteers were involved in the project by September 2021.
- 2.10. Brendan encouraged the Council and all volunteers to be more active on Access issues to allow everyone in Scotland to enjoy the outdoors. Notes of interest should be submitted to either the Director of Scotland or the Convener.
- 2.11. The Convener invited questions on the 'our year' update. There were none.

3. QUESTIONS AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

- 3.1 The Convener invited members of the Council to comment on the Annual Report (SC22 02). There were no comments.
- 3.2 The Annual Report was adopted by the Council.

4. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT(S) AND HONORARY OFFICERS

- 4.1. The Convener paid tribute to retiring Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant. It was confirmed that Alistair had been nominated as Vice President (paper SC22 03). There being no opposition, he was declared elected.
- 4.2. The Convener confirmed that one nomination for the post of Treasurer had been received. Mike Gray was confirmed as the incoming Honorary Treasurer (paper SC22 03). There being no opposition, he was declared elected. The Convener welcomed Mike to his new role.
- 4.3. It was reported that no nominations had been received for the post of Vice Convener. RSSC would appoint a committee member to this role on an interim basis. The Convener thanked Bekah Cork for her service to RSSC as Vice Convener.
- 4.4. The Convener announced the appointment of the Independent Examiners:
Scottish Council Accounts: Charles Harris and Scottish Ramblers Gathering Accounts: David Fenlon

5. FORMAL BUSINESS

- 5.1. The Convener expressed condolences on the sad deaths of Brian MacGilvray and Isobel Wilson.

6. APPROVAL OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2021 MINUTE

- 6.1. Alison sought approval of the Scottish Council 2021 minute (paper SC22 04).
- 6.2. The minute was approved subject to corrections at points 11.1.3 and 11.1.4 outlined by Barry Pottle. Formal approval of the minute was proposed by Mike Gray and seconded by David McCrossan.

7. UPDATE ON 2021 MOTIONS

- 7.1. The Convener noted the paper on actions taken on the motions presented to Scottish Council 2021 (paper SC22 05)
- 7.2. The Convener invited questions or comments on the paper. There were none.

8. STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL AND GATHERING ACCOUNTS

- 8.1. The Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant, presented the income and expenditure accounts of the Scottish Council (Oct 2020- Sept 2021) audited accounts (paper SC22 06a).
- 8.2. An update was provided on the General Accounts. It was noted that there were no travel or meeting costs incurred during the period. The Treasurer reported a surplus with a current balance of £3500. No bids were submitted for more funds due to the healthy bank balance.
- 8.3. An update was provided on the Gathering accounts. It was noted that there was no activity in the period.
- 8.4. The Honorary Treasurer invited questions on the accounts. It was noted that the allocation of funds to the General account comes from Ramblers GB and was assessed annually.
- 8.5. The Honorary Treasurer sought approval of the Scottish Council and Gathering accounts. Formal approval of the accounts was proposed by Karine Davison and seconded by Alan Watt.

9. RAMBLERS SCOTLAND FINANCE REPORT

- 9.1 The Honorary Treasurer noted the summary report of Ramblers Scotland finances prepared by the Ramblers GB finance team. (Paper SC22 06b). The report covered the income, expenditure and costs of Ramblers Scotland activities as well as those of Ramblers GB. It was noted that the Ramblers GB Annual Report would be published in April 2022 and would include further information on the finances.
- 9.2 Alistair was asked about training: where is this accounted for in the documents? It was noted that most training was in-house with no costs involved. Staff training would come under staff expenditure.
- 9.3 Alistair was asked about legacy donations: do these come direct to Scotland? It was noted that legacy donations are collected in a central fund of which Scotland will receive a share, unless expressly stipulated by the donor.
- 9.4 Alistair was asked about the legal fund. It was noted that Ramblers Scotland has access to up to £25,000 each year towards legal costs. Any projected costs over that amount goes to the Board of Trustees for approval. It was noted that campaigns can offset legal costs through fundraising.

10. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

- 10.1. The Honorary Treasurer and Convener thanked the retiring Independent Examiner, Paul Kenny for his service to Ramblers Scotland and for ensuring the finance accounts for General funds were independently examined.

11. ELECTIONS RAMBLERS SCOTLAND STRATEGIC COMMITTEE AND MOTIONS COMMITTEE

- 11.1. The Convener announced the nominations for Ordinary members to the RSSC. These are David Rennie - Dundee Group and Emma Corcoran - Edinburgh Young Walkers (paper SC22 07a). There is no requirement for an election as there are more vacancies than nominations and therefore the Convener formally welcomed David and Emma to the committee.
- 11.2. The Convener announced the nominations received for members of the Motions Committee (paper SC22 07b). Barry Pottle, James Bennett and Liz Hunt would continue on as the Motions Committee members.
- 11.3. The Convener thanked the members of the RSSC who were standing down, these included Andrea Steel, Muriel Kirkwood, Elly MacDonald and Bekah Cork. It was noted that Bekah Cork was standing for election at General Council in April to join the Board of Trustees. Bekah thanked Ramblers Scotland for their support during her tenure on RSSC and invited members to support her nomination to the Board of Trustees at General Council in April.
- 11.4. The Convener noted those RSSC members continuing on the committee (paper SC22 B)

12. APPROVAL OF MOTIONS ORDER PAPER

- 12.1 The Convener of the Motions Committee, Barry Pottle, explained the role of the Motions Committee.
- 12.2 It was noted that the Motions Committee were an independent body. The Convener of the Motions Committee encouraged members to submit nominations to join the Motions Committee and also encouraged members to submit motions to Scottish Council 2023.
- 12.3 It was confirmed that no late amendments had been submitted. The Convener of the Motions Committee acknowledged receipt of the Constitutional Motion and amendment (paper SC22 08a) and invited discussion.
- 12.4 The Motions Order Paper (paper SC22 08a) was accepted by Scottish Council.

13. MOTIONS

- 13.1 **Constitutional Motion – submitted by Alistair Cant and Mike Gray members of RSSC**
- 13.2 Alison called on the proposer Alistair Cant. Alistair provided some background to the motion and the amendment submitted to Scottish Council. This motion proposes to replace its current Constitution and Standing Orders with the new versions (paper SC22 09b and 09d). The changes are mainly minor and a tidying-up exercise summarised as follows:
- Allowing RSSC to delegate powers formally to a Sub-Committee;
 - A new clause providing for a 'motion of no confidence' in the existing RSSC members which if passed would cause them all to vacate office immediately;
 - Allowing the Convener to give more time for people speaking on a motion;
 - Moving the procedures for Motions to the Standing Orders.

13.3 Amendment to the Constitutional Motion – submitted by Alistair Cant and Mike Gray members of RSSC

13.4 Alison called on the proposer Alistair Cant. Alistair summarised the amendment to give clarity about who can be nominated to stand for election and also to clarify that representatives of affiliated organisations can stand for the RSSC, subject to there not being more than two such persons in total at any one time (see clause 4.3).

13.5 Members were invited to discuss the motion and amendment.

13.6 Scottish Council voted on the substantive Motion, a 2/3rd's majority voted in favour. It was clarified by the Convener of the Motions Committee that there was no requirement to vote on the amendment since it had been submitted by the proposers of the main motion.

13.7 Voting results were as follows:

Agree: 41 votes (including 1 Proxy vote)

Reject: 1 vote

Abstain: 4 votes

13.8 The Constitutional Motion and amendment were passed. The Constitution would be updated and published soon after the closing of Scottish Council 2022.

13.9 It was noted that the Constitutional Working Group would be disbanded following this Scottish Council - the work on the Constitution was considered complete.

14. CLOSING REMARKS

The Convener invited the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rebecca Dawson to present her closing remarks.

Rebecca thanked the Council for their invitation to attend the meeting. This was the first Scottish Council she had attended and found the format very interesting. Rebecca acknowledges the work that is being done in Ramblers Scotland in delivering the charitable objectives. She expressed her gratitude, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to the Scottish Council and Staff for all their hard work. Rebecca commended the 'Helping everyone find their feet' initiatives and particularly the 'Out There Award', as a shining example of how to engender a passion for the outdoors in young people.

Rebecca also commended all the Campaign work being done in Scotland and across our three nations. We can learn a lot from each other.

Rebecca thanked Alistair Cant for his service as Honorary Treasurer and hopes his input will continue in his role as Vice President.

Rebecca acknowledged the Access rights that we have in Scotland and these should never be taken for granted. Rebecca emphasised the importance of the three nations working in synergy for the benefit of all walkers.

The Convener thanked the delegates for attending the AGM and reminded those who had registered for the launch of the Shared Learning Groups that this session starts at 2pm.

The Convener thanked Claire Exley for preparing the papers for the meeting with help from the staff team.

The Director of Scotland reminded delegates that although registration had closed for General Council applications for proxy voting on Motions and Elections were still open.

The Convener looks forward to meeting in-person going forward and the proposed date for the next Scottish Council is Saturday 04 March 2023. It is hoped that meeting in-person would encourage more delegates to register and to take an interest in the business of the Council.

The Convener invited Kate Ashbrook to present closing remarks.

Kate Ashbrook, former Chair of the Board of Trustees and current board member, thanked the Council for a very informative meeting. Kate congratulated Ramblers Scotland on a terrific year of work. All three nations can learn from sharing good practise and need to work together. Kate emphasised that the charitable objectives should be the priority. Kate will remain active across the three nations and looks forward to continuing to help make Ramblers the organisation that people come to when they want to know about walking and campaigning for access.

The Convener noted that the new Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee will meet at 12:30pm and declared Scottish Council AGM 2022 closed.

Minute compiled by Claire Exley, Governance and Events Administrator, 15 March 2022.

This Minute of Scottish Council 2022 approved at Scottish Council 2023

APPENDIX

Attendance at Scottish Council 2022

Name		Affiliation	Representing Area	Representing Group
Brendan	Paddy	Non voting staff		
Jeannie	Cranfield	Non voting staff		
Claire	Exley	Non voting staff		
Kate	Ashbrook	Non voting guest		
Rebecca	Dawson	Non voting guest		
Alison	Mitchell	RSSC		
Alistair	Cant	RSSC		
Bekah	Cork	RSSC		
Beth	Dickson	RSSC		
David	Webb	RSSC		
Elly	Macdonald	RSSC		
Michael	Gray	RSSC		
Muriel	Kirkwood	RSSC		
Katharine	Taylor	ScotWays		
Sue	Thomas	RSSC		
Alan	Watt		North Strathclyde	
Angharad	Gibreel			Tayside
Anne	MacDonald			Aberdeen
Archie	Leishman			Strathkelvin
Barry	Pottle	Motions committee		
Christine	Copsey			Moray
Christine	Ferguson			Forfar and District
Darren	Jeffery			Edinburgh Young Walkers
Dave	Rennie			Dundee and District
David	McCrossan			Glasgow Young Walkers
Emma	Corcoran		Lothian and Borders	
Esther	Daborn			Biggar Ramblers
Fiona	Alexander			LB03 - Balerno
Jacqueline	Ritchie			Kinross & Ochil
James	Bennett	Motions committee		
James	Forret		Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside	
James	McLaughlin		Clydesdale to Solway	
Jane	Searles			Dalgety Bay Ramblers
Jane	Houston			St Andrews & North East Fife
Janice	Forrest			Cumbernauld & Kilsyth
Jay	Turner		Grampian	
John	Andrews			Perth & District
Karine	Davison			Bearsden & Milngavie
Linda	Robbie			BRECHIN
Liz	Hunt	Motions committee		
Margaret	Allan			East Lothian Ramblers & Hillwalkers
Martin	Blain			Inverclyde Ramblers
Neil	Cameron		Grampian	
Patricia	Schooling			Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire
Paula	Wise			Glasgow Group
Richard	Kay			Wigtownshire
Ronnie	Forbes			Lochaber and Lorn
Sally	Keen			Eildon Ramblers
Sara	Collier		Lothian and Borders	
Stuart	King		Clydesdale to Solway	
Vivienne	Pickering			Dumfries and District