

Minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting
Of the
Scottish Council of Ramblers Scotland 2025
Sat 15 March 2025, Merchants House of Glasgow

1. Welcome

The Convener, Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, welcomed delegates to Glasgow and to Scottish Council 2025.

He outlined the business for the day. He highlighted Ramblers' values which are inclusive, inspiring, empowering and responsible, with special emphasis on inclusivity for today.

He also introduced staff, the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee (RSSC), Vice Presidents Kate Ashbrook and Alistair Cant and from Ramblers GB, Board of Trustee's chair Lucy Robinson and CEO Ross Maloney.

Mal noted his pride in our 60th year, the 6 per cent growth in membership and 2,300 led walks. He also noted the sad passing of former Vice President John Holms.

He paid tribute to all volunteers, staff and trustees.

2. AGM formal business:

• RSSC election arrangements

The Convener set out the arrangements for nominations and elections to RSSC.

• SC25 01 Approval of draft minute of Scottish Council 2024

Approval was proposed by Terry Robinson and seconded by Karine Davison. There were no amendments. The minute was approved by delegates.

• SC25 02 Update on Motion at SC2024

Alistair Cant asked for an update on the motion from last year on the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill. Some information was in the AGM pack but Gavin Corbett added further details:

Stage 1 report likely to be issued on 20 March with stage 1 debate likely on 27 March

Stage 2 (detailed amendments) is likely from late April. Ramblers Scotland had been working with Revive and Community Land Scotland on amendments to reflect the motion for Scottish Council in 2024. The Scottish Land Commission had made similar recommendations in its advice to ministers.

Barry Pottle asked that a further update be given next year.

• SC25 03 Annual Report 2023/24

Annual report adopted by AGM

• SC25 04 Statement on Scottish Council and Gathering Accounts

Mike Gray outlined accounts. There were no questions. Proposed by Sue Thomas; seconded by Andrew Bachell. The Scottish Council & Gathering Accounts were adopted by the AGM.

• SC25 05 Summary of Ramblers Scotland finances 2023/24

No questions were raised.

• **SC25 06 Appointment of Independent Examiners, Hon Officers, RSSC**

Anne Macdonald for Gathering and Charles Harris for Scottish Council were approved

3. SC25 07 Nominee introductions

There were no further nominations from the floor

4. SC25 08 Announce Motions Committee

Barry Pottle outlined membership of motions committee and its role in overseeing the preparation and debate of motions.

SC25 09 Note and adopt motions order paper & vote on any motions received

This year there were 3 motions: 2 for Scottish Council and 1 to be submitted to General Council by RSSC, pending endorsement or amendment by Scottish Council.

All 3 motions were judged competent with 1 amendment accepted as competent.

There were no amendments to the Motions report. The motions order paper was adopted unanimously by Scottish Council

Motion 1

RS Diamond Jubilee. Alison Mitchell introduced the motion on behalf of Grampian Area and 60th anniversary committee.

“Scottish Council notes that this year marks our Diamond Jubilee, having been constituted as the Scottish Area in 1965, it also notes that the inaugural Scottish Council was held on Saturday 23rd February 1985 in Stirling. Working with environmental organisations and other recreational bodies and for the benefit of its members it has enhanced walking possibilities for all. It is hoped that this will continue to the Platinum Jubilee in 2035 and beyond.

Scottish Council further agrees to send, on behalf of the members in Scotland, best wishes and congratulations to their fellow members throughout Great Britain in the Association’s 90th anniversary. It is hoped that during the coming 10 years, until the centenary the Ramblers will be even more successful in all parts of Great Britain.”

There was a motion to Ramblers General Council in Liverpool in April 1965 to set up Ramblers Scotland as an area. Alison praised key volunteers and directors of these earlier years and noted that the bedrock of RS was its members.

Alison spoke to the motion and asked for it to be taken to General Council. It was seconded formally. No-one wished to speak against the motion, and it was passed without dissent

Motion 2

The Climate emergency motion plus amendment were taken together so debate was on amended version. Agreed by Scottish Council to take amended version

“This Scottish Council recognises that climate change, environmental and biodiversity degradation threaten the landscapes we cherish. To protect these areas, it is vital that Ramblers Scotland takes proactive systemic action on the climate emergency, aligning our mission with efforts to preserve and restore the environment and its natural inhabitants for future generations.

Accordingly, this Scottish Council calls on the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee to adopt policies which support climate action for members and staff activities addressing:

1. Acknowledgement and engagement with the Climate Emergency

2. Environmental Stewardship

3. Partnerships with Organisations

4. Visible Action and Advocacy

5. Monitoring and reporting on progress

Sue Thomas spoke to the motion as amended.

Sue urged Ramblers Scotland members to engage with climate and nature emergencies, working with others, recognising that the environment is where our activity takes place. Sue argued that we have a duty to leave that environment for future generations and therefore will present Ramblers Scotland as relevant to younger people.

In open debate:

David Kennedy spoke to the motion and the importance of carbon sinks, and the nature of tree planting.

There was a further question on what was meant by monitoring in the 5th point. In her right of reply, Sue said that the intention is to produce an impact report detailing some of our activity to address nature and climate emergencies.

Motion passed overwhelmingly

Motion 3

If passed RSSC will take it to General Council

Amended version being taken –

“This General Council recognises that climate emergency, environmental and biodiversity degradation threaten the landscapes we cherish. To protect these areas, it is vital that Ramblers takes proactive systemic action on the climate emergency, aligning our mission with efforts to preserve and restore the environment and its natural inhabitants for future generations.

Accordingly, this General Council calls on the Board of Trustees to propose amendments to the strategy to address these issues by the 2026 General Council AGM:

1. Acknowledgement and engagement with the Climate Emergency

2. Environmental Stewardship

3. Partnerships with Organisations

4. Visible Action and Advocacy

5. Monitoring and reporting on progress

Sue Thomas spoke briefly to the motion. There were no other speakers. The motion passed overwhelmingly

5. Election / voting RSSC and MC

The elections were not contested

Treasurer re-appointed: Mike Gray

Motions Committee: Barry Pottle, Liz Hunt, Alison Mitchell

AGM formally closed at 11.17am

Appendix – Voting delegates in attendance at Scottish Council 2025

Name		Representing
Trevor	Abell	Perth Ramblers
Kate	Ashbrook	Vice President
Andrew	Bachell	RSSC
Margaret	Baillie	Dunfermline & West Fife Ramblers
Evelyn	Batchen	Inverurie Ramblers
Ruth	Beddall	Kirkcaldy Ramblers
Edna	Burnett	Kinross & Ochil
Terry	Callow	Livingston Ramblers
Alistair	Cant	Vice President
David	Clark	Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire Ramblers
Karine	Davison	Bearsden & Milngavie Ramblers
Beth	Dickson	RSSC
Malcolm	Dingwall-Smith	Convener, RSSC
Allan	Drew	Forth Valley Ramblers
Yvonne	Flynn	Glasgow Ramblers/ Volunteer helper
Gary	Gibson	Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Ramblers
Annelie	Graham	Inverness Ramblers
Mike	Gray	RSSC
Jongky	Harlim	Balerno Ramblers
Liz	Hunt	Motions Committee
Claire	Hunter	Wigtownshire Ramblers
Lynn	Hyams	Edinburgh Ramblers
Ruth	Kerr	Eildon Ramblers
Arek	Kraszewski	Aberdeen Young Walkers
Liz	Lawlie	North Strathclyde Area
James	Lawson	Strathkelvin Ramblers
Alastair	Leaver	Biggar Ramblers
Anne	MacDonald	Grampian Area
Alison	Mitchell	Motions Committee
Barry	Pottle	Motions Committee
Jarka	Polednova	RSSC
Jim	Riddell	North Strathclyde Area
Barbara	Rimmington	Isle of Bute
Kate	Robertson	Midlothian Ramblers
Terry	Robinson	RSSC
Gordon	Stewart	Glasgow Young Walkers
Linda	Storie	Cunninghame Ramblers
Sue	Thomas	RSSC
Jacqui	Thomson	RSSC
Sheila	Wallace	Dundee Ramblers
Leen	Wallace-Vlaminck	Kilmarnock Ramblers
Alice	Wilson	Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers
Karl-Erik	Wilson	RSSC