

**Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 25 February 2019**

PRESENT

Elaine Maclean (Chairman), Phil McElroy (Secretary), Moira Allan (Treasurer)
Fiona Taylor, Peter Allan, Karine Davison, Imogen Johnstone, Hazel Miller, Sheila Crawford,
Pam Lee, Sue Swinson, Peter Bartos, Fiona Denman, Madeleine Blackley (Minute
Secretary)

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

1. APOLOGIES

Euan Kilpatrick

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were Accepted by HM and Seconded by KD

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair requested that the Minutes published on the Group website be identified as DRAFT until the Minutes were ratified.

Action : FD

4. REPORTS AS CIRCULATED AND

APPENDED Points discussed

Secretary's Report

The Secretary requested that if any Committee Member was not going to send in a Report, could they please let her know in advance of the meeting.

The Committee discussed the Training survey sent to volunteers by Ramblers Scotland. Several committee members had responded to the Survey.

The Group received first aid training by St Andrew's First Aid and in house training on navigation during 2018.

Action: SS to formally advise John Nicholls of training courses carried out by ourselves.

Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood – The Committee decided not to take advantage of the invitation to enter this competition.

Treasurer's Report

As the Group subsidises bus trips and several outings would involve longer journeys this year, it was agreed to increase charges to £11.00 for members and £12.00 for non members.

Programme Editor' Report

As discussed, the next programme would be four pages longer, to accommodate additional information, and it would be more costly, i.e.£7.

Access Officer's Report

Discussion took place over Scottish Water's pipe works, which will affect the Clyde Coastal Path as well as the Mugdock areas and the West Highland Way for some considerable time this year. More detail was required and the information would be shared with leaders and members via the website and the next programme.

Action : IJ to obtain more precise information.

Action : FD to update Breaking News.

Action : IJ to liaise with PL in order to update her on information obtained, in order that this disruption can be taken into account when planning walk routes.

Membership and Mailing Report

It was discussed that notification emails from Ramblers regarding new members were ceasing. As it was already extremely difficult for HM to get names, addresses, and other required details for the newly joined members, it was agreed that a notification should be put on the Ramblers website for new members to contact Bearsden & Milngavie Ramblers to advise them that they had joined our Group, giving all their contact details etc. This would enable HH to update her membership details.

Action : EM will contact Laura Scarlett (DDTP leader) to raise this matter with her.

As stamps prices are going up by 3p from 25 March, it was agreed that a further 300 stamps should be purchased now at a cost of £180.

Action : HM to purchase stamps.

A discussion took place on the cost and value of membership.

Webmaster's Report

A few minor anomalies were pointed out.

Action : FD will attend to this.

Walking Holiday in Norway – Report

PB advised that one of our members was interested in taking up the place available and that the holiday was going ahead as planned with no changes. All rooms are now fully booked.

See AOCB for further details.

Social Events Co-ordinator's Report

Social events are going well and there are plenty of plans for future events until the end of the year.

Area Council Representative's Report

A short discussion took place on the introduction of telephone masts with improved signalling for access by mobile phones etc.

Action : KD to look into this.

5. BANK CHARGES/ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Unity Trust bank has begun to charge for cheque and cash transactions. It was, therefore, agreed to encourage members to pay for social and bus walk outings using electronic payments. Members would be advised that cheques and cash now incur a cost but that this form of payment would still be accepted.

A newly designed online booking form would be made available on the website. This would indicate payment method, reference, social event applicable and any other relevant information.

Action : FT and MA to draft a booking form which will be forwarded to FD to insert on the website as a word document which can be downloaded and emailed to the Treasurer, Social Convener, Bus Walk Convener as appropriate.

6. RAMBLERS UK WEBSITE INITIATIVE/DATA & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (DDTP)

A lengthy discussion took place. The new website will make a difference to all groups in different ways but the consensus was to resist becoming involved more than was necessary and to do so slowly. There was no appetite to do more at the moment, until it could be shown to be 'working for' our Group. The existing B & M Ramblers website is well regarded.

Action : EM to relay this decision to the DDTP leader. The reply will include reference to the membership's secretary's difficulties, arising from existing DDTP changes.

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Foreign Holidays/UK Holidays

PB raised the matter of another foreign holiday next year as members had been enquiring about this.

A lengthy discussion took place and it was suggested that a foreign holiday could be considered for alternate years only. Committee members were divided and after a vote, the majority was for the holiday abroad to go ahead next year. PB indicated he would take arranging a 2020 foreign holiday into consideration.

SS agreed to look into costs etc for arranging a UK holiday next year

too. Action : PB, SS

IT Support

It has become apparent that there is no IT backup for the Webmaster in the event of a technical problem. It was agreed that support would be sought.

Action : FD

Walk Leaders

The Programme Co ordinator pointed out that there is a distinct shortage of leaders.

SS attended a Mentoring Course run by Ramblers Scotland which was informative. SS offered to set up a sub group to look at ways to recruit new leaders and asked for volunteers to help.

Action : MA, FT, PL and SS

8 .DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 8 APRIL 2019 AT 7.00 P.M.** Waitrose meeting room.

**Reports for Committee Meeting, February, 25th,
2019 Chairman-nothing to report**

Secretary's report for February Meeting

Congratulations to Dave Clarke whose photograph at the summit of Carn a'Mhaim, taken during the Braemar 30th Anniversary week-end, was published in the Winter edition of 'Walk' magazine. Fiona T's photograph taken on a walk around Loch Venachar in Nov '15 featured in the 'Awesome Autumn Colours' competition in the same edition. The Bearsden & Milngavie Community Magazine printed photographs and the article about our 30th Anniversary celebrations, as did the B & M Herald. All good publicity for the Group!

A huge thanks go to Fiona T. & Sue Swinson who on Nov 29th, delivered a most informative course on Navigation, comprising of a morning theory class followed by a practical afternoon session navigating around Mugdock Country Park. Much appreciated by all attendees!

Notification of a free 1 day walk mentoring course organised by Ramblers Scotland was posted on Breaking News. This aims to encourage experienced leaders to buddy new leaders and share their experiences of buddying with other walk leaders.

Ben Dolphin, president of Ramblers Scotland joined the walk on Jan 20th in the Trossachs area and was very happy to allow us to post his photographs of the walk on our website....so long as they were credited!

A Training Survey from Ramblers Scotland was sent to all volunteers and a notice for all members was posted on B/News.

Information re. Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood was circulated to the committee. Should Milngavie be nominated????

Phil McElroy

17/2/1029

Treasurer's Report

No 1 a/c – Main Account

Balance at 8/2/19 - £676.88. The second quarterly payment of £353 has been received from Area. Also £60 has been received from Ramblers Walking Partnership and £50 from Ramblers Holiday advert. Expenditure so far Recce Expenses £116.45, AGM Expenses £115.50, Admin £4.99, Website £31.70 and Training £744.98 Walk Programme Printing £130 and Scottish Council Hotel supplement £42.50.

No 2 a/c - Self-Funded Account

Balance at 8/2/19 - £3115.44. Credits to a/c, Norway deposits £3320, Social events £2277 and donations £15.15. Funds paid out, Social events £3465, Norway 10% hotel deposit £1534.42, Norway refunds £56 and Bank charges £27. Points to discuss- Bank charges/electronic payment

Moirra Allan

8/2/2019

Programme Editor-nothing to report

**Access report for meeting on Monday 25th February
2019 Milngavie in Bloom**

Gardening work on the WHW in Milngavie has been suspended over the winter and new dates are being arranged for March, April and May.

Burncrooks piping works

I have received further information in addition to that already distributed by Phil to the committee. Two of the Directors of Tannoch Loch have recently had a meeting with Danny Barr – Construction Manager for the Caledonian Water Alliance and John Parks, Environmental Team, Scottish Water. They have reported as follows (I have extracted just the parts that I feel may have relevance to Ramblers):

‘2019 will be a key year as previously noted they are hoping to start the project in March. The current plan is that all the construction work would be complete in 2019 and some remedial work would overlap into 2020 Current plan is that Mugdock road would be closed for 2 to 3 months depending on the weather in terms of the construction work - this will be subject to a traffic management plan that is being worked Plan is still to use Drumclog Car Park to store equipment and vehicles including the equipment for storing dirty water’ Walk leaders, in particular, will need therefore to bear in mind that access to Mugdock will need to be via Strathblane Road and that Drumclog Car Park (the one on Mugdock Road, adjacent to the west side of the reservoirs) will be shut for what looks like a fair length of time. A map is attached showing the route of the pipe line. Access is intended to be maintained where the pipeline crosses the WHW.

Imogen Johnstone

14/2/2019

**Membership and Mailing
Report Numbers**

February 2019.

As of 14th February there are 305 members. During the last 60 days, 8 members joined and 1 left

Circulation of Programmes.

Thanks to everyone involved in the supply of envelopes, notice of North Strathclyde Region AGM and the printing of the walks programme. Everything came together so quickly that the circulation was in the post by 5th December.

Head Office Changes.

A Membership Secretaries dashboard (report) has just been introduced and I have taken part in an online tutorial. The most interesting feature to come out of it was that quite soon the emailing of the monthly membership list and the weekly notification of whether or not there are any new members have joined will cease in the (unspecified) near future. The information about new members is on the dashboard but it involves having to remember to look for them on a regular basis. Recently, new members have been joining without contacting the Membership Secretary and hence don't receive the walks booklet or more detailed information about the group.

I have voiced my concern about this shift in responsibility, but have not received a response as yet.

Hazel Miller.

17/2/2019

Webmaster's Report February 2019

The website is up to date. As mentioned at the last committee meeting, the next issue will be in connection with the Ramblers' data and digital transformation programme (DDTP) and to what extent our group wishes to be involved. I see that this is on the agenda for discussion at February's meeting.

Fiona Denman

17/2/2019

Walking Holiday in Norway - report

Ragne Hopkins has been staying in the hotel last week on her cross-country ski holiday. We have been in contact and Ragne checked our draft programme of walks with the local leader. It was found good, except the one-day trip to the 'big mountains' which we shall have to alter. Her opinion of the hotel was very high again. When she arrives back, I shall meet with her and discuss walks, local transport etc. If this happened before the Committee meeting, I shall report on the latest development.

One person withdrew after the first deposits were paid, and we are trying to find someone to share with her room mate. One person - (not a member of our club) - expressed interest, I have just sent her more info. In case there were no response within a week, I shall negotiate with the hotel an amendment of our contract, converting the double room into a single one.

b. I see no reasons or indications that the holiday would not go ahead. The flights with the Norwegian have changed slightly - an earlier departure from Edinburgh - which suits us. The return flight is also arriving earlier in Edinburgh.

Peter Bartos

19/2/2019

Social Convenor's Report Feb 2019

Dec 2018.Ramblers Christmas lunch at Buchanan Arms Hotel. Very successful and thanks to committee members for serving/providing mulled wine and Christmas goodies and to Fiona T for leading the walk.

Jan 2019.Curry night at the Ashoka.29 attendees and a better format with meal served at the tables instead of buffet style.

Feb 2019.V and A Dundee visit. 32 attendees enjoyed an Architectural talk, followed by a self-guided tour of the temporary exhibition Liners, Speed and Style, which was fascinating. All in all an excellent day.

Forthcoming event:-

March 2019 Moving image gallery workshop at Kelvin Hall.To date there are 15 members have signed up.

Sheila Crawford

19/2/2019

North Strathclyde Area Council Meeting on Sat.16th Feb.2019.In Friends Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Cres. Glw. 10 for 10.30am.

1. Safeguarding Policy: Age limit for young people attending walks unaccompanied. Because of the legal age difference in Scotland and England this had been queried at both the Area Council meeting on 1st Sept. and that held on 17th Nov.2018. Further information was requested, and was obtained from Jeannie Cranfield. Consent cards are no longer valid. Nobody under 18 will be accepted on walks unless accompanied. This was changed across

GB last year on guidance from Children 1st to avoid being in regulated work with 15 -17 yr olds. This area of work is guided by Children 1st and Sportscotland who ensure policies are compliant with legal requirements in Scotland and meet their safeguarding standard for Sport. Legal advice from Scottish solicitors is sought when required. Children 1st audit us. Sportscotland standards, govern us.

2. Proposed development at Balloch: Online petition delivered to Scottish Govt. on 26th June 2018. Still no results to date.

Ramblers Scotland is involved with the campaign to prevent the proposed Golf Course at Coul Links, north of Dornoch.

3. Dogs on Walks: This is an issue that should be decided at Group level for Rambler Led Walks and if happening, with the permission of the person leading. One Group in England have set up a specific group for dog walkers. Members with dogs could also arrange a separate walk among themselves.

4. It was noted that sadly Penny Sinclair had died since last meeting. The board with name for her path – Penny’s Path – will be reinstated at Kirkintilloch. Penny was an Area Council member for many years , and “a bonnie fechter” for paths and safety at and around the Forth & Clyde Canal in Strathkelvin. Penny was a representative of individual members.

5. Some discussion on Unity Bank charges. Felt at this time that Accounts should be continued with the bank. Whenever possible, online banking should happen.

6. Noted that Bearsden and Milngavie Group successfully completed Training. First Aid [14], and Navigation [15]. Also Glasgow Group [10] and Glasgow Young Walkers [2] completed training at Lomond Mountain Rescue Centre, Drymen , with The British Association of Ski Patrols [BASP].

It has been asked that any Group which receives training, email John Nicholls, Volunteering and Quality Assurance Officer, and pass on the details of such. Email: john.nicholls@ramblers.org.uk

7. Scottish Council in Dunblane : Sat/Sun 9th/10th March 2019.

Representatives : Janice Forrest and James Lawson.

Possible Informal meeting on Tuesday 26th February to discuss Scottish Council motions. Friendship House. Elmbank Cres. Glasgow. 7 for 7.30pm.

General Council in Manchester on 13/14th April 2019.

Karine Davison and Barry Pottle attending as Representatives.

Jim Lawson as an Observer . Liz Lawie to check If Elaine Maclean [Bea &Mng] who had shown interest at the AGM, did indeed want to attend as an Observer.

Informal meeting on Tuesday 2nd April to discuss General Council motions, Friendship House. Elmbank Cres. Glasgow. 7 for 7.30pm

Next Meeting of Area Council: Saturday 18th May 2019. Friendship House. Elmbank Crescent. 10 am for 10.30 am.

Karine Davison 18th February 2019. Representative to Area Council.