

Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers

Minutes of Committee meeting held in Milngavie Community Library & Education Centre on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Karine Davison (Secretary), Moira Allan (Treasurer], Lesley Clark, Frances Sibbet, Fiona Taylor.

1. Apologies: Frank Pieri (Chairperson), Eleanor Belcher (Minute Secretary), Sheila Crawford, Imogen Johnstone, Pam Lee.

In the absence of Frank Pieri and Eleanor Belcher, it was agreed Moira Allan would chair the meeting and Karine Davison would take minutes.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting :

The Minutes of the previous meeting on June 21st 2023 were accepted .
Proposed by FT. Seconded by FS.

3. Matters Arising :

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports as circulated:

Treasurer's Report :

No 1 a/c - Main Account

Balance at 23/9/23 - £722.59

Expenditure to date is:-

£144.60 – AGM Expenses

£325 – website domain renewal, annual maintenance/back up and web-hosting

£1052.75 – recce expenses

£23.82 – EDC room hire

£399.95 - Emergency Training

£300 – Mugdock Conservation

Income is 4 quarterly payments from Area totalling £1628 and £110 from the

No 2 a/c - Self-Funded Account

Balance at 23/9/23 - £2069.50

Expenditure to date is:-

£18035 – Whitby holiday HF & Bus

£286.50 – New Year Lunch

£3.60 - bank service charge

£3377 – Bus walks deposits and payments

£960.50 – Christmas Lunch

£295.20 – Burrell

£480 – Curry Night 1

£15 – Curry Night 2

£494 – Italian Meal

£323 - Japanese Garden

£40 – Correcting entry
Income is:-
£286.50 – New Year Lunch
£18040 – Whitby Holiday
£480 - Curry Night 1
£285 - Curry Night 2

£33.30 - Donation
£912 - Christmas Lunch
£252 - Burrell Museum
£494 – Andiamo's
£980 – Montrose Bus
£2050 - North Berwick Bus
£920 – Kilmartin Bus
£323 - Japanese Garden
£40 – Correcting entry

Moirra Allan 23/9/23

MA added that having contacted the Area Treasurer referring to our future return, it was confirmed the No 2 a/c could carry the profit made from the buses this year into next financial year to offset next year's bus costs.

Social Events Co-ordinator:

LC gave a verbal update . Curry night is taking place on Wednesday 4th October. Not quite fully booked at this time . Next social occasion will be an underground Glasgow Central Station Guided Tour on 2nd November 2023. Maximum number is 18. Cost will be £15. A few possible venues for the Christmas Lunch are being investigated. These will allow a walk in the area beforehand. Date to be confirmed.

Access Officer:

IJ received this in an email from John Oates - EDbt Access Officer...a response to the situation of the path at Craigdhu Road Milngavie which leads to Heather Avenue in Mosshead, Bearsden.

“ Apologies for the lack of communication regarding this.

I have sent a letter to the landowner and not received a reply. I will get a second one sent and if I again don't receive a reply I will touch base with you to look at options moving forward.

I have also got a few signs that need replacing throughout EDC so will be using the access budget to get them fixed. Will get around to getting the tender out as soon as my desk clears a bit.

Apologies again.”

John

John Oates
Access and Path Development Officer.

Walks Programme Co-ordinator : PL

Still the same problem with insufficient leaders, however on a more positive note there are new leaders who have stepped forward, both in the A/B and C levels. Requests for walks for the January to April programme 2024 will take place probably about the middle/end of October.

It is hoped to run three bus walks again in the summer. The areas proposed are Pitlochry, Dumfries and Galloway and Lake District (probably Keswick end). Ideally each bus will have at least 3 walks even 4 to try and cater for all levels of walking in the group. Leaders have been informed of this and hopefully many will come forward to lead. For Pitlochry and Dumfries and Galloway we will be relying on leaders to come up with ideas of walks in these areas. The Lake District we could use the HF holidays options for that area to help with deciding walks. There will be a leaders meeting in January to discuss walks and leaders for each bus. Leaders will be reminded several times beforehand to come with ideas of walks in these 3 areas.

Report on Group Holidays: FT

European 2024.

An update as at 25 August has been placed on the website. We are now actively pursuing the Saga packaged walking holiday to Huelva in SW Spain for a week around 19th September 2024. Rooms have been block-booked for these dates, and the local leaders have also confirmed their availability for those dates, to lead the same walks as on the Saga website but solely for our group which is good. There will be no limit on the number of single rooms. The delay in getting a final costing is because airlines have not published their schedules for September yet. Once that happens, Saga can work out exact costs and we will then be looking at full commitment from members. At the moment we have 33 confirmed notes of interest.

FT updated us on Saga arrangements. EasyJet flights are not yet available for September 24th. Once Saga has this information, hopefully very soon, they will be able to put together the details including costs, of our package with them.

Maximum number will be 40 - mainly because of their need to hire a bus for walks, and to have manageable numbers on the walks.

UK Holiday in 2025.

An update as at 2 July has been placed on the website to say that we have priority booking for a guided weekend at the HF house in Alnmouth for either 9th or 16th May 2025, and asking people to save the date. We need 44 ensure we again have sole occupancy; otherwise there will be significant additional costs per person. Deposits are likely to be required in February 2024.

5. Ramblers Website and Access : **KD** mentioned difficulties she found with new Ramblers website . Also it appears the same for other members and other Groups in NSAC. It is still difficult to Search and find an answer despite an accurate search. Assemble now seems harder to find and to update. MA agreed that at NSAC meeting last week, it was not thought to be an improvement - particularly for the money spent. At that meeting it was suggested that groups who had found a problem should contact Ramblers directly. It was agreed that KD should contact FP and ask him to write when he is ready to do so.

6. Walks Manager :FS

We were given helpful and comprehensive information about how a new tool called Walks Manager is used on Ramblers.org website to display walks in the Go Walking section. This displays both Group walks and routes for the whole of the UK.

FS illustrated how routes and walks can be found and displayed. Go Walking is useful for any member choosing to walk in a new area. Although we have our Walks programme on our BMRH website, it was agreed we would continue to add approximately one walk per month for the next few months to Go Walking on Ramblers.org, to help other members to find our walks.

There was some discussion on grading of walks, and how we could incorporate our Group's grades into walks descriptions on Go Walking, as often Ramblers gradings do not fit our walks.

7. AGM 2023:

The date was agreed as 8th December 2023.

Subject to availability, it will be held in The Fraser Centre ,Milngavie. at 7pm for 7.30pm. Notification to save the date to be entered on Breaking News as well as a request for baking for the evening.

It was suggested that we might approach NTS to request a Speaker for the evening - possibly on footpaths. **FT** offered to do this.

8. Committee Members for 2023/2024.

Further discussion continued from the item above, are there any known changes, and we need suggestions for more members to volunteer .

9.Lapsed Members

We had hoped to have some update on membership numbers and on members still on register but perhaps only by default or design . This is useful as priority is given to our members for bookings and some attendances at social events where numbers might be limited. On the spreadsheets from Ramblers Scotland , columns can be moved to reveal dates, renewals and updates .

Question asked if we can confirm follow -up of lapsed members.

Suggested

Action: SC

KD stated that of the 90 or so Wednesday Morning Walkers on her list, all but 5 or 6 are members.

10. Bus Walks for 2024.

PI, MA, FT and Sue Swinson met on 28th August to firm up locations for the bus walks in 2024 from a longish list of suggestions **PL** has received from leaders. The final three are the Lake District (possibly mid-week to avoid some of the crowds), Pitlochry (with a meal afterwards), and Dumfries and Galloway. No decision was made on dates or even months, but will be in May, June, July or August. The decision was taken to avoid September as turnout for buses in the past has not been so good.

11. North Strathclyde Area Council (NSAC)

As is usual, a request has been received from Barry Pottle ,Secretary of NSAC, asking all groups to **avoid arranging a walk on Saturday 20th January 2024 as it is the Area AGM.**

The meeting will be held in **Helensburgh Parish Church , Colquhoun Square ,Helensburgh. At 10am for 10.30am. After our own packed lunch,** a walk round the periphery of Helensburgh will follow.This will be led by our hosts, members of **Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire Group.**

12. AOCB . KD said the last walk of The Wednesday Morning Walkers for 2023 will be on Wednesday 13th December 2023 . This will be a shorter walk as it will be followed by a Christmas Lunch at Andiamo . Time to be confirmed.

13. DONM : Thursday 16th November . Place and time to be confirmed. KMD 11
/10/23