

Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers
Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held in the Community Room, Waitrose, Milngavie
on Thursday 24th July 2025.

Attendees

Fiona Taylor **FT (Chairperson)**, Karine Davison **KD (Secretary)**, Moira Allan **MA (Treasurer)**, John Russell **JR (Minute Secretary)**, Phil Belcher **PBe**, Lesley Clark **LKC**, Linda Clark **LC**, Sheila Crawford **SC**, Sue Graves **SG**, Pam Lee **PL**.

1.0 Apologies.

Received Peter Bartos, Sonia Newman, Pauline Soraghan.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting on Thurs 10th April 2025.

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by **MA**, seconded by **KD**.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 **MA**. Reported that some Recce expense claims were not being submitted, and that while not claiming was generous, it meant that expenses come in below budget.

3.2 **MA**. Reported there was no loss associated with the Community Grant.

3.3 **MA & KD**. Jointly noted the need to submit feedback to both the EDC and Milngavie Community Council regarding the Community Grant. Further, that while the majority of walkers on the Fife bus were members of Ramblers, all are Wednesday Morning Walkers.

3.4 **FT**. Observed that the two walks (Sunday B+ & Wed Walkers) offered "open to all" by the Group during the Milngavie Week elicited no response from non-members.

4.0 Reports as circulated - Reports received for Meeting on 24th July 2025

Treasurer's Report

No 1 a/c – Main Account

Balance at 15/7/25 - £769.71

Expenditure to date is:-

£1186.95 – Recce expenses

£600 – Website Costs (Maintenance, Domain renewal & Web hosting)

£2.10 – Postage (Grant Application)

£18.97 – Admin

£176.60 – Meetings including AGM costs

Income is:-

£2270 – 3 area instalments received

£180 – Walking Partnership

No 2 a/c - Self-Funded Account

Balance at 15/7/25 - £2839.27

Expenditure to date is:-

£3770.53 – Social events

£16707.80 – Holidays

£3899.65 – Bus walks

£2.10 – Bank Charges

Income is:-

£3246.75 – Social Events

£17085.00 – Holidays

£4895.45 – Bus walks
£23.40 - Donation

Main Account is still quite high with a further payment of £760 due from Area. Still very few members claiming recce expenses despite a reminder on Breaking News. We will definitely have a surplus, but funds have been put aside in the budget for more first aid kits, tick removers and leader training. Taking that into account we will be within the guideline balance providing our budget is agreed by Central Finance which will probably not be known until around November/December.

Self-Funded Account balance includes income for both Peebles and Inveraray buses totalling £1080 still to be paid out. The true balance is, therefore, £1759.27 at the moment. There are no further payments due out apart from the Inveraray bus. However, to date, it has only 20 bookings including leaders and is set to run at a huge loss of around £450. We had a small surplus from Alnmouth, the Fife bus as no recce done, and the Aberfeldy bus. Taking that into account, if we went ahead with the Inveraray bus with no further bookings, we would suffer an overall loss of about £306. I would like to think we will still get some more bookings for Inveraray, and I have been asking walk leaders to mention the bus when they go out. On the basis we proceed with the bus (a decision needs to be made by the date of our meeting as final payment is due on 25 July), we will be within our allowed balance on the account. I plan to contact Allander Travel to find out what our penalty would be if we cancelled 2 weeks before the event and also to ask if there would be much saved by having a smaller bus, if available. A breakdown of bus costs, so far, is also provided. The figures have been worked out on the basis that everyone who has booked pays as there are still a few to do so. I plan to chase the nonpayers soon.

Bus Walks 2025 I&E

<u>Bus Walks 2025</u>					
		<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>
Alnmouth Surplus		£27.20			£27.20
Fife (37)		£2,011.45		£1,945.65	£65.80
Aberfeldy		£984.00		-£872.00	£112.00
Peebles		£782.00		-£843.00	-£61.00
Inveraray		£400.00		-£850.00	-£450.00
		£4,204.65		£4,510.65	£306.00
					-£306.00

Moira Allan 15/07/25

Membership Report from 20th April 2025.

Total membership Numbers on 20th July 2025:- 266

New members/Affiliated members:-

4 New plus. 1 new Affiliated member.

4 Resigned

1 lapsed

2 Deceased-(J.Swanson and G. Campbell)

Sheila Crawford 20/07/25

Social Co-ordinator Report – April to July 2025

On Thursday 24th April 2025, 14 members visited The Riverside Museum in Glasgow which was organised by Linda Clark. The Group was divided into two groups and two volunteer guides, one of whom was our own Campbell Russell. It was a very interesting and informative tour. I am sure many of our members may return at a future date as there was so much to see and learn about. We then enjoyed lunch in the cafe.

The Group visited Fairfield Heritage and the Govan Stones on Tuesday 3rd June 2025. Fairfield Heritage is a community museum dedicated to showcasing the story of Govan and the Clyde's outstanding role in world shipbuilding. Following lunch, the 20 members walked the short distance to Govan Old Parish Church for a guided tour. The artefacts comprise one of the most impressive collections of early medieval sculpture, and remarkably, every one of the Viking-age treasures had lain in Govan Old Parish Church Churchyard for over 1000 years.

The 10th and then the 17th of July should have been The Forth & Clyde Canal Society trip for initially 33 people. However, due to ongoing technical issues with the boat this trip had to be cancelled twice which was a great disappointment for all but unfortunately this was unavoidable. Thankfully all members were refunded, and the Ramblers incurred no financial deficit.

Pauline, Linda and I met in April and July to organise and discuss future Social Events. As a result, we have some ideas for future months which we are hoping to take forward.

The next Social Event is a guided tour of Glasgow Cathedral and the Necropolis organised by Pauline for Tuesday 19th August 2025. So far 12 have booked out of an available 20 places. Keep watching Breaking News for future events.

Lesley Clark 18th July 2025

Publicity Report for Committee Meeting Thursday 24th July

Bearsden & Milngavie Community Magazine What's on Entries

June Sunday 8 Ben Cleuch Circular (Ochils, Tillicoultry) Sunday 22 Beinn Mhic-Mhonaidh (Corbett) Glen Orchy accompanying photo not used.

July Sunday 06 Tom na h'Airidh (Helensburgh) accompanying photo not used

August Sunday 03 Meall nan Tarmachan & Ridge from Ben Lawers NTS cp

Sunday 17 Schiehallion from Braes of Foss cp, Sunday 24 Glen Sherup Circular from Glen Devon Woodland cp

To note. What's On entries are made on the 1st of the preceding month

Event description has a limit of 30 words

Articles

Bearsden & Milngavie Community Magazine

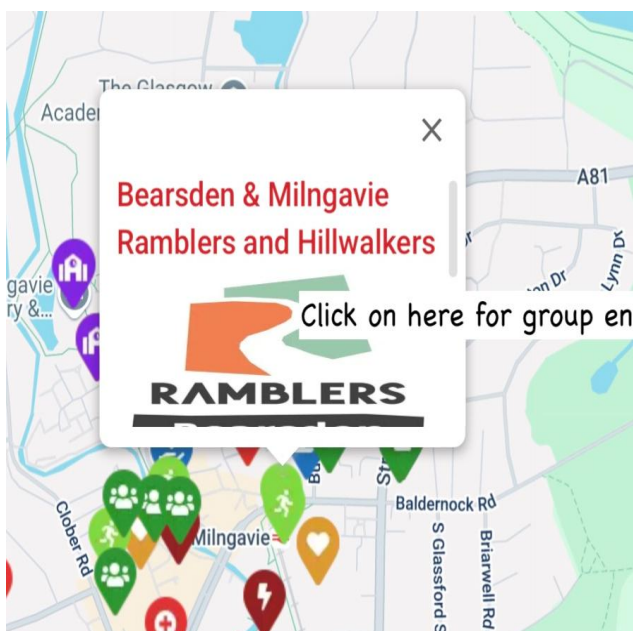
Milngavie Week - Take to the Hills with Milngavie and Bearsden Ramblers + photo – not published

Bearsden & Milngavie Herald

Social Outing to Fairfield and Govan Old + photos – not published

East Dunbartonshire Assets Map – BaMRaH added

<https://www.eastdunassets.org.uk>



Due to the word limit on the diary entry in the Community magazine, it isn't possible to ask new walkers to contact the leader before coming out on a walk. Would it be helpful to attach the addition below (as used on the advertising for the Ben Cleuch walk during Milngavie week) as a header on the Walking and Events Programme page or to A&B walk descriptions.

If you are not a member of the Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers group, you are very welcome to join us. Please contact the leader in advance to discuss the level of difficulty and fitness level required to enjoy this walk. Please bring your own snacks, packed lunch and drinking water.

Sue 15.07.25

Webmaster's report July 2025

Our team of trusted website editors consists of Fiona Taylor, Moira Allan and myself, together with Laura Muir who can now add walk photos, and Pam Lee who uploads walks and events in the calendar.

Web visitor statistics

In the period April-June, the number of visits to our top 5 most popular pages increased noticeably (but remember that one visitor can view certain pages multiple times). The busiest week for website visits was 20-26 April 2025. That week we had three walks, one guided visit and one social event.

Page title	Page views	Increase/decrease
Walking and Events Programme	4k	+22%
Homepage	3.3k	+15%
Breaking News	3k	+31%
Photos	1.2k	+46%
Walks around Milngavie	457	+24%

Maintenance and support

Our web hosting and support company Strive has been taken over by a new company, but it should not have any noticeable impact on our site or fees.

I completed my review and archiving of our photos and reduced the website media library by half. We retain a selection of good quality photos, that might come in handy in future. I have also saved our committee's job descriptions in the media library and other key documents, as it is a safe, private and backed up storage space.

Frances Sibbet, 8 July 2025

4.1 **MA** drew member's attention to the deficit associated with Bus Walks and noted that while other accounts are currently in surplus and could be used to subsidise buses, it would probably be appropriate to reflect the timings and deadlines for the booking process before proceeding with Bus Walks next year.

5. Social Events

5.1 **FT**. Informed the meeting that **LKC** is **standing down** at the AGM.

5.2 **LKC**. Reported on successful and enjoyable visits to the Riverside Museum and Fairfield and Govan Stones. Looking to the future, events include visits to the Cathedral and Necropolis. However, a planned canal cruise unfortunately did not go ahead due to mechanical problems.

6. Membership update

SC. Reported the addition of four new and 1 affiliated member but noted that the Group's total membership declined marginally from 271 as reported at the last meeting to 266 now due to losses associated with lapse, resignations, and deceased.

7. Publicity

7.1 **FT**. Noted that while assistance being provided by Sue Swinson ex-committee posed minor logistical challenges, it was proving invaluable, and the input was greatly appreciated.

7.2 Due to the word limit in the diary entry in the Community Magazine, with minor amendments from Sue's proposal, this statement was agreed to be put at the top of the Walks and Events Programme on the website - "If you are not a member of the Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers group, you are very welcome to join us. For all walks other than the Wednesday Morning Walks, please contact the leader in advance to discuss the level of difficulty and fitness level required to enjoy the walk." **FT** to ask Frances Sibbet to insert this at the top of the Walk and Events Programme page.

ACTION FT

7.3. **KD** had received an invitation for our Group to take a stand at the Bearsden Clubs and Societies Fair on 4 October. Although we did not attract any new members after last year's event, the committee agree to do it again this year, as we have all the materials and we

desperately need new younger members. KD will coordinate the day, encouraging volunteers to 'man' the stand.

ACTION KD

8. Group Holidays

PBe. Reported that ongoing research conducted in conjunction with **PBa** had identified, among other possibilities, a potential walking holiday with Saga in Menorca for 2026.

9. Succession Planning for role of Secretary

FT. Informed the committee that **KD** having taken over the position of Group Secretary in mid-2021, had indicated at the last AGM in 2024, her intention to step down at the end of this current year. The job description was circulated prior to the meeting. **KD** explained that she would kindly provide a 6-months handover to whoever took over the role. **FT** stressed the importance of finding a replacement as we are not allowed to function as a group without a Secretary.

ACTION ALL

10. Publicising Charity Donations

FT Drawing on advice from Ramblers, informed the meeting that unfortunately, we are unable to help with fundraising initiatives. Ramblers is also a registered charity and so we rely on our network of members and volunteers to make our fundraising a success.

11. Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee (RSSC)

Following a request from the Chair, **JR** informed the committee that after searching for additional "extra curricula activities" he, along with another person, had been appointed to serve in the capacity of a co-opted member on the RSSC, with tenure running to March 2026.

12. Carer attendance at our events

FT led a brief discussion of Rambler's policy (below) pertaining to Carer Attendance.

(If a member needs assistance, the accompanying adult is responsible for their direct care and any special assistance needed. If the carer is a professional, they are expected to be covered by their employer's insurance.)

Further discussion on the subject of support from a non-member accompanying a member will be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION FT/KD

13. Walk Leader Training Qualifications/Experience-new Ramblers Requirements

FT noted that 22 of our current walk leaders appear in a report downloaded from the Ramblers website, to have outstanding training requirements necessary to meet the new requirements. It was agreed that **PL** would contact these members, advise them to how to proceed, and suggest that they try to complete the on-line training themselves before the next meeting on September 25th. If they have problems doing this, depending on the numbers, we will set up sessions to provide help either communally or individually. **MA** has included a figure in the budget for this. Ramblers also have on-line webinars available to sign up to but a local solution will probably be more useful. The deadline for all training to be completed is 31 December.

ACTION PL

14. Formulating our group policy on children walking

KD informed the committee of a recent enquiry pertaining to a 13-year-old child joining our walks. During discussion it was reiterated that Ramblers Policy had not changed. “Ramblers have confirmed that in the UK 18 is the age for independent walking. All juveniles under the age of 18 have to be accompanied by an adult. The leader has the final say on whether a juvenile may go on the walk.” After discussion the following policy statement was agreed.

“Children under 18 may be allowed to join our walks, but they **MUST** be accompanied at all times by a parent, carer or guardian, who takes full responsibility for them during the walk. The parent or guardian **MUST** contact the leader before the walk to discuss its suitability for the child.”

FT to ask Frances Sibbet to insert this on the website on the Walk Advice/Conduct page.

ACTION FT

15. Walk leaders Thank You night proposal for after Sept budget

MA confirmed that she had included a figure in the budget for this event. It was agreed that it would be timely to have it early in 2026 after the walk leader training deadline had been achieved. To be discussed further.

16. AOCB

16.1 **PBe** suggested that changing the Group’s name from the Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers to the Bearsden and Milngavie Hillwalkers and Ramblers, would emphasise Hillwalking and attract younger members. However, when checking this on the internet, too many similar titles came up; not all members of the committee agreed with the suggestion; and uncertainty was expressed as to whether the Ramblers would approve of such a move in any case. Google searches for ‘walk’ and ‘Milngavie’ brought up our own website high on the list in any case, so it was agreed there was no need to proceed with this suggestion.

16.2 **FT** queried the situation on Flamingo Land as we have long article on Breaking News which has been there since 22 May. It was granted permission on appeal earlier this year, but that has since been recalled by the Scottish Government. **KD** to provide an update to the item on Breaking News.

ACTION KD/FT

17. Date of next meeting, and AGM

Thursday 25th September 2025, and Friday 7th November, respectively.