

**Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers
Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held in the Double Activity Room.
Milngavie Community and Education Centre, Milngavie
Thursday 23rd April 2026.**

Attendees

Fiona Taylor **FT** (**Chairperson**), Bill Parkes **BP** (**Secretary**), Moira Allan **MA** (**Treasurer**), Jane Gordon **JG** (**Minute Secretary**), Linda Clark **LC**, John Russell **JR**, Sue Graves **SG**, Karine Davison **KD**, Pam Lee **PL**, Sonia Newman **SN**.

1.0 Welcome to new Minute Secretary

FT welcomed **JG**. It is suggested that corrections and amendments to the minutes should be circulated to all the committee to avoid duplication of messages. That will allow the final minutes to be concluded after one draft version.

2.0 Apologies.

Received from Sheila Crawford **SC**, Peter Bartos **PBa**, Phil Belcher **PBe**

2.1 Absent

Gill Harding, Pauline Soraghan

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting on 19th Feb 2026.

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by **KD** and seconded by **SG**.

4.0 Matters arising, not on agenda

Item 6) Successful meeting between Social Events Subcommittee, **FS** and **FT** re Breaking News and website usage. (See Webmaster's Report)

Item 7.1) Societies Fair, no response on dates yet. **BP**

Item 7.4) **SG** was thanked for sending in May walks details to the Community Magazine.

Item 13) Spelling correction to name in N S Area AGM paragraph advised by **KD**, "Hortobagyi"

5.0 Reports as circulated

Treasurer's Report

No 1 a/c – Main Account

Balance at 14/4/26 - £1082.45

Expenditure to date is:-

£619.40 – Recce expenses

£865.79 – Website Costs (Maintenance, Domain renewal & Web hosting)

£195.15 – Meetings including AGM costs

£34.15 – Rail fares to awards ceremony

Income is:-

£1540 – 2 area instalments received

£100 – Walking Partnership

No 2 a/c - Self-Funded Account

Balance at 14/4/26 - £1514.66

Expenditure to date is:-

£2314.16– Social events

Other - £50.60 (Occasion Cards £50, Bank Charges £0.60)

Income is:-

£1939.80 – Social Events

Moirra Allan 14/4/26

Main Account is still over expected end of year balance of £500. However there is up to £600 (perhaps a little more if needed) here that can be used towards a leaders 'thank you' get together. There are still 2 instalments to be received from Area, before the end of the financial year, totalling £1540.

Self Funded Account is currently over expected end of year £1500 balance. £420 has been paid out for bus deposits so true balance is £1934.66. Some of this is a surplus from last year which will help towards keeping bus costs down. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION – PER AGENDA.**

Membership report SC

From 23rd Jan 26

total members 260

affiliated	3
new	5
rejoined	1 who has since left

deceased	1
lapsed	2
left	2
resigned	2

Webmaster's report April 2026

Our team of website editors continues to be Fiona Taylor, Moira Allan and myself, together with Laura Muir who adds walk photos, and Pam Lee who uploads walks and events in the calendar.

We are working well with Karine, the new Social Events Co-ordinator, to add brief details of new events to Breaking News, with a link to the Walks and Events programme for full details and booking information.

Web visitor statistics

In the period January-March 2026, visitor statistics were slightly down compared with the same period last year. This is possibly due to there being fewer B and C walks. The busiest day for website visits to the Walks and Events Programme was Sunday 25 January with 162 visits and Sunday 22 March with 155 visits.

Page title	Page views
Walking and Events Programme	3133
Homepage	2335
Breaking News	1790
Photos	719
UK and Foreign Trips	343

Maintenance and support

I am happy with the support we get from McGowan Marketing, our new web hosting and maintenance company. They respond quickly if any issues arise.

Frances Sibbet

FT noted that it was perhaps not surprising that the number of hits are down, with fewer leaders and fewer walks, though we do tend to get more hits in spring and summer.

East Dunbartonshire Access Forum on 12th March 2026 in Waitrose Community Room Milngavie at 5.30pm

I attended this meeting on behalf of Sue. No councillors in attendance, but approximately seven there including representative from West Highland Way but probably under another title,

She was able to confirm that it has just been announced that all paths on the route should manage to remain open for this season anyway. Apparently a problem around Rowardennan has had enough work to sustain it for now, but is ongoing. She commented on a charge being thought about to help with maintenance,

A lot of time was spent on EDC proposed building of new school – Lenzie Academy- which would take away White Gates public park in Lenzie. Originally new school was thought to be being a tandem build beside the old. Still ongoing.

1. Core paths at R Kelvin at Hayston - Bridge safety involved.
2. Millersneuk project – not this year because of ongoing tree survey.
3. Mobility Scooter confirmed as still available at Mugdock Country Park.
4. John Muir Way tree roots problem towards Lennoxton.
5. Craighdu Road to Mosshead. Ongoing missing Right of Way sign, and blocked path having been stated as natural growth rather than lack of being kept free. Surprisingly despite that being written in reply to Sue, it is not what was discussed. Will update at our committee meeting. Some time ago it was suggested that it might be worth discussing it with Rambler's Scotland Gavin Corbett who took over from Helen Todd – albeit in a slightly different role but which does seem to involve access. I will do this after the General Council if there is no available information there.

Also Craighdu Wedge Phase 2 updating of paths has started.

6. Allander Walkway – it appears very difficult to determine whether EDC or Glasgow should be responding – or both! Local Plan 3 was mentioned here and that it leads on to Kelvin Walkway. Maybe still watch this space!

7. Mains Estate. It appears some house owners there have been erecting fences to keep the back of their homes more private but causing some access issues. It has taken up to 5 years for funding to become available for a 15ft stout fence.

8. John Oates to send on Planning applications but these are not applicable to our area. Mostly Whitegate Park Lenzie. Application No. TP/ED/26/0104

<https://planning.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/online-applications/>

9. John mentioned funding had become available for EDC Walk/Run/Cycle.

10. John also stated that funding appears to be available for any projects connected to WHW from the WHW Trust.

11. Eric Gotts- Scotways still working steadily on access. He suggested the next meeting on 13th August could possibly be in afternoon to allow Access Forum to visit some of the sites with the problems already mentioned .

No Waitrose available for proposed meeting on 12th November. Possibly an October meeting instead.

DONM 13 August 2026 - Venue TBA.

Karine Davison April 2026

Social Co-ordinator Report

Our first social event of 2026 was a tour of the Roman Collection & Antonine Wall in the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University on 3d March, organised by Pauline.

This was an interesting and very informative visit with an individual guide. We had time afterwards to browse on our own and explore further areas. Slight reduction in numbers on the day because of illness, but fifteen attended and twelve later enjoyed a light lunch in the Crypt Café at Wellington Church.

Prior to that, Linda, Pauline and I met with Frances & Fiona to have some guidance on how best to present our events for ease of entering on both our Walking Programme and Breaking News.

On Tuesday 21st April we have an arranged private tour within Glasgow City Chambers organised by Linda with lunch booked in Sorriso Café in Candleriggs..

Our next offering is now confirmed by Karine as lunch at Scholars – the City of Glasgow College Training Restaurant in Cathedral Street on 19th May.

We are also well on our way in arranging a visit to Stirling Castle for 16th June.

We as always welcome any suggestions from You – whether new or a rerun of something in our past.

Karine Davison 18/04/26

6.0 Social Events

6.1 Dates Planned

Tuesday 19th May.- Scholars restaurant. **KD** to pass to **FS** for Breaking News and **PL** to put on Events programme **ACTION KD PL**

Tuesday 16th June - Stirling Castle proposal. More research required.

ACTION subcommittee

Possible event at the reopened Mugdock cinema. Preferably in summer when light for drivers. More research required.

ACTION FT and subcommittee

7.0 Publicity

FT advised that Sue Swinson has been assisting with publicity on a temporary basis.

A Publicity Officer is needed but none was forthcoming at tonight's meeting.

Vital to encourage younger new members ie 50s and 60s to replace the older cohorts!

Laura Muir has reported that since she has been putting A/B walks with photos onto Facebook she has had more "likes" and enquiries, though to date no resultant new walkers.

7.1 Poster distribution

FT remarked that the hard work earlier with leaflets and posters had not produced any sustained new members. Some posters had been removed from premises earlier than expected. No one on the committee had asked for any more posters for further distribution.

7.2 Ramblers Walk Leaders Recruitment Webinar

FT reported that her request to Ramblers for a recording of the webinar on "recruitment of new leaders" resulted in her being sent a copy of the Q&A "chat" after the webinar but not the actual webinar. Mention of leaders being able to be non members.

To be circulated to committee.

ACTION FT

7.3 Submissions to Community Magazine

Ongoing issue of advance dates needed which is sometimes hard for leaders to plan. Also difficult when an increasing number of dates have no walks on.

PL to encourage leaders to try to plan walks ASAP so that they are included in the magazine.

ACTION PL

8.0 Group Holiday update

Neither of the organisers **PBe** nor **PBa** able to attend meeting. General queries about holiday raised as travel date approaching. **BP** will enquire about an update from the organisers.

ACTION BP

9.0 Bus walks 2026

Bus costs were agreed to be £20 for members (subsidised) and £24 for non members.

MA confirmed the Dunkeld meal will be at the Royal Dunkeld Hotel. A 2 course meal costs £17.99. Including gratuity total cost of bus and meal at Dunkeld will be £40 or £44.

Bookings will be open earlier than usual at 8 weeks ahead.

Keswick bookings 16th May for 11th July

Dunkeld bookings 27th June for 22nd August

It was agreed that if a bus was not fully booked it would be open to friends and family to book as non members 2 weeks ahead.

Information to go on Breaking News re booking and a call for walk descriptions to go out to leaders

ACTION MA PL

10.0 Leaders Thank You event

Subcommittee of **LC/FT/PL/KD/MA** have met and progressed this with **LC** as lead. 36 places on Friday 18th September 5pm for 5.15- 7.15. Gavins Mill. Finger buffet, hot and cold drinks and “fizz” kindly donated by **KD**. No deposit required. Parking within the 3 hours allowed at Tesco.

Invitations to be emailed out at end of May/ beg June to those on the list agreed by the subcommittee.

ACTION PL

LC to confirm if alteration of number attending affects costings.

ACTION LC

11.0 Report on Scottish Council AGM

KD provided her report/minutes from the meeting she attended on 14th March 2026 in Edinburgh.

Ramblers Scottish Council Saturday 14th March 2026

Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in John McIntyre Conference Centre Edinburgh.

Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, outgoing Convenor of Scottish Council opened the proceedings.

Commenced with an hour-long panel discussion on Recreational Access, “where are we in 2026?” Start of a call to action on what groups could do.

There was then a choice of four walks lasting 90 minutes, which gave time to enjoy our surroundings. All walks were around 5km. Highest ascent 290m at Arthur’s Seat & Salisbury Crags. I chose the longest walk with lowest ascent- Dr Neil’s Garden & the Innocent Railway. Reason being it was the the one walk of the four I had not done. Passed access to Arthur’s Seat & Salisbury Crags as we walked on to Duddingston and around that very lovely area. Dr Neil’s Garden was blooming well and in a very natural style. Back for a very welcome and enjoyable lunch.

Afternoon: Tom Bowser of Argatey Red Kites gave a very interesting talk on how his interest in red kites culminated in his successful business managing wildlife conservation while engaging in community work and sustainable land management. Also very much involved in the return of beavers to Scotland. His family were the first Landowners to actively provide homes for beavers needing relocation. His talk included the experience of living alongside them and the benefits that their presence brings to the area as a whole. He is recognised across Scotland for his broad interest in the recovery of nature and the positive impact of people working together with nature and in our countryside - work that Ramblers Scotland certainly supports as it also includes caring for landscapes and at same time enhancing biodiversity while still allowing people to enjoy the outdoors.

AGM Formal Business.

There were no contested elections so moved on.

Alison Mitchell was introduced as interim Convener of Motions Committee because of ongoing incapacity of Barry Pottle , Barry is Secretary of Glasgow Group & North Strathclyde Area. Alison mentioned Barry’s illness and asked people to think of him.

She then outlined the work of European Hiking Federation (formerly European Ramblers) and explained its involvement with the John O'Groats Trail. There will be a Eurorando in 2026 on German -Czech Border 20-27Sept. Contact Alison if interested via Ramblers Scotland Office.

The Motions Paper was then approved.

Formal business followed. Approval of minutes, Update of Motions from 2025, Unanimous Adoption of Annual Report. All financial statements and summary of finances introduced with no questions.

Ramblers Scotland Director Brendan Paddy gave a short outline of his report as given in the AGM pack, He focused on three areas: walk leadership, policy and law changes, and outreach to poorer communities .

Election Results

Appointed to Motions Committee . Alison Mitchell ,Karine Davison and Alistair Cant.

To RSSC (Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee) Ordinary Members: Navid Foroutan, Adrienne Hortobagyi, John Russell, Jack Bonnamy, Vice Convener Jacqui Thomson, Convener, Robin McLaren.

New Honorary positions. Vice Presidents -Zarah Mahmood, Alison Mitchell . Both approved.

New President is Chris Paul Lawlor – known for viral social media videos about Scotland .All commencing “Do you know that in Scotland .” He has 1.1m Total Followers.

Then came closing remarks. At the end of this successful Scottish Council, thanks were given to all who had worked to make it possible. To those standing down and Malcolm Dingwall-Smith as outgoing Convenor. To Staff and volunteers, and particularly to Claire Exley from the staff team .

Karine Davison 22/04/26

12.0 Role of Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee

FT had asked JR to explain this having recently been appointed to the committee.

JR referred to a document called “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Board of Trustees and RSSC. He will provide feedback when there is news which might affect the group.

13.0 Initiative to improve Drumchapel Way

This is in reference to an article from Walk magazine. Ramblers Scotland is helping the community in Drumchapel, highlighting volunteer help from Edrington distillery employees.

JR contacted Ramblers Scotland to offer help or collaboration from BMR&H. The answer was currently no but RS thanked us for our kind offer and would get in touch if help from our group was needed in the future.

Main task required was litter picking in this deprived part of Glasgow.

14.0 AOCB

FT proposed increasing the mileage rate temporarily due to the recent increase in fuel costs. This was agreed. The rate will increase from 10p per mile to 12p per mile with immediate effect.

PL will adjust amounts already listed in the programme. A notice will be posted on Breaking News about this change.

(The reccie mileage rate, which is a larger amount is determined externally and is not changing.)

ACTION PL, FT

15.0 Date of next meeting

Thursday 16 th July 2026 at 18.30 in Waitrose Community Room or if unavailable at Milngavie Community Centre

ACTION BP