

**Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers
Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Waitrose Community Room.
Thursday 16th July 2026.**

Attendees

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

1.0 Apologies.

Received from Peter Bartos **PBa**, Gill Harding **GH**
Absent Pauline Soraghan **PS**

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting on 23rd April 2026.

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

3.0 Matters arising, not on agenda

Nil

4.0 Reports as circulated

Treasurer's Report

No 1 a/c – Main Account

Balance at 30/6/26 - £1072.45

Expenditure to date is:-

£1299.40– Recce expenses

£985.79 – Website Costs (Maintenance, Domain renewal & Website Upgrade)

£195.15 – Meetings including AGM costs

£34.15 – Rail fares to awards ceremony

Income is:-

£2310 – 3 area instalments received

£120 – Walking Partnership

No 2 a/c-Self-Funded Account

Balance at 30/6/26 - £1924.20

Expenditure to date is:-

£2314.16 – Social events

£1375 – Summer Buses

£180 – Andorra Holiday

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

Income is:-

£1939.80 – Social Events

£1188 – Summer Buses

£180 – Andorra Holiday

Moirra Allan 30/6/2626

Main Account is still over expected end of year balance of £500 with one further payment from area of £770 due in July. However, we have allowed up to around £1000 (perhaps a little more if needed) to be used towards a leaders' 'thank you' get together in September. Three further payments totalling £180 are due for website maintenance and I would expect further recce expenses between now and end of September so the balance should be within the expected limits.

Self-Funded Account The Keswick bus is running at a loss of £167 at the moment but that was to be expected as it is being subsidised by group funds. That is reflected in the above balance. Income to date for the Dunkeld Bus is £380 so the true balance of the account is actually £1544. The target for the end of year balance is for it to be under £1500 so we are not far away from that figure. The Dunkeld bus may also have a loss, again because it is being subsidised. I will have a better idea once the buses outings have been completed and will report back at the next meeting.

Moirra Allan

Membership report

From 12/4/26....Ramblers info.

Total membership nos. 260

Affiliates. 3

New Members/Rejoined. 10

Lapsed. 5

Resigned. 5

Total numbers are steady at around 260.

Sheila Crawford SC

Social Co-ordinator Report

Since our last meeting 20 of us spent a fairly informative and enjoyable time in Glasgow City Chambers on 21st April where we had a friendly guide who was possibly a wee bit less knowledgeable as quite new. It was however a comprehensive tour of many rooms and corridors with portraits, a Grand Ballroom with paintings and panelling. This was organised by Linda who also booked Café Sorriso in Candleriggs where we had an enjoyable and relaxed lunch.

On 19th May we had the last dining date of their term at Scholars Training Restaurant where 18 of us did experience the fine dining promised by City of Glasgow College when advertising this award-winning restaurant. At least two of our members said they would happily go back the next week for the Aioli Mussels alone! The meals prepared, cooked, and served by students in a pleasant atmosphere provided an enjoyable dining experience with no feeling of being rushed.

For 16th June Pauline researched and organised a visit to Stirling Castle where after lunch a visit to the Archaeology and Empire Exhibition was possible. This examined how the historic landscapes of Scotland contributed to imperial ambitions and to the forced displacement of people. Sadly only a

small number did attend on the day. Perhaps not needing to formally book for this caused less commitment.

Our next event for 14th August arranged by Karine, is a Film afternoon in Mugdock Theatre followed by a light buffet. Because of reduced staff numbers at MCP, evenings are not possible at this time. This will be posted on Breaking News in next few days.

We also are looking at the possibility of a guided tour of Botanic Gardens in September which could be a very pleasant and still colourful time to visit.

Karine Davison. 10th July 2026

Walking Holiday reports

The Andorra Expedition

Somehow without fully realising what I was taking on, I found myself organising an overseas holiday for the BMRH.

Following the success of the Huelva holiday we looked at first to Saga; unfortunately Saga no longer allows independent travel and only offers guided walks at 90 euro per person per walk. We therefore looked at self-guided walking holidays with a big firm. This turned out to be Inghams who are anxious to keep their winter sports hotels active for the rest of the year and are flexible about travel arrangements.

Therefore intensive preparations were required to prepare ourselves for an unknown destination. A sub-committee of three was formed. Various sources were consulted including 'Walk Andorra!' which I downloaded and other internet sources. When we got there we found them all to be works of misleading fiction. Suspicion was already rife so Bill Faerstrand, Joan Mackie and I met regularly to do the research. The most positive point was finding the map app. Mapy.cz which is brilliant and shows paths everywhere although Andorran farmers preferred to preserve their tobacco crops with electric fences which rather reduced our options.

Eleanor and I arrived a day early at Xalet Verdu in Arinsal village and I went exploring. It became clear that there are a lot of contour lines in Andorra. The party of 18 arrived after a trying time with the passport check at Barcelona airport. There was a four hour transfer. The hotel food was very good and we were effectively marshalled by Nello and Gorett at mealtimes. Bar prices were reasonable.

Walks were divided into easy and more strenuous guided by Bill and Joan. We covered a lot ground including three river walks and some of Bill's misguided tours. Nonetheless there were no injuries. The scenic walk we went for at the Tristaina lakes was marred by fog but I am sure that we would have enjoyed the views.

The group were highly supportive and once some initial worries were overcome, gelled very well and good-humouredly. We are indebted to Carol Phillips-Jones who helped us a lot over and above her duties as Inghams' meeter-and-greeter. All 20 returned to Glasgow by EasyJet with no problems.

Phil Belcher

20 members of our Group travelled to Arinsal in Andorra for a week – walking in sun and snow, and at heights up to 2000m some of the time. Arinsal sits at 1550m. It was very picturesque and a mixture of hilly with flat valley walk options. The walks were all successfully organised and navigated by members of the group, with the help of the local Inghams rep for local buses etc. Instead of describing

the holiday here, John Soraghan ‘penned’ a wonderful poem for our website which says it all really – well done John.

Bill Faerstrand/ Fiona Taylor

Walking Programme Report

Verbal report from **PL**

Ongoing crisis with a lack of leaders and a lack of walks going into the programme.
Co-leaders require to be trained otherwise they can be designated as back markers.

5.0 Social Events

5.1 Events Planned

-Botanic Gardens Tour, Tuesday 15th September. Not yet confirmed. Awaiting a reply from Tour organiser. **JG** can chase up and liaise with **LC**. **ACTION JG /LC**
-Hill House, Helensburgh. For further investigation **ACTION LC/KD**
Other suggestions also briefly discussed.

5.2 Mugdock Film Afternoon Friday 14th August

Details now on breaking news for this confirmed event. The film is “Edie” and there is a buffet afterwards

6.0 Leaders Thank You Event

Confirmed for Friday 18th September in Gavin’s Mill. **PL** to send out a second round of invitation emails which will allow final number to be confirmed. **LC** is attending in a Gavin’s Mill “volunteer” capacity but was encouraged to be included in our catering numbers.
SG can work the coffee machine also as a Gavin’s Mill volunteer. **ACTION PL**

7.0 Publicity

General discussion. 10 new members suggests publicity could be working. **SC** will ask new members how they heard about the group when she forwards the welcome pack. **ACTION SC**

7.1 Submissions to Community Magazine

Currently **Sue Swinson SS(or SG)** rewrites the long version of the walk description that is in our on line programme to produce a brief sentence or two appropriate for the magazine. It was requested that walk leaders supply an abbreviated walk description that can be used for the submission to the Community Magazine.

Leaders need reminded to submit information early so that it can beat the publication deadline (the first Friday of the month before publication) and be used in the magazine. This information can be a simple date and title of a walk and be put on our website walk programme in advance of any reccie.

SS has suggested that all the weekend walks should be advertised in the magazine, not just the A/B to widen the appeal of the group. **ACTION PL**

8.0 Bus walks 2026

General discussion. Keswick walk successful last Saturday. There were 4 non members present. 3 cancellations. Small financial loss as predicted. Buses are subsidised. Question of refunds discussed and to be made clear to members next year on booking. It was agreed no refund on the bus booking but a refund on a meal cost might be possible.
Dunkeld bus walk in August- bookings progressing.

9.0 Ramblers Changes to Insight Hub Access

Discussion triggered by email received by several of our committee who currently have access to personal data on our members. A very brief on-line training module on GDPR matters now needs to be completed annually by any volunteer who handles personal data. It has already been completed by **FT** and **SC** for this year. **PL** still to do. **ACTION PL**
 Blind copying of emails should be encouraged. Any data sharing needs to be justified. **SC** will set up a Whatsapp group for the few committee members who legitimately need access to our membership list. **ACTION SC**

10.0 Ramblers/HMRC Changes to expenses mileage rate

Our current rate for reccie expenses is 45p per mile. It is agreed to increase this to 55p per mile as per new guidance from Ramblers/HMRC. The claim form needs to be amended and an item put on breaking news. **ACTION MA (FT will add a link)**

11.0 Committee Documents on the website

Task completed by **FT FS BP** and **KD**

Documents include AGM documents, AGM checklist, job descriptions etc. They are now stored under "Committee, Governance".

12.0 First Aid Training

Information was sent out to all ramblers members on courses but it was not thought appropriate training for our walkers. There is however information on the Ramblers website including first aid training modules

13.0 RS Access Subcommittee proposals

FT received an enquiry from Gavin Corbett (Policy and Public Affairs Manager at RS) and Helen Sweeting (Glasgow Ramblers) about forming a loose alliance of access officers across all Ramblers Scotland groups. Not every Ramblers group has an officer. Ours is **SG** who agreed to be part of this. **FT** will reply "yes" on our behalf. **ACTION FT**

14.0 Group Holidays

14.1 Brief Feedback

PBe gave his report on the June Andorra holiday (see 4 above) and was thanked for his input.

14.2 Future Group Holiday Plans

Joan Mackie and **Bill Faerestrand** have expressed a willingness to organise a group holiday in 2027 or 2028 possibly to La Palma. **FT** will ask them to advise on an approximate timescale of investigation. **FT** made the point that by not offering a UK holiday we are potentially excluding a lot of our members. It was suggested that perhaps someone else could organise one. **ACTION FT**

15.0 AOCB

PL sadly announced her intention to resign from the committee and resign from her role as walk coordinator at the next AGM.

16.0 Date of next meeting

Thursday 24th September 2026 at 18.30 in Waitrose Community Room (subject to availability) **ACTION BP**