

**Minutes of The Meeting of Ramblers Association Strathkelvin Group
held online using ZOOM at 7:00pm on Thursday 1st April 2021**

Present: Jim Lawson - Chairperson and Footpaths; Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor; Neil Kitchener - Programme Co-ordinator; Robert Bain – Treasurer and Bus Convenor; Archie Leishman – Webmaster; Stuart Ferguson - Membership Secretary; Martha Thom – Independent Member; Anne Wilkie – Independent Member; Ann Martin – Independent Member

1. Apologies:

Marjory Dunn – Independent Member

Apologies for 2nd half of meeting

Martha Thorn – Independent Member and Anne Wilkie – Independent member

2. Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2021 were accepted. Proposed by Barbara Martin and Seconded by Ann Martin.

3. Matters Arising

Covered under agenda items.

4. Secretaries' Report and Correspondence – Ann Martin

No cards required to be sent this time from Club.

Forwarded to Committee the information from Christopher McGeough @ EDC regarding a Climate Action Plan for local area. See box below.

Subject: East Dunbartonshire Climate Conversation

East Dunbartonshire Council is preparing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for our local area and would like to invite you to contribute.

The first step in preparing the CAP is a Climate Conversation, which invites local young people, residents, groups and businesses to share views and discuss how we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and improve our climate resilience.

The Climate Conversation, which runs from 8 March until 2 May, involves online surveys and events. All details and event registration instructions can be found at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/CAP.

The data gathered through the Climate Conversation will be fed into a draft CAP, which will be subject to further public consultation.

The Council looks forward to welcoming your involvement.

We are also commencing work during 2021 on new strategies that will support the objectives of the CAP: The Open Space Strategy; Circular Economy Strategy; and Active Travel Strategy. Consultations on each of these will be undertaken later this year. The comments we receive as part of the Climate Conversation will be taken into account in the preparation of all strategies.

Sustainability Policy Team
East Dunbartonshire Council
@: Sustainability@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

5. Programme Sub Committee – Neil Kitchener

Programme of Walks

The rules for organised walks were relaxed on 12th March and we resumed our programme of walks the following week with Jim's Thursday walks and two walks every Saturday since then. They have been well attended and enjoyed by all. We are allowed to have 15 people on a walk but we have decided to restrict the list to 10. Unfortunately, the rules about use of public transport and car sharing were not changed which seriously limits the options for low walkers. In addition, we are still not permitted to walk outwith the boundary of East Dunbartonshire and in view of the confined nature of the county, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new walks and create a varied programme.

We believe that the rules will be relaxed from 26th April and travel outside the county boundary will be allowed but car sharing and use of public transport may still not be permitted. This will increase the options for high walks but not help the low walkers.

The programme will continue to be issued on a weekly basis until the updated rules are published and clearly understood.

Discussion on how to inform members of walks – suggestions were to identify those without email and see if they would like to be advised by text message. Eventually we hope to get back to a full programme.

6. Social Events – Neil Kitchener

No social events have been held since February last year.

7. COVID-19 Officer – Neil Kitchener

See Programme of walks Agenda Item 5 for changes to Covid – 19 Rules.

8. Training – James Lawson

Walk Leader Conversation - Ramblers Scotland – ZOOM - Fri 26 Mar 21

Booking systems quick guide
 Factsheet – Buddying for new walk leaders
 Factsheet - Information for new walk leaders
 Factsheet - Navigation skills learning and development
 Factsheet - Recruiting and supporting walk leaders; Factsheet
 Factsheet - Walk leaders conversations Version 5
 Letter of exemption 16 Mar 2021
 Ramblers restart for walkers 30 July 2021

9. Treasurer's Report – Robert Bain

Treasurer's Report					
For the 2 months ended		31 March 2021			
				Social	General
				Fund	Fund
Receipts				£	£
Area Funding Group				-	-
Recce monies				-	-
				-	-
Payments					
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
Net receipts / (payments)				-	-
Balance brought forward				928	981
Balance carried forward				928	981
Outstanding items				-	-
				-	-

No transactions have occurred since 31 January 2021.

Excess on General Fund

Due to Covid restrictions it is anticipated that the group will end up with a surplus on the General Fund. For example, if we do not hold any physical meetings, print any programs, in other words we do not spend any money we could end up with £1,443 by 30 September 2021. This is considerably more than 40-100% of our annual expenditure or £500 whichever is greater. To remain within the guidelines, we can make plans to spend the excess on charitable activities, reduce our funding request for next year or return the surplus funds to the area. No decision requires to be taken at present however committee members should be aware of the situation.

Treasurer's Training – 29 March 2021

The Ramblers' Association ran a free course for Area and Group Treasurers on Zoom which I attended. The course covered 3 main areas viz VAT and Gift Aid, Volunteer Expenses and Bookkeeping. Vat and Gift Aid has no relevance for our Group at present and suffice to say that as far as bookkeeping is concerned, we are compliant. However, in relation to Volunteer Expenses (primarily Recce Monies for our Group) the recommended practice differs from that which has been followed by our Group since I became a member about 9 years ago.

Currently when expenses are reimbursed receipts are usually provided to substantiate a claim except in the case of Recce Monies which are paid out on a pro rata basis of £1.50p per walk.

Recommended practice is that an expense claim form should be completed and submitted with supporting receipts. In the case of Recce Monies these should be reimbursed on a mileage basis for cars or ticket cost if using public transport. The current mileage rate used by the Ramblers' Association is 28p per mile. We were also informed that some groups placed a cap on the amount that can be claimed.

Expense claims should be made within 3 months of the outlay.

A copy of the expense form used by the Ramblers' Association is attached.

It is the Ramblers' Association view that no member should be put off volunteering because of financial reasons and that volunteers should be encouraged to claim for all reasonable expenses.

It is therefore my recommendation that we bring our procedures into line with recommended practice.

Discussion on Recce Expenses – after discussing recce expenses and the way forward it was agreed that the Treasurer produce costs for how much it would be to implement the policy outlined in the report above. This could then be used to submit a bid for funding from the Ramblers.

10. Membership Secretary's Report 31 March 2021 – Stuart Ferguson

Update since last meeting on 18 February 2021.

Total Membership	150
New Members	0
Lapsed	3
Resigned	0
Deceased	1

Details:

Lapsed: E. McDonald, E Paterson and V McSheaffrey.

Deceased: W Millar

Payment Pending: There are currently 7 members listed under the Payment Pending heading.

Total membership has reduced by 4 since previous meeting as per above details.

11. Website Report – Archie Leishman

Activity from 18th February to Date:

As requested, I have added Janette Ferguson to our email contacts list. The total number on the list is now 117.

I attended the Scottish Council via Zoom on Saturday 6th March as the delegate for our group. A total of 63 people participated, including delegates, Ramblers staff and visitors. I voted in favour of the 4 motions (see below) which were passed unanimously.

1. Three yearly election and six-year maximum terms for SCEC members
2. Six Miscellaneous Amendments:
 - Abolition of requirement for 12 months' membership of Ramblers Scotland to stand for election to SCEC
 - Allowance of Proxy Votes at Annual and Special General Meetings
 - To enable Scottish Council to meet electronically
 - To abolish the current limits on the number of motions that can be proposed by the same proposers
 - To clarify the power of SCEC to fill casual vacancies among the Honorary Officers and its elected membership
 - To enable SCEC to meet electronically
3. Rename the Scottish Council Executive Committee as the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee

4. Upholding Access Rights

I continue to add walks to GWEM from the re-start of group walks on Saturday 20th March to date.

12. Footpaths Report – James Lawson

12.1 Friday, 12 March 2021 - Ramblers Scotland online Webinar

How access rights, liability, and health & safety work together

Helen Todd – Campaigns & Policy Manager

12.2 Mapping Scotland's Paths - Climate Week North East (Aberdeen)

12.3 Milton-of-Campsie Community Council looking for help to repair the paths which. More details of what CC was looking for (financial) is awaited.

12.4 The bridge and boardwalk to the left of the entrance road to Kincaid Hotel was damaged. This made it hazardous. Ongoing.

12.5 Barbara Martin reported on Paddy's Path

Footpath report: Right of Way Paddy's path, Garnkirk Lane, Steps to Woodhead Road, Muirhead

Grid ref OS64 NS 663 684 to 676 686

I have made contact via Steps & District Community Council with North Lanarkshire Council regarding the condition of this RoW. This path is in a poor state of repair underfoot with graffiti on the supports at Dewar Road and litter on various parts of the path. I have sent pictures and they are at present being discussed for the best course of action.

12.6 Seven Lochs information boards at Steps station.

I have tried telephoning the contact number I had previously 0141 287 5087 – this number is discontinued. The number still shows on various websites for the Seven Lochs. I have been calling Drumpellier Park on 01236 422 257 without success so far.

The information boards show various paths and tracks in the area but do not include the tracks from Steps / Muirhead / Gartloch which would give access to Bishop Loch and either Drumpellier Park one way or Hogganfield Loch the other.

13. Short Walks Report

Thu, 18 th Mar 2021	St Mary's Church to Waterside along the Luggie Water. Back by Woodilee and Luggie Water to start. No on walk = 14
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Thu, 25 th Mar 2021	Walk from St Mary's Church along canal and back by flood defences, canal and Unique Bridge to start. No on walk = 13
Thu, 1 st Apr 2021	Walk from St Mary's Church along canal to marina, The Greens, Lenzie Moss, Strathkelvin Railway Path, Woodhead Park and Luggie Water, canal to start. No on walk = 15

14. Bus Convenors Report – Robert Bain

Nothing to report.

15. Hall Convenors Report - Barbara Martin

KIRKINTILLOCH MINERS WELFARE CLUB		KIRKINTILLOCH MWC		THE PARK CENTRE
Committee Room		Function room		McKay Hall & Kitchen
NIL - Jan		**th June 2021		**th November 2021
18th Feb - ZOOM		TBC		TBC
Mar - pending Gov. advice				
1st Apr - ZOOM				require use of kitchen
6th May				and hot water for making
3rd June				tea/coffee
NIL - July				
5th Aug				
2nd Sept				CHRISTMAS LUNCH
7th Oct		require use of kitchen		
4th Nov		and hot water for making		**th Dec 2021
2nd Dec		tea/coffee		TBC
TBC				

16. A.O.C.B.

16.1 First aid kits: Barbara reported -

Neil received 5 kits, to date he has used 4

I have 3 First aid kits and 9 Ice packs remaining. Neil will contact me when he will require more. I will wait before requesting more as they have an expiry date

16.2 **Scottish Council 2021 held on ZOOM**

- **The Dick Balharry Memorial Talk**

7pm on Friday 26 February. Free and open to all members.

An inspiration talk by the speaker Pammy Johal, the founder and operations director of Backbone, a leading BAME outdoor environmental education charity in Scotland. Backbone has been acknowledged at a national and global level for successfully addressing diversity and inclusion in the outdoor sector.

- **Scottish Council AGM**

10am on Saturday 6 March. Voting delegates only, but it will be recorded and viewable online at a later date.

Archie Leishman our Webmaster was the Strathkelvin Ramblers Delegate. See Agenda Item 11 above for our delegates report on Scottish Council.

- **Successes of the Year**

2pm on Saturday 6 March. Free and open to all members.

A fun and engaging Zoom call, led by our director Brendan Paddy. It was a chance to learn about our most significant projects and campaigns, and to share views and questions. It included updates about Ramblers Scotland's ground-breaking Mapping Scotland's Paths project, Out There Award for young adults, Walk Leadership programme, policy and campaign priorities and group successes.

16.3 There being no further business the meeting* concluded at 20.20 pm.

* Due to ZOOM time limits the meeting was in two parts 19.00 – 19.35 then 19.45 – 20.20

James Lawson (Jim) – Chairperson