

## Minutes of The Meeting of Ramblers Association Strathkelvin Group

held online using ZOOM at 7:00pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Present:** Jim Lawson - Chairperson and Footpaths; 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; Marjory Dunn – Independent Member

### 1. Apologies:

Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor

### 2. Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were accepted. Proposed by Archie Leishman and Seconded by Robert Bain.

### 3. Matters Arising

Covered under agenda items.

### 4. Secretaries' Report and Correspondence – Ann Martin

4.1 Forwarded an email from Christopher McGeough. EDC regarding Levels of Active Travel (walking, cycling and wheeling) and hope you have received this?

#### Attached extract from council message - Jim

**From:** [Christopher.McGeough@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.McGeough@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

**Date:** 12 May 2021 at 18:22:57 BST

**Subject:** East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Discussion

Dear Sir/Madam,

Levels of active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling) have increased significantly in East Dunbartonshire over the past year. To build on this opportunity and to deliver on Action 7 of the Local Transport Strategy 2020-2025, East Dunbartonshire Council is starting work to produce a new Active Travel Strategy for the area.

The first stage in this process is to engage with local communities and stakeholders and as of Tuesday 11 May, we are pleased to let you know that the Active Travel Discussion is now open.

This period is running till 28 September 2021 to provide a significant opportunity for local communities to explore and enjoy the existing local active travel network and then suggest ways in which it could be improved.

Local residents, community groups and other stakeholders can have their say online by:

Submitting suggestions on our Ideas Map: <https://edc.mapthis.place/> Joining our online discussion sessions - please see our website for further information including details of how to register:

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/active-travel-discussion>

Getting involved through social media using #WalkCycleWheelED.

In addition to the methods outlined above, I would also invite you to provide ideas and comments on behalf of your group/organisation by email to [cycling@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@eastdunbarton.gov.uk).

Any support your group/organisation could provide as we start work on a new ATS would be appreciated, including help raising awareness through social media - <https://twitter.com/EDCouncil/status/1392046216314335236>

We hope you will join us in a positive summer of discussion that contributes to a successful second Active Travel Strategy for East Dunbartonshire.

Kind regards,

Chris McGeough - Land Planning Policy Officer, Transport  
East Dunbartonshire Council - Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets  
0141 5788620

4.2 Also received some comments and feedback from a few folk regarding not renewing membership as feel not worth paying fee as feel the walks that would suit themselves, they are unable to access and club not providing suitable grade of walks for everyone. Only providing short Thursday walks which are too short and any C walks too short and flat and no Wednesday walks now. Heard a few have walked with another small group that provide more suitable walks. Any thoughts from committee?

#### Chairperson's Summation of Discussion

1. We **depend** on volunteers coming forward to lead walks. NO VOLUNTEERS NO WALKS. At present
2. We have no problem getting leaders for high walks. However, there are very few volunteers coming forward to lead the lower-level walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We (the committee) are prepared to try and help get you up and running but you need to come forward and volunteer. Follow my lead re Thursday Walks - do not wait or expect someone else to do it!
3. Thursday Short Walks – When I came out of hospital 5 years ago the club had no walks I could do and **nobody prepared to lead short walks**. Hence as soon as I was able, I started doing short walks with a few friends. Others in a similar position asked to join our walks so I started to lead a walk every Thursday with the criteria: around 3/4 miles, little height, 2 hours long, followed by coffee and a chance to socialise. This formula has worked extremely well ever since.
4. Getting to start of walks while the Scottish Government ban on car sharing is in force (until September 2021 at the earliest) can be done using public transport (bus or train).

5. Membership **remember** Ramblers is a **Registered Scottish Charity** that fights to keep paths and countryside open for you to enjoy and walk through. Also, campaigns to get more investment in walking (Paths, Training, Education).

6. Finally remember the old saying you have to put something in to get something back so pick up your pen and volunteer to lead a walk.

**Keep safe and well - I await your offers to lead a walk.**

## 5. Programme Sub Committee – Neil Kitchener

### Programme of Walks

The rules for organised walks have been relaxed, we are now allowed to venture outwith the county boundary and to use public transport. Since we resumed our programme of walks, Jim's Thursday walks and the high walkers have managed to walk every week. However, we are struggling to encourage the low walkers to submit walks and no low walks have been arranged for the past three weeks. I currently have offers of high walks for the next four weeks. We are now allowed to have 30 people on a walk but we are still limiting the list to 15.

Unfortunately, the rules about use car sharing have not changed which seriously limits the options for low walkers and although the rules are constantly being relaxed, it is not clear when car sharing will be permitted. This would help the low walkers and reduce the problems of finding adequate car parking at the start of each walk.

The option of an organised bus trip was discussed but it was agreed that social distancing rules would reduce the capacity of the bus and make it unviable.

All members who are unable to receive E-Mail notices were contacted by post to confirm whether or not they wished to be advised about the programme. Most did not respond but 5 people provided mobile phone numbers so they can now receive notices by text message and no letters will be sent out in future. The programme will continue to be issued on a weekly basis until there has been a significant change in the rules and there are minimal restrictions.

## 6. Social Events – Neil Kitchener

No social events have been held since February last year. The events included in last year's summer programme were:-

April	St Mungo's Cathedral	Freda Bunyan.
May	Ross Priory	Christine Paccione / Ann Martin
June	Govan History Tour	Hazel Macfarlane
July	Treasure Hunt	Neil Kitchener
August	World Buffet Meal	Parmjit Kaur
September	Three Bridges Boat trip	Hazel Macfarlane

It was agreed that Neil will review which of the original events are still feasible so that when the restrictions are relaxed we can restart holding social events.

## 7. COVID-19 Officer – Neil Kitchener

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

## 8. Training – James Lawson

Nothing to report

## 9. Treasurer’s Report – Robert Bain

Treasurer's Report					
For the month ended		30 April 2021			
				Social	General
				Fund	Fund
				£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Area Funding Group				-	-
Recce monies				-	-
				-	-
<b>Payments</b>					
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>					
				-	-
Balance brought forward				928	981
<b>Balance carried forward</b>				<b>928</b>	<b>981</b>
Outstanding items					
R Bain	Website - One.com				63
N Kitchenr	Postage				80
				-	143

No transactions have occurred since 31 January 2021.

### Excess on General Fund

Further to the email consultation with the committee we advised the Area that we did not require our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter funding due to Covid restrictions. It is now anticipated that the group will end up with a surplus on the General Fund of £838 if 4<sup>th</sup> quarter funding is also declined.

### Treasurer’s Training – 29 March 2021

Further to my comments regarding volunteers’ expenses at our last meeting I attach a copy of the guidance from the Ramblers’ Association. As stated on the second page of the

guidance, most volunteers do not claim recce expenses and if this were the case the Association could not afford to fund it, however individuals should not be discouraged from volunteering because of financial circumstances.

Strathkelvin Ramblers provide approximately 120 walks each year at variety of locations. If mileage claims were capped at say £5 then assuming all volunteers made a claim, this would amount to £600 compared to our current budget of £240. However, it appears to be the general experience that very few volunteers claim mileage expense.

Based on last year's programme the amounts paid out were as follows.

No of walks led	Recce Money Paid	No of leaders receiving this amount
1	£1.50	8
2	£3.00	13
3	£4.50	8
4	£6.00	9
5	£7.50	7
6 or more	£13 (average)	3

## 10. Membership Secretary's 11 May 2021 – Stuart Ferguson

Update since last meeting on 01 April 2021.

Total Membership	148
New Members	3
Lapsed	5
Resigned	0
Deceased	0

Details:

New Members: Gerri Whitehall, Raymond Roberts and Geoff Salt.

All new members have been sent a Welcome pack.

Lapsed: David Watson, Satnam Sandhu, Flo McEwan, Kathryn Johnston and Janine Johnston.

There are no further member changes to report this month and there are no names listed as Payment Pending.

Total membership has reduced by 2 since previous meeting as per above details.

## 11. Website Report – Archie Leishman

### Activity from 1<sup>st</sup> April to Date:

I have added 4 new names to our email contacts list.

- Alastair Graham (new to group, member since 2017)
- Gerri Whitehall, Raymond Roberts and Geoff Salt (new members who joined in April)

The total number on the list is now 121.

There are a number of email addresses on our contacts list of people who have not renewed their membership and, officially, are no longer Rambler's members. What is the committee's view on whether or not their details should be removed from our group's contact list?

I continue to add walks to GWEM on a weekly basis.

## 12. Footpaths Report – James Lawson

### Milton of Campsie Footpaths Update – Neil Kitchener

Milton of Campsie Community Council have agreed to set up a working party to coordinate and organise the repair and upgrading of the footpath network around the village.

They have a bank account and have obtained £3,000 of funding from East Dumbartonshire Council. They will also be applying to Paths for All and hope to receive £1,500 but they may miss the closing date for the next round of applications unless they submit by the end of the month.

They are currently carrying out surveys to determine the extent of the works which are required. They will then schedule the priorities and provide costings for the work which will enable them to submit the details to us so we can consider how much funding we are able to provide.

They will be contacting the owners of the properties to seek approval to carry out the works. One of the first projects will be the repair of the boardwalk leading up to the Kincaid Bridge.

## 13. Short Walks Report – James Lawson

Thu, 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2021	St Mary's Church – Forth & Clyde Canal – Christine's Way – Lenzie Moss – Boghead Wood – Christine's Way – St Mary's Church No on walk = 13
Thu, 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2021	St Mary's Church – along north side of canal to tunnel at Harestanes – back along south side of canal – detour through Luggie Park – St Mary's Church. No on walk = 13
Thu, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr 2021	St Mary's Church – SRP – Birdston Railway – loop round Milton-of-Campsie – SRP back to Kirkintilloch – loop around to Unique Bridge and back along canal to St Mary's Church. No on walk = 11

Thu, 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2021	St Mary's Church Townhead – Woodhead Park – SRP – Bridle path beside the railway through Woodilee - down path to Waterside – follow Luggie Water – St Mary's Church. No on walk = 12
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	St Mary's Church – along south bank of canal to Harestanes – through housing to Merkland Nature Reserve – walk round Merkland Nature Reserve – through housing – along Luggie Water back to St Mary's Church. No on walk = 10
Thu 13 May 2021	St Marys Church – along canal – Christine's path – Boghead Wood – round Lenzie Moss- Christine's Way – Marina – pontoons etc back to St Mary's Church. No on walk = 9

#### **14. Bus Convenors Report – Robert Bain**

Nothing to report.

#### **15. Hall Convenors Report - Barbara Martin**

Nothing to report.

#### **16. A.O.C.B.**

There being no further business the meeting\* concluded at 20.15 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