

Glasgow Ramblers Committee Meeting 15th March, 2022

	Present Annette Bonar (AB); Geoff Der (GD); Gareth Morgan (GM); Barry Pottle (BP); Helen Sweeting (HS); Alan Watt (AW); Sandra West (SW). Also attending Jim Riddell (JR) joined during #5 discussions.
1.	Welcome • AW welcomed committee members; Catherine Watt (CW) and Frances Arthur (FA) were unable to attend. It was agreed that AW should chair the meeting.
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting held on 11th January 2022 a - Accuracy as record of meeting Those present agreed the record was accurate subject to two amendments highlighted by BP, both relating to item 3b - Group delegates to North Strathclyde Area meetings. First, to replace “AW and GM are happy to continue as our group’s reps” with “It was noted that AW and GM had been elected at the Group AGM to fill two of the three places for representatives to the North Strathclyde Area Council”. Second, to replace “At our AGM Paula Wise was nominated as our representative at the North Strathclyde AGM (20th Jan)” with “It was noted that Paula Wise had been elected at the Group AGM as representative to Scottish Council, which was due to meet by Zoom on 5th March.” b - Matters arising • None not covered by the agenda. c – Actions completed • FA to provide email details to GD so he could forward Membership Sec emails to her. • CW liaise with Gerard over security for Glasgow Ramblers email address. • AW to arrange for bank a/c second signatory change to GD. • CW to circulate revised walk leader’s meeting date. • GD to set up group cttee email. • GD to draft new local group text for main Ramblers website. • CW to contact Renfrewshire Council about hazardous road sign. • CW to contact Prof Dee Heddon about her doing a talk for the group. • CW to let Ramblers Scotland know that SW will lead a Glasgow Group introductory walk in Pollok Park. • CW to email previous walk leaders to ask if they are willing to continue. • AW to draft and circulate text re need to contact the walk leader, providing contact details and COVID issues. • AW to investigate First Aid courses. • CW to add info re potential Lairig Ghru w/e in September to newsletter. d – Actions in progress • CW to contact Simon Cuthbert about leading a geology walk.
3.	a - North Strathclyde Area AGM (20th Jan 2022) • This was attended by AW and GM as our group’s reps and BP as individual rep. AW noted that it was a largely administrative meeting at which: BP was elected as Chairman; Adrienn (Adri) Hortobagyi (a member of Glasgow Young Walkers) as Secretary; and Mike McManus as (re-elected) Treasurer. There were also talks from Brendan Paddy (Ramblers Scotland Director) and Alison Mitchell (Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee Convenor).

	b - Scottish Council (5th March 2022) This was attended by Paula Wise as group rep, AW as North Strathclyde Area rep and BP as a member of the Motions Committee. Ramblers Scotland will provide an official report, but Paula Wise has provided a brief report for our committee (not included in Submitted Reports below as submitted in a personal capacity). This highlighted: talks by Brendan Paddy (noting encouraging membership numbers, Scottish Government support and continuing access issues) and Rebecca Dawson (Board member); and constitutional amendments. Paula also noted that she had enjoyed taking part and would be happy to continue in the role.
4.	Matters arising from the submitted reports Chair (including Magnificent 11), Treasurer, Membership, Website, Access a – Chair - CW wished to particularly note the help of Jeannie Cranfield (Ramblers Scotland Delivery Officer) for her help with various IT / site access issues. - CW still needs to get in touch with Simon Cuthbert about leading a geology walk – this might be difficult to arrange because he spends time working in Poland. - CW was pleased to note that Renfrewshire Council have said that a bollard will be installed under the sign which a walker hit her head on. This shows that councils may well respond positively if informed of problem issues. - CW noted that FA has agreed to organise a trial dog walk. AW described how dog walks have been discussed in the past, and although never completely rejected, can only really happen if organised by someone with a dog. They are not a move towards allowing dogs on regular walks, but could be organised as additions to the regular programme. (Discussed further below – see #5f.) - CW also highlighted Thurs 30th June as the formal Mag11 launch date. The event will be attended by Cameron McNeish who grew up in the Kings Park area and several Ramblers Scotland representatives (Lucy Wallace [President], Brendan Paddy [Director], Danny Carden [Communications Manager], Jeannie Cranfield [Delivery Officer] and Alison Mitchell [Convenor]). The Lord Provost has also been invited. SW and HS agreed to help CW with preparation of Mag11 goody bags. GD asked whether the launch date should go on the website - AW said yes, AW/CW will provide some brief text. - WalkCreate walk ‘recipes’ created by Prof Dee Heddon for walking and wellbeing (e.g. sign your name over a map and follow the resulting route; walk a route noting particular features, see https://walkcreate.gla.ac.uk/) can still be tested by anyone interested – contact CW. b – Treasurer - AW noted that both accounts are healthy. - The main recent expenditure has been the BASP First Aid course, income has been the Ramblers quarterly payment. - AW will write to walks leaders to check they have submitted all expenses. c – Membership Secretary - FA’s report notes a total Glasgow membership of 289 (10th March), up two from the last committee meeting. d – Website - GD’s report notes rebranding of the Glasgow Ramblers in line with new Ramblers UK branding and submission of content for our webpage on the Ramblers UK website. He asked to be alerted to any parts of our website that still have the old branding. - AW commented that the rebranding schedule for the main Ramblers website has clearly slipped. - GD reported that through chatting with one Glasgow member he was made aware that they weren’t aware of our website and were accessing walks info via the main

	UK site. AW hoped the new Ramblers UK site might make our page more like a portal to our local site. e - Access - Nothing to report – but JR noted GCC have given planning permission for 400 more houses along the canal. ACTIONS - CW, SW and HS to liaise over Mag11 goody bags filling. - AW/CW and GD to liaise over Mag11 launch text for website. - All to contact CW if interested in trying WalkCreate walks. - AW to write to walk leaders to check submission of expenses. - All to alert GD if they spot any remaining old branding on our website.
5.	Walks and events a - Incidents - None reported. - BP noted cancellation of his 5th Feb walk due to bad weather and withdrawals – it will go ahead this weekend. AW commented that despite this example, walks attendance is now good, including midweek. b – Walk leader meeting - AW reported this had gone well. A programme has now been put together until the end of June, with just a few gaps, and including some walks going further afield. Not all have yet been published. c – Car sharing - This is still uncertain following the First Minister’s recent request for continued prudence. - BP quoted current Scottish Government advice: “You should not share a vehicle with anyone from another household, unless you absolutely have to”. - AW said the future uncertainty made it hard to plan walks that need cars. GD suggested car sharing in household bubbles, but this would exclude the majority unable to do this. - AB noted that some groups are using buses again. d – September weekend - AW reported that Bobby Robb and Ian Brooke have publicised this, which would be a repeat Ardrishaig trip. Ian needs to confirm for exclusive use of the Backpackers Hostel very soon. Around 20 people are needed to make shared costs reasonable, but only 13 have signed up. It was suggested that this might be because: it’s only a few months since we were last there; and people are assuming they will have more options for trips of their own this year. Ian has suggested cancelling and finding a different destination for 2023. It was agreed that he should do this if he thinks pursuing the Ardrishaig idea isn’t worthwhile. - AW noted that he and CW might try an arrange a Braemar weekend, including Lairig Ghru, in 2023. e – Shared learning - AW reported that a number of ‘Shared Learning’ groups were run concurrently at Scottish Council, allowing people to discuss shared interests. He and Steve Cartwright attended one on walks programmes at which Steve presented on the system used by Glasgow Ramblers to about 10 other participants. AW’s impression is that Glasgow has a looser arrangement than most other groups, some of which are very formulaic, but also that groups tended not to want to change their system. f – Dog walks (continued from #4a) - BP commented that we don’t want to start something which is then difficult to

	continue because no-one is willing to lead (which is what happened with family walks). GD thought it was OK as an experiment – if dog walkers don't take up the initiative, it won't reflect badly on Ramblers. All agreed and were happy if FA was willing to try to organise this. • AW noted the need for rules and precautions – he volunteered to try and find out what other groups do and to go to Jeannie Cranfield for advice. g – First aid course (face-to-face, 9th April) • AW reported that there are still three spare places. He asked Committee members to let him know if they want to attend. He will then try a final trawl of Glasgow and, if necessary, North Strathclyde Area members. • AW noted that the course had been funded by Ramblers UK as requested in the Glasgow budget. h – Walks wording re COVID advice and waiting until two weeks prior to a published walk before contacting the walk leader • All agreed they were happy with the wording. • If a someone makes contact ahead of the two weeks, walk leaders should ask them to get back in touch later. • GD noted that not all our published walks included the wording – AW said he would check this and amend if necessary. ACTIONS • AW to let Ian Brooke know we agree to cancellation of Ardrishaig hostel if he thinks he cannot get required numbers. • AW to investigate re dog walks and check advice required with Jeannie Cranfield. • AW to trawl again for anyone wishing to attend the first aid course. • AW to check all published walks for COVID and two weeks wording.
6.	Date of next meeting • 5th July – zoom unless Scottish Government advice changes
7.	AOCB • None.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair's Report

Matters Arising from meeting on 11th January

Pt 4 we have Jeannie Cranfield to thank for eventually allowing FA to access the Insight Hub. CW still has access to Insight Hub and sending out Newsletter

All other Actions done apart from CW has not yet contacted Simon Cuthbert. Also a Braemar weekend is shelved and a Lairig Ghru walk was not included in the Feb Newsletter because Ian and Bobby offered to organise a September Weekend Away.

Renfrewshire Council responded to email saying that they would install a bollard under the sign at Howwood.

New style Newsletters

Any useful comments?

Possible Dog Walk

FA attended a event with Jeannie Cranfield about Running Dog Friendly Walks. She is willing to organise one as a trial and put it on to GWEM. All other walks will remain dog free apart from where an assistance dog is required.

Magnificent 11 Update

Formal launch on Thursday 30th June. Cameron McNeish has agreed to cut the ribbon at the gates of Linn Park on Clarkston Road. Thereafter, we hope to use minibusses to take the group to Fernbrae Meadows and up to the Cathkin Braes. Invitations to RS have been sent out and accepted by Lucy Wallace, Brendan Paddy, Danny Carden, Jeannie Cranfield and Alison Mitchell. Hopefully the Lord Provost will come. A guest list will be made up

Tuesday 10th May - several individuals from groups in North Strathclyde Area have helped us over the years along with Eastwood, Paisley Inverclyde Ramblers. I have written to the secretary of NS Area asking her to send out an invitation to all groups to join a Magnificent 11 Celebratory Walk.

Before the schools break up for Summer - Gary will organise a Magnificent 11 walk with local children.

Help needed. I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help us prepare goody bags with a drink, snack, postcard, Mag11 badge, pencil and RS have offered some funding for a launch event.

WalkCreate

We took 14 recipes for a walk and provided feedback for The Walkbook: recipes for walking and wellbeing. Thanks to Annette and Frances for meeting on Zoom with Prof Dee Heddon and to all those who provided feedback. Glasgow Ramblers will be acknowledged in the Walkbook.

Dee Heddon has offered to speak to us and would great for our AGM.

Catherine Watt, Chair

15th March 2022

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Treasurer's Report for Glasgow Ramblers' Committee Meeting 15 Mar 22

Main Account Balance at 11/1/22 £1611.56 Significant items of income £567.00 Quarterly payment from Ramblers Significant items of expenditure £1105.00 to BASP for First Aid Course Balance at 13/3/22 £1069.92	Self-funded account Balance at 11/1/22 £975.55 Significant items of income None Significant items of expenditure None Balance at 13/3/22 £979.19
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Notes

1. Recce expenses to be requested up to the end of March.
2. Postage costs for Mag 11 leaflets to be claimed.

Alan Watt, Treasurer 13/3/22

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Membership Report for Glasgow Ramblers March 2022

Since 01/01/2022 the memberships figures are as follows:

New to Ramblers	12
Rambler members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1
Rambler members who have re-joined Glasgow Ramblers	1
Members who have resigned	8
Members whose membership has lapsed	4
Members who have moved to another Group	0
Members who moved to another Area	1

Sadly, one member has died.

On 10 March 2022 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 289, this is an increase of 2 since the last Committee meeting in January 2022

Frances Arthur
10/03/2022

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Website report

The Glasgow Ramblers website has been rebranded in keeping with the new branding adopted by Ramblers UK. There are some known differences, eg slightly different fonts, which remain as they are minor and would need a lot of work to complete. Do let me know of other parts of the website that still have the old branding and I will work on changing them.

Some simplification of the website has been done during the rebranding process. We are waiting for the new walks manager to be rolled out before making further changes as these might depend on its functionality.

The content for the Glasgow Ramblers webpage on the Ramblers UK website has been submitted to Ramblers central IT team and acknowledgement of the submission received. As yet the new material has yet to appear on the Ramblers UK site.

Geoff Der - March 2022