

	Present Geoff Der (GD), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Gareth Morgan (GM), Malcolm Martin (MM), Anne Nicholson (AN), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW). YF gave a special welcome to new Committee members MM and AN.
1.	Apologies Marjory Anderson (MA), Frances Arthur (FA), Terry Cassidy (TC).
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting held on 15th October 2025 a - Accuracy as record of meeting - Those present agreed that the record was accurate and could be approved and uploaded to the website. b - Matters arising (ACTION points from 15th October Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re #2 Minutes of July Committee meeting</u> - ALL to provide feedback to GD on whether he should simplify the Glasgow Group home page along the lines of that of Cunninghame's (their text is less wordy with clear links – see https://www.cunninghameramblers.org.uk/). DONE – some feedback, including suggestions from YF in respect of the text. - GD to continue working on our home page on the basis of feedback. IN PROGRESS – GD will: (i) amend text and (ii) add the diagram which was included in our 2025 Annual Report showing Glasgow Ramblers nested under Area, Scotland and Ramblers GB and then re-circulate. - MA / SW to highlight the https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions link in our Newsletter. IN PROGRESS – this will be included in the March newsletter. - GD to add the offers link to our website. IN PROGRESS. - YF to ensure committee membership and particularly the IT / website role is raised at the AGM. DONE. - TC to ask Walk Leaders to send recce refund requests to SW's personal email. DONE – but now superseded since we have a new Treasurer. This reminded Committee members that the list of walk leaders has changed significantly since the introduction of mandatory training. GD suggested that SW send him an updated list, with emails, to put into the email forwarder. - GD to check that the Chair@... etc emails go to the correct people. DONE – these are correct although most are rarely used. GD has added AN to the 'Committee' address; he will do the same for MM and will also liaise with him re the Treasurer@... email account. - HS to check whether wifi is available in the Pearce's Billiard Room. DONE. <u>Re #3 Minutes of September Committee (AGM planning) meeting</u> - SW to amend dates in AGM 24/08 heading on the draft 2024 AGM Minutes to be circulated to members. DONE. - GD to post: (i) the 2025 AGM notification using the wording in the email version; (ii) the Agenda, as 'draft'; and (iii) the report once agreed. DONE. - HS to message YF re Annual Report. DONE. - GD to post the final agreed report on the website. DONE. - GD to source two cakes, working to a budget of £60. DONE. - SW / FA / TC to check catering facilities and (see below) HDMI lead requirements at Pollokshaws Burgh Hall. DONE. <u>Re #4 AGM</u> - HS to sort AGM refreshments (other than cake). DONE. - SW to add a few additional minor explanations and the Independent Examiner sign-off to

	the Financial Statement to be circulated to members. DONE. • SW to ensure someone takes Ramblers buffs etc to the AGM in her absence. DONE. • A Committee member (?YF) to bring a laptop in order to project AGM documents. DONE. • TC and YF to appeal for new Walk Leaders and Committee members when presenting the report. DONE. <u>Re #5 Succession planning</u> • Temporary Treasurer role to be raised at AGM. DONE. Since then the Committee has co-opted MM as a Committee member and Treasurer. (NOTE – the Committee has the power to do this – the current Constitution includes “6. MANAGEMENT ... (iv) It [i.e. the Committee] shall have the power to co-opt additional members. ... 7. OFFICERS ... (iii) The committee shall have power to fill vacancies.”) • SW to ensure Succession Planning remains on the Agenda. DONE. <u>Re #6 Governance – role of Groups and Areas in Scotland</u> • SW to ensure Governance remains on the Agenda. DONE. <u>Re #7 North Strathclyde AGM</u> • ALL to help with planning / walk leading as required. DONE – YF and SW will attend. <u>Re #9 Walks and events programme</u> • HS to post Walk Leader training on our website. DONE. • TC / YF to publicise Walk Leader training at the AGM. DONE. <u>ACTIONS</u> • GD to (i) amend text and (ii) add the diagram showing Glasgow Ramblers nested under Area, Scotland and Ramblers GB to our home page and then re-circulate. • MA / SW to highlight the https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions link in the March Newsletter. • GD to add the offers link to our website. • SW to send updated walk leader list to GD, with emails, to put into the email forwarder. • GD to: (i) add MM the ‘Committee’ email address and (ii) liaise with MM re the Treasurer@... email account.
3.	Succession planning • YF noted that a pipeline of new Committee members / Officers is needed – individuals cannot be expected to serve for years and years. • SW reported that FA will continue as Membership Secretary but would be happy if anyone wished to replace her. • SW herself will step down from the Secretary role at the next (Nov 2026) AGM. YF thought this was probably the largest role of the Committee. SW described AGM preparation as most burdensome and noted that MA has taken over some of the responsibility for the newsletters. It was agreed that SW should list the various Secretary tasks which could perhaps then be shared. • There was discussion – not for the first time – re the Website / IT role as being most difficult to fill, given the knowledge required. GD has been in this role since 2018. <u>ACTIONS</u> • SW to list the various Secretary tasks.
4.	Governance – role of Groups and Areas in Scotland • YF provided some background. Ramblers GB have been looking to reform their governance structures. Their aims include becoming more democratic with more member involvement and also professionalisation of the Board. They are also looking at the nested structure of Groups – Areas – Regions – Ramblers GB. There has been a lot of consultation and debate over the past year – and a lack of consensus. Another series of meetings has been arranged. YF has been invited to attend the Scotland meeting in

	Edinburgh on 8th Feb and will report back. MM asked whether there was an organisational chart defining roles and responsibilities? (NOTE – some information can be found here https://www.ramblers.org.uk/about-us/how-we-are-organised.)
5.	Use of Walk Partnership money - SW explained that when members book a holiday with Ramble Worldwide and nominate Glasgow as their group, the group receives a financial contribution (£10 per person booked for UK, £20 for short haul and £30 for long haul holidays). This is transferred to the Group twice a year – the most recent amount was £150. It goes into the ‘Social fund’ which has therefore built up. We’ve had a lot of discussion around what we should use this money for and in 2025 we used it to host our first aid training day. Our July 2025 Committee minutes include “<i>Ramblers GB guidance is that social funds be used for day walks, holidays and socials. SW has spoken to some other groups who have used theirs for things like gates on walks for which they have a particular interest / involvement.</i>” - It was decided that the next newsletter should include a list of suggested uses for this year’s Walk Partnership money and ask members to vote. Various ideas (plus ‘Other – what?’) were put forward. YF agreed to draft a list and circulate to Committee members then include in the March newsletter. <u>ACTIONS</u> - YF to: (i) draft a list of possible Social Fund uses for Committee feedback and (ii) ensure the final agreed list is included in the March newsletter with voting options.
6.	Hosting North Strathclyde AGM – Pearce Institute, Sat 7th Feb 2026 - Glasgow Group are hosting but Area are leading on the planning (e.g. sending invites). YF has been involved in booking the Pearce and proposing a walk. She will also arrange for teas, coffees, etc. - SW will also attend. HS noted that unfortunately she has a walk arranged for that day. <u>ACTIONS</u> - HS to provide catering tips to YF!
7.	Reports (taken as read) <u>a. Chair</u> - No comments. <u>b. Treasurer</u> - NOTE – GD was appointed temporary Treasurer at the Nov 2025 AGM; MM has recently been co-opted onto the Committee as Treasurer. - No comments on the report - GD has received some hard copy bank statements from BP’s wife – he will send these to MM. - GD asked about adding MM as a signatory of the bank accounts. This needs two signatures from current named signatories of whom SW is one. She will bring the form for GD to sign on the Sat 24th Jan walk. - GD wondered if his name should be removed? It was agreed that it should and that account signatories be restricted to the Group’s main officers (Chair; Secretary; Treasurer). - GD noted that there is a document listing Treasurer responsibilities. He agreed to try to find this and send it to MM. - There was discussion of Treasurer responsibilities, of which the annual budget request, made in the summer, is probably the greatest. HS suggested that it might be useful for MM to see emails from BP in relation to recent budget requests in order to get an idea of

	what is involved. <u>c. Membership secretary</u> - No comments. <u>d. IT/website</u> - No report. <u>e. Access and countryside</u> - YF has heard no more from Jessy Field (Glasgow City Council Countryside Ranger) about reinstatement of a Local Access Forum. She will pass Jessy Field's contact details to HS. - HS has agreed to attend the Ramblers Scotland Access Sub-Committee – next meeting 29th Jan. - GD wondered if access issues had become more complex since 'Right to Roam'. (The 2003 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 introduced new rights of responsible public access to land and the countryside – basically it means that the public can walk on nearly all land in Scotland, provided they behave responsibly. The Act gave local authorities both duties and powers to manage access in their areas.) <u>f. Secretary</u> - Note was made of invitations to register for Ramblers 2026 Scottish Council (Edinburgh, 14th March) and Ramblers Gathering (Pitlochry, 24-27th April). YF will attend Council as Group Chair and Annette Bonar as a rep. YF will ensure that Annette knows the date and arrangements. - SW reported that following the successful October Group holiday to Calpe, people have been asking her about a potential future trip. She will obtain some ball park figures for a holiday possibly including more challenging walks and then assess interest. <u>ACTIONS</u> - GD to send hard copy bank statements to MM. - SW / GD to liaise over the form which adds MM as a signatory of the bank accounts. - Existing signatories to liaise over removal of GD's name from the list. - GD to send document listing Treasurer responsibilities to MM. - HS to send example Group annual budget emails to MM in order for him to get an idea of what is involved. - YF to pass Jessy Field's contact details to HS. - YF to ensure Annette Bonar is aware of Scottish Council arrangements. - SW to obtain some ball park figures for an overseas holiday and then assess interest.
8.	Walks and events programme <u>a. Walks Programme</u> - TC has reported via email that the programme is healthy for the next couple of months and a newly trained leader has expressed interest in putting on a walk. <u>b. Any incidents or anything to report</u> - None.
9.	AOCB - SW noted that risk assessments (which are not consistently completed) are sent to her for filing (when it might make more sense for them to go to the Group's Walk Co-ordinator) and must be retained for three years. YF suggested that the issue go on the agenda for our next meeting. - It was agreed that the AGM should also go on the March agenda – to discuss venue and speaker. - YF noted that recces for Pitlochry cannot take place until the weather improves. <u>ACTIONS</u> - SW to ensure that both risk assessments and the 2026 AGM go on the March agenda.

10.	Next meeting Thursday 26th March at 7pm - zoom.
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SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair

Yvonne's updates from 15 November, 2025, to 22 January 2026.

Drumchapel Way

Ramblers Scotland has invited us to join their efforts to improve the Drumchapel Way, a 4.5 mile waymarked circular walk which was part of a longer walk we did in December last year. They are looking for volunteers to carry out an audit of sections of the route. Jeannie Cranfield assures us it will be straightforward with a simple audit sheet. Some of the issues identified along the walk include littering and flytipping, and missing way mark signs. Parts of the path also need improved. I have volunteered to take part. If anyone would like to join me please get in touch at flynn_yvonne@hotmail.com.

Our walk on Saturday, December 20, inspired a Glasgow Times journalist to walk the Drumchapel Way and write an article about it. You can read it at <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/25753124.walked-drumchapel-way-got-surprises/>.

North Strathclyde Area AGM

The North Strathclyde Area AGM is being held in the Fairview Room, Pearce Institute in Govan on Saturday, 7 February, 2026 at 10 am for 10.30 am start.

Glasgow is host which means we: have booked the room; will supply the teas, coffees and biscuits; and lead the walk after the AGM.

The walk will be across the new Govan/Partick Bridge, through Kelvingrove Park and around Glasgow University's Gilmorehill campus. It will be about 4.5 miles and take around 2 hours.

Anyone who can help with the refreshments or leading the walk would be very welcome.

Please also note that nominations are invited for:

- Area Officers (Convener, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Minute Secretary, Footpath & Countryside Co-ordinator, Publicity Officer),
- representatives of individual members to Area Council,
- two representatives of Area to Scottish Council
- two representatives of Area to General Council.

Governance Review

I've been invited as Group Chair to a special governance review meeting for Ramblers Scotland, taking place in Edinburgh on Sunday, 8 February, 2026.

The meeting follows discussions on modernising and strengthening the Ramblers' governance model which have been going on over the past year.

At the Ramblers General Council Conference on 6 December, Council members from across Great Britain came together to explore key issues, including how trustees are nominated, appointed and elected, and how members' voices can be heard through future debates.

The meeting in Edinburgh will focus on matters unique to Scotland, ensuring that any proposed changes allow the Ramblers to continue to reflect the distinct political, legal, funding and natural landscapes in both countries. A similar meeting is being held in Wales.

The aim is to agree on a final package of governance reforms to present to General Council for decision at the Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2026. I will update the committee after the meeting on 8 February.

Local Access Forum

I am still waiting for an update from Jessy Field, Outdoor Access Officer, at Glasgow City Council on when the first meeting of the new Local Access Forum (LAF) will take place. Reinstating the LAF, which has been dormant for several years, has been approved by councillors. Jessy has said she will be in touch with further information on meetings. Meantime, we still need to recruit a representative from our membership to become our 'local access champion' and take part in the LAF.

Yvonne Flynn - January 2026

Treasurer

A copy of balances and transactions from 1st October 2025 to 18th January 2026 was provided for the Committee and is available upon request.
We are currently in the process of updating Bank account access to add Malcolm Martin as our new Treasurer.

Sandra West - January 2026

Membership Secretary

Since 16/10/25, membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	15
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	0
	Members who have moved to the Area	0
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	1
	Total joiners	16
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	19
	Members whose membership has lapsed	3
	Members who have moved Group	1
	Members who have left the Area	2
	Total Leavers	25

On 18/01/2026 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is **363**, this is a decrease of 12 since the last Committee meeting in October 2025.
Joiners were spread evenly over Nov/Dec/Jan, and leavers mostly left after one year.

Frances Arthur – January 2026

IT Website

No update for this meeting.

Access and Countryside

Background

Ramblers Scotland 8th Dec volunteer update included:
*“New volunteer role: Keeping our eyes on access
Scotland's access rights are precious to us. But they are under threat as councils and government bodies reduce funding and attention given to access. The result is paths falling into poor condition and landowners able to get away with blockages and unwelcoming signs. People severed from nature.*

That is why Ramblers Scotland has a special Access Committee. More than ever before, we need people who care about our access rights to highlight the good, the bad and the ugly of access, up and down Scotland, so that we can make sure that our rights are protected in reality, not just on paper.

Interested? To arrange an informal chat or request further details, please get in touch."

So I did – contacting Gavin Corbett, Ramblers Scotland Policy Manager, to ask for more information.

His 16th Jan reply =

"I had put in my diary to get in touch of the Glasgow Committee on Wednesday about the request for ASC members (below). ASC currently has 7 members and we meet 4 times a year (typically 3 online meetings in early evenings) and one face to face. From my point of view, as a staff member, I find it very useful as a sounding board for issues that are current. So, for example, at the most recent meeting in December ASC gave feedback on work I'd be doing on a new byelaw for Centerparcs in the Borders, on a draft agreement for railway level crossings and access issues in Glen Lyon.

Equally, however, it is useful for ASC members to bring stuff to my attention either from their own networks or what they are seeing on the ground in their own personal or group walks."

He added that he'd be happy to talk by phone. I'll try to do this before our meeting.

Helen Sweeting – January 2026

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

- Registration for 2026 Scottish Council, in Edinburgh, on 14th March.
- Registration for Scottish Ramblers Gathering 2026 – Friday 24 to Monday 27 April.
- Planning of potential week away in 2027: When; Where; Companies?

Sandra West - January 2026