

	Present Frances Arthur (FA), Geoff Der (GD), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Malcolm Martin (MM), Anne Nicholson (AN), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW).
1.	Apologies Marjory Anderson (MA), Terry Cassidy (TC), Gareth Morgan (GM), .
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2026 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 22nd January Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) <u>Re #2 Minutes of October 2025 Committee meeting</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 – DONE – GD has: (i) amended the home page to simplify; and (ii) added to the home page ‘Read more about the Ramblers Association’ with a link to a new page https://glasgowramblers.org.uk/ramblers-s-sites/about-ramblers.html. - MA / SW to highlight the https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions link in the March Newsletter – IN PROGRESS – this will appear in the May newsletter including the need to login to the Ramblers website in order to access these. - GD to add the offers link to our website – DONE – GD has added a new ‘Members Benefits’ page in the Members’ Section which notes additional benefits (e.g.s including reductions for Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need; Hostelling Scotland; Cicerone books) plus the link to the full list of member benefits and offers. GD will add the need to login to the Ramblers website in order to access these. - SW to send updated walk leader list to GD, with emails, to put into the email forwarder – IN PROGRESS - GD to: (i) add MM the ‘Committee’ email address and (ii) liaise with MM re the Treasurer@... email account – DONE. <u>Re #3 Succession planning</u> - SW to list the various Secretary tasks – IN PROGRESS <u>Re #5 – Use of Walk Partnership money</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 – IN PROGRESS – YF will ensure the blurb makes clear that the Social Fund includes both Walk Partnership money and Walk Leader recce expense donations. <u>Re #6 – Hosting North Strathclyde AGM</u> - HS to provide catering tips to YF – DONE. <u>Re #7 - Reports</u> - GD to send hard copy bank statements to MM – NOT REQUIRED – these can be accessed online. - SW / GD to liaise over the form which adds MM as a signatory of the bank accounts - DONE. - Existing signatories to liaise over removal of GD’s name from the list – NOT REQUIRED – the Committee decided to retain GD as an approver. The need to remove Barry Pottle’s name from the list of signatories was noted – SW agreed to investigate how to do this. - GD to send document listing Treasurer responsibilities to MM - DONE. - HS to send example Group annual budget emails to MM in order for him to get an idea of what is involved - DONE.

	• YF to pass Jessie Field's contact details to HS - DONE. • YF to ensure Annette Bonar is aware of Scottish Council arrangements – DONE – however Annette was unable to attend. • SW to obtain some ball park figures for an overseas holiday and then assess interest – IN PROGRESS. Re #9 AOCB • SW to ensure the both Risk Assessments and the 2026 AGM go on the March agenda – DONE. ACTIONS • MA / SW to highlight the https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions link in the May newsletter including the need to login to the Ramblers website in order to access these. • GD to add to the Glasgow Group website the need to login to the Ramblers website in order to access member offers. • SW to send updated walk leader list to GD, with emails, to put into the email forwarder. • SW to list the various Secretary tasks. • 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 May newsletter with voting options and information on how the Social Fund includes both Walk Partnership money and Walk Leader recce expense donations. • SW to investigate how to remove Barry Pottle's name from the list of bank account signatories . • SW to obtain some ball park figures for an overseas holiday and then assess interest.
3.	Succession planning • The Committee agreed that the issue should be flagged in a future newsletter (maybe July), including the list of Secretary tasks. ACTIONS • SW / MA to flag succession planning in a future newsletter (maybe July), including the list of Secretary tasks.
4.	Use of Walk Partnership money • The Committee agreed that this cannot be taken further until YF's newsletter piece and member poll (noted above in #2 ACTIONS).
5.	AGM • YF highlighted the decisions required as: date; venue; speaker; format. • Re format - YF outlined the recent Ramblers Scottish Council format – panel discussion; walk; lunch; speaker; official business. She suggested a possible advantage of a walk-lunch-speaker-business format (so restricting the indoor part of a meeting to the afternoon) could be a greater choice of venues since many have fixed booking on Saturday mornings. An example venue was the Women's Library which we have not used before. YF agreed to contact them in respect of availability and prices. • There was some discussion of whether people might leave before end-of-the-day official business. HS asked what the AGM quorum number was? [HS NOTE – I have checked and there is no mention of an AGM quorum in the constitution of the Glasgow Group constitution nor a couple of others which I looked at.] • Re speaker – suggestions include Geraldine McFaul, who has walked from Glasgow to Rome, see https://www.toughgirlchallenges.com/single-post/mcfaul (suggested by SW); Kat Jones, who has walked the 11 designated Green Belts around Greater Glasgow, see https://aprs.scot/news/kats-walk/ (suggested by Navid Faroutan); and Jeannie Cranfield,

	Ramblers Scotland community development officer, who works to build local partnerships in less affluent communities (e.g. Drumchapel Way) and alongside community groups and volunteers to support more people to go walking (suggested by YF). Several members have already heard Kat Jones speak and the Committee agreed that Jeannie Cranfield's work should interest AGM attendees. YF agreed to contact her and, assuming she is willing, to ask about availability. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF to contact Women's Library re availability (November Saturdays from around noon) and prices. • YF to contact Jeannie Cranfield re speaking and availability.
6.	Risk Assessments • SW noted that: Glasgow Group Walk Leaders are using various different templates; Ramblers GB have not updated their templates (which differ depending on walk difficulty) to reflect the recent changes in Walk Leader training; and most, but not all our Walk Leaders complete them. • GD checked the current Ramblers GB templates and noted that they do not say that completion is a requirement, but rather that "It is good practice to keep a record of your risk assessment". • AN thought the very detailed walk overviews (website and pre-walk emails) provided by most Walk Leaders generally include a good summary of the risks and she suggested that walkers should also be consistently reminded of their personal responsibilities. • GD suggested that a Risk Assessment email could be set up – but ideally someone should check that one has been done for each walk. SW noted that she retains completed assessments for three years as requested by Ramblers GB. • The Committee agreed that we need to agree a simple, practical template and then email (or meet with) Walk Leaders informing them of this and that completion is good practice. <u>ACTIONS</u> • Committee members to share recent example risk assessments to enable decisions as to what a Glasgow Group template should include.
7.	Reports (taken as read – and included at the end of this document) <u>a. Chair</u> • HS asked about the request of Karine Davison (North Strathclyde Area Footpath and Countryside Officer) for access updates (including none) prior to Area Council meetings – YF will ask for HS to be included in future requests. • GD queried YF's comment in the Governance Review section that "only a few Area Councils across Scotland remain operational, with our own North Strathclyde Area being one of the active exceptions". YF responded that this is because they can't get people to join, and although N Strathclyde remains operational it is missing several key roles (e.g. Secretary). GD commented that in large sparsely populated areas it must be difficult for people to attend physical meetings. He wondered how the funding worked in areas without a council? YF thought groups must receive it directly from Ramblers Scotland. GD wondered why, in that case, the Area level was retained? YF thought Areas could have a role but that opportunity was not currently being taken. She noted that the Governance Review is not currently dealing with Areas but will do so separately later. <u>b. Treasurer</u> • SW noted higher receipts channelled via N Strathclyde Area because the group's 2025-26 budget request included £1,000 "estimated cost of walk leader training, following the outcome of the currently ongoing Central Office review of Walk Leader qualifications". • YF highlighted potentially fairly high recce refund requests because of the Pitlochry weekend. This led to discussion of the recce refund process: SW thought a reminder

	should be included in the next Walk Leader email / meeting; GD wondered if people found provision of receipts too burdensome; and both he and MM suggested not asking for evidence for expense claims under a certain amount (e.g. £10) with MM noting that mileage claims can't be evidenced. YF agreed to check with Mike McManus (Area Treasurer) whether this would be acceptable. • HS raised the possibility of refunding Walk Leaders for actually leading the walk as well as the recce as some recompense for the work and time spent on walk planning and admin. [HS NOTE – I have searched for information on this and, eventually, discovered the current 'Guidance for Treasurer' which suggests that Ramblers GB appear to encourage stinginess, even in respect of recce expenses – and there is absolutely no mention of actual walk leading expenses. I have cut and pasted relevant text before 'Reports'.] <u>c. Membership secretary</u> • FA noted an error in the reported number of joiners since the January Committee meeting – it should be 25 not 23. • YF reported that at the N Strathclyde Area AGM it became apparent that not all members are specifying a Group and so are joining an Area – presumably by ticking a box. GD noted that Ramblers GB used to use postcode if new / moving members did not nominate a Group. • YF noted that some join Ramblers for reasons other than walking (e.g. campaigning). <u>d. IT/website</u> • No report and no comments. <u>e. Access and countryside</u> • No comments on the report. <u>f. Secretary</u> • No correspondence received. <u>ACTIONS</u> • YF to ask Karine Davison to include HS in future requests for access updates. • YF to check with Mike McManus whether submitting expense requests under £10 without a receipt would be acceptable.
8.	Walks and events programme <u>a. Walks Programme</u> • In TC's absence YF noted that the walks programme is looking healthy for the next couple of months, including walks to be led by two new Walk Leaders. <u>b. Any incidents or anything to report</u> • None.
9.	AOCB • GD reported having found the AI meeting summary (now produced by zoom and circulated following our January meeting) useful because it included most action points. HS had found it helpful as a way to check her minutes but noted that it missed one or two actions, included one or two misinterpretations and (unfortunately) was fairly discursive and so difficult to cut and paste into our current minutes format.
10.	Next meeting • Thursday 4th June at 7pm - zoom.

Ramblers 'Complete Guidance for Treasurer' available at <https://ramblers.photoshelter.com/galleries/C0000pNrznRrFprs/G0000DRXxS8fhXSo/I0000jeZ0j5nUlr/Complete-Guidance-for-Treasurer-pdf> includes:

"FIN014: Volunteer expenses

Reimbursing volunteers

The Ramblers recognises that many volunteers do not claim for every expense that they incur and is grateful for this additional generosity. Nevertheless, we wish to encourage a culture in every Area and Group where re-imbursement of expenses is accepted and welcomed.

Committee members, in particular Secretaries and Treasurers have a role to play in ensuring that volunteers are able to request re-imbursement for expenses confidently and openly.

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It is allowable (and often sensible) though to cap expense claims in order to keep expense payments affordable. Any capping of expenses should be clearly laid out in a written policy.

Expenses for 'recce-ing' walks

The following guidance has been developed following discussions held with Area and Group volunteers, and in consultation with the Area Treasurer Sounding Board. This replaces any guidance previously issued on the topic of pre-walk reconnaissance (or 'recce') expenses.

Every year our Areas and Groups organise over 20,000 walks, each led by a volunteer walks leader. To ensure that these walks are safe, walks leaders often carry out a pre-walk 'recce', for which they may incur out-of-pocket expenses. Although we would like to be able to reimburse all such expenses, unfortunately we do not have sufficient funds available to do this. In practice, the vast majority of our walks leaders do not claim any expenses incurred in carrying out pre-walk recces, and we are very grateful for this.

However, we recognise that some walks leaders may not be able to afford to pay their own recce costs, and we recommend in this case that Areas and Groups meet any such reasonable expenses where claimed. We would not expect volunteers to have to provide evidence of their financial circumstances and as such, there is an element of trust in the individual concerned.

If you are planning to reimburse walks leaders' recce expenses, please consider the following:

- Areas and Groups are responsible for setting local policies on the claiming of recce expenses. In particular, it is advisable to establish limits on such expense claims, to keep the level of claims manageable. A limit on the maximum claim amount per recce is recommended. In addition, it may be advisable to limit the mileage rate for recce expenses to a level below the guidance rate (see the section on mileage rates above).*
- Whatever policies are put in place for the reimbursement of recce expenses, all claims have to be based on actual expenses incurred (see the section on tax implications above).*
- We suggest that walks leaders who are planning to claim their recce expenses discuss this with the committee before incurring any costs.*
- Areas and Groups should only allow one recce expense claim per route for each leader, unless sufficient time has passed since the last recce of that route to warrant another recce.*
- For coach trips, recce expenses (if paid) can be factored into the price of a seat on the coach. This allows walks leaders to claim their expenses with no cost to the Area or Group.*
- For holidays (i.e. walks involving one or more overnight stops) most Areas and Groups do not reimburse recce expenses. If you do wish to reimburse walks leaders for holiday recces, we would advise that contributions are sought from trip participants."*

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair

Yvonne's updates from 22 January 2026 to 26 March 2026 including:

- The North Strathclyde AGM
- Scottish Council in Edinburgh
- Governance Review latest

A warm welcome in Govan: Glasgow Group Hosts Area AGM

Glasgow Group hosted the North Strathclyde Area AGM at the Pearce Institute in Govan on Saturday, 7 February, 2026.

It was attended by 20 people who thoroughly enjoyed our hospitality, especially the lemon drizzle cake from Waitrose. We were warmly thanked for our efforts.

The Convener, Adri Hortobagyi, chaired the meeting. Brendan Paddy (Director Ramblers Scotland) gave a short speech about Ramblers and came along on the walk over the Govan Bridge, through Kelvingrove Park and around the University of Glasgow's Gilmorehill Campus.

Key takeaways from the meeting included:

The Footpath and Countryside Co-ordinator, Karine Davison, said only three groups of the eight in the Area respond to requests for access updates prior to a meeting of the council. She asked that groups reply to her whether there are updates or not, as no replies means she does not know what is going on.

Membership increased across the North Strathclyde Area (up 54 from 1460 in September 2024 to 1514 in September 2026). The number of members not affiliated to any group increased to 138. There was no clarity on why.

Adri Hortobagyi was re-elected as convener, Mike McManus as treasurer and Membership Secretary, There were no nominations for Secretary or Minute Secretary or Publicity Officer. Karine Davison will continue as Footpath and Countryside co-ordinator. Terry Robinson (a member of Glasgow Ramblers) will continue as an individual member. Vacancies remain for a further two individual members. I attend as a representative of the Glasgow Group. Graham Duncan was appointed as Independent Examiner.

Only a handful of people stayed for the walk in the afternoon but those who did enjoyed the Glasgow sights along the route.

Better access, beavers, kites, and a sprint up Arthur's Seat - highlights from the 2026 Scottish Council AGM

The Scottish Council AGM took place this year in Edinburgh on Saturday, March 21. It began with a panel discussion on access to the outdoors which was chaired by Alison Johnstone MSP, presiding officer of the Scottish Parliament. It was agreed that Scotland has good access rights, enshrined in law, but that in practice, funding for our paths network is at an all-time low and information and awareness, including among landowners, is lagging behind where it should be. The discussion culminated in the announcement that a new campaign would be launched with the slogan 'Access Denied' in the run-up to the Scottish election in May.

A series of walks led by Edinburgh Ramblers followed, including a very brisk ascent of Arthur's Seat before lunch.

The keynote speaker was Tom Bowser, author and farmer at Argaty near Dunblane. His engaging talk focused on his rewilding efforts to reintroduce Red Kites and Beavers to his family farm and how that had shaped the future of his land. People can learn more about his project by visiting Argaty Red Kites or by reading his books.

The formal business of the day involved electing content creator Chris Lawlor, who spoke at last year's Scottish Council AGM, as the new President of Ramblers Scotland. Former President Zahrah Mahmood was announced as one of Ramblers Scotland's Vice-Presidents.

Tribute was paid to Barry Pottle, a much-cherished member of Glasgow Ramblers, who has served for many years not just on the Glasgow Committee but at area and national level too.

Robin McLaren was announced as the new Convener of the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee (RSSC), replacing Malcolm Dingwall-Smith. Also elected to the RSSC were two "weel-kent" faces to the Glasgow Group: Navid Faroutan and Terry Robinson. You can read more about Robin, Navid, Terry, and the other members of the RSSC at www.ramblers.org.uk/about-us/ramblers-scotland-strategic-committee.

Governance review: outcomes from the Edinburgh meeting

On Sunday, 8 February 2026, I represented the Glasgow Group at a governance review meeting in Edinburgh. The day was marked by lively debate by representatives from across the country on the future of the governance of the Ramblers in Scotland.

The resulting proposals, which include moving to a "Ramblers Scotland Committee" and replacing the current Scottish Council AGM with a more engaging "Member and Volunteer Forum", aim to ensure our voices are heard more clearly.

The outcomes agreed now form the basis of a final package of governance reforms which will be presented to the GB-wide General Council for decision at the Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2026.

Below is a summary of the outcomes agreed for Scotland.

Formal Recognition of Ramblers Scotland

Ramblers Scotland should be formally defined in the Articles of Association, giving Scotland a clear and explicit constitutional identity within the charity, reflecting its distinct political, legal, and cultural context.

Creation of a Ramblers Scotland Committee

The Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee (RSSC) should be replaced by the Ramblers Scotland Committee, a sub-committee of the Ramblers GB Board.

Membership Structure and Transition

Committee membership would follow a 50/50 model:

- 50% members elected by Groups in Scotland.
- 50% appointed by the committee itself, enabling targeted skills and expertise or filling regional gaps.
- The elected Scotland Trustee would chair the Committee, and a transition plan will be developed to ensure an orderly shift from the current RSSC model.

Strengthening Member Engagement

The new arrangements aim for greater involvement of members. Clear communications will be developed to explain the Committee's role, how it represents Scottish interests, and how members can raise issues or stand for election.

The Member & Volunteer Forum

The traditional Scottish Council AGM will be replaced by a "Member and Volunteer Forum." While the name is still to be finalised by the new Committee to ensure it feels inspiring, its role will be central to member engagement, influence, and participation.

Area Councils

A separate review of Area Councils is being carried out. Currently, only a few Area Councils across Scotland remain operational, with our own North Strathclyde Area being one of the active exceptions.

Yvonne Flynn - March 2026

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Treasurer

A copy of balances and transactions from 22nd January to 22nd March 2026 was provided for the Committee and is available upon request.

Malcolm Martin – 22 March 2026

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Membership Secretary

Since 22/01/26, membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	21
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	0
	Members who have moved to the Area	0
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	2
	Total joiners	23
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	17
	Members whose membership has lapsed	4
	Members who have moved Group	3
	Members who have left the Area	1
	Total Leavers	25

On 21/03/26 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is **363**, no change from the last Committee meeting in January 2026.

Frances Arthur – 21st March 2026

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IT Website

No update for this meeting.

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Access and Countryside

I attended my first Ramblers Scotland Access Sub-Committee on 29th Jan. Other members are much more experienced / senior (e.g. Chair of Aberdeen Local Access Forum; Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee member; previous Ramblers Scotland Vice President; previous Mountaineering Scotland Access Committee) and discussion topics pretty high-level. These included:

- Draft byelaw reducing access at the proposed Center Parcs site in the Borders;
- Draft MOU for private level crossings;
- Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill which proposes moving some parts of the Land Reform Act from Sheriff Court to Scottish Land Court;
- Workshops relating to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP review of camping byelaws;
- Need for Scottish Government to review the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and update guidance to the 34 access authorities (that is the umbrella term for Scotland's 32 councils and 2 National Parks);
- Ramblers report on access authorities - this was highlighted in the 1st March Ramblers Scotland newsletter ("*Third-rate funding for world-class access ... 7 of Scotland's access authorities have no Access Officers to uphold the Scottish Outdoor Access Code; most are reluctant to use legal powers to protect access; the total number of Access Officers is at an all-time low*");
- Lobbying pre election.

My current novice status means I was not able to contribute to the discussions.

On a perhaps more upbeat note, I heard from Jessy Field (GCC Outdoor Access Officer) that their Local Access Forum is now on course to meet again although I've not been informed of any dates.

Helen Sweeting – March 2026

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

- None to report.

Sandra West - January 2026