

	Present Frances Arthur (FA), Suzi Bateman (SB), Terry Cassidy (TC), Geoff Der (GD), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Gareth Morgan (GM), Barry Pottle (BP), Helen Sweeting (HS), Sandra West (SW). Also attending Jim Riddell (JR).
1.	Interim arrangements - chairing Barry Pottle agreed to chair the meeting (whilst remaining unwilling to accept the title of Group Chair).
2.	Apologies None.
3.	<u>Minutes of Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2024</u> a - Accuracy as record of meeting - Those present agreed the record was accurate and could be approved and uploaded to the website. b - Matters arising (ACTION points from 23rd January Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda) Re Minutes of September Committee meeting - HS to send pdf of final 13th June, 6th and 19th September Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website – DONE. - BP to follow up with Jeannie Cranfield (Ramblers Scotland Volunteer Development Officer) re progress with Central Office putting a process in place for people acting as sighted guides of visually impaired persons – DONE. Her reply confirmed that people would be covered if an accident occurred to the visually impaired person and they / their family blamed the person acting as sighted guide BUT she had still to clarify whether they were covered by personal accident insurance, as leaders currently were (relevant if the person acting as sighted guide suffered an accident themselves, e.g. the visually impaired person fell and pulled the sighted guide down with them). BP reported that he had emailed Jeannnie Cranfield earlier on the day of the present meeting, and that she had replied that she thought that the position regarding personal accident insurance was not likely to change, but would continue to pursue the issue with Ramblers GB. It was agreed that the issue of personal accident insurance was not essential to making a register of members willing to act as sighted guides, so that the Committee was now in a position to proceed with inviting members to volunteer. TC agreed to email all members inviting them to register their willingness, and including a link to the Amar Latif video '10 tips on guiding a blind or partially sighted person' https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/10-tips-guiding-blind-or-partially-sighted-person - and also to write a Newsletter piece. YF suggested it was also important to write something really clear for the website, noting that blind and visually impaired walkers were welcome – she agreed to draft and circulate this. - BP to email walk leaders reminding them that they can submit recce expenses any time and that these can include the walk of a recce companion – DONE. Only one claim since. Re #4 Matters arising from the AGM - HS to amend draft AGM Minutes – DONE. Re #5 Reports and matters arising - BP to liaise with SW re completion of online Unity Bank signatory / user form - DONE. - GD to let Committee members know once Ramblers Central begin feeding Walks Manager data onto the Group website and ALL to have a look for anything odd – DONE. Nothing spotted so far. - GD to report back at our next meeting on what the website changes might allow the Group to do – DONE. See IT report below. - BP to set up next Committee meeting with TC as alternative host as a test – ATTEMPTED.

	It didn't work as TC only had a basic (free) zoom account and, when BP attempted to set TC up as an alternative host, he got a message stating that TC was not a "licenced user" . SB has a paid account through her work – it was agreed to test whether she could act as an alternative host for the next Committee meeting. • BP to investigate reduced zoom costs for non-profit making bodies – IN PROGRESS. BP had not found information on reduced subscriptions within the UK. HS thought that she would be able to find a link, which she would forward to BP to follow up. • SW to ask Jeannie Cranfield whether wider Committee member attendance at shared learning sessions is allowable – IN PROGRESS. No shared learning sessions since last Committee meeting. • ALL to consider attending a 'Safety on Group Walks' online meeting – IN PROGRESS. SB indicated that she had attended one of these meetings, but no other Committee members had so far done this. Re #6 Walks and events programme • JR to highlight the gap in Glasgow Parks Ranger services following Gary Linstead's retirement with his GCC contact – IN PROGRESS. See Mag 11 report below. Re #8 Next meetings • BP to circulate Scottish Council meeting papers once available - DONE. <u>ACTIONS</u> • HS to send pdf of final 23rd January Minutes to GD and for these to be posted on website. • BP to follow up with Jeannie Cranfield on whether sighted guides could be covered by personal accident insurance. • TC to email all members re becoming a sighted guide, including Amar Latif video link. • TC to write a brief Newsletter piece re sighted guide register. • YF to draft and circulate website text re blind and visually impaired walkers. • BP to set up next Committee meeting with SB as alternative host as a test. • BP to investigate reduced zoom costs for non-profit making bodies (HS to provide link). • ALL to consider attending a 'Safety on Group Walks' online meeting.
4.	<u>Matters carried over from previous Committee Meeting</u> <u>a – AGM</u> • <u>Re Encourage attendance – in person or zoom; walk; meal?</u> BP had reviewed AGM attendance figures: in person - 2016=19; 2017=21; 2018=19; 2019=18; zoom – 2020=22; 2021=21; 2-22=18; 2023=14. Relative stability suggested zoom did not reduce numbers although 2023 saw a drop, despite a background of gradually increasing membership. It was agreed to return to an in-person meeting with a speaker and a walk in 2024. YF suggested the Govan Pearce Institute as a venue (a variety of rooms, potential catering, next to the new Govan-Partick bridge which could form the basis for a walk). HS agreed to sound out the Pearce Inst. • <u>Re Speaker</u> There were various speaker suggestions – the date would be contingent on their availability. These included: Karen Murdarasi (has recently updated Hugh MacDonald's 'Rambles Round Glasgow'); Jasmin Paris (who very recently became the first woman to finish one of the world's hardest ultramarathons, the Barkley Marathons in Tennessee); Dr Fiona Bull (Head of Physical Activity at the World Health Organisation, Honorary Prof at UofEdinburgh Physical Activity for Health Research Centre, interested in walking and health, Paths For All, etc). SW agreed to contact Karen Murdarasi in the first instance. • <u>Re Chair terminology</u> BP repeated his objection to the title of 'Chair' as suggesting furniture – but Glasgow Ramblers had adopted the term relatively recently (altering from Chairman) and changing the terminology required an AGM amendment. GD reminded the Committee that the OED provides several meanings including "<i>To preside over (a meeting, company, committee, department, etc) as chair; to be chair of (a meeting, etc)</i>". SB noted a motion to the current year's Ramblers General Council re gender neutral terms, suggesting chair or convener.

	YF believed that in future, the term 'Chair' was unlikely to cause problems. SW noted that as well as discussing the terminology, there was also actually a need for someone to fill the role; BP was also Treasurer and holding both roles is burdensome. Suggestions included: SW (who would do it if someone else took on the Secretary role); SB (who would consider it in future when more experience with the Committee); and YF (who agreed to put herself forward at the next AGM if there were no other nominations). It was agreed to continue as at present, but with the possibility of a new nomination for the AGM. b – Social media / Communication - SW was aware from informal conversations and feedback that people weren't reading the Newsletter. The Group also had Facebook and X/Twitter accounts but no social media policy – BP and SW both replied, in slightly different ways, to Facebook queries re how to join and how to find out about walks. YF noted that in the past, the Group website was seen as the place where members looked for walks, but maybe It should be thought of as attracting new members; GD thought members find / look for walks in a variety of ways. - YF noted that communication had evolved, but without analysing how effective the various channels were – she wondered whether it would be possible to do this? GD agreed the need to review and noted that our website has nothing clear or separate on how to join - FA reported that some other Groups did have this. - SW wondered whether there were ways automatically to post across Apps, to increase efficiency – GD confirmed that there were, but it would need a system whereby several people could put things on the website – he agreed to check this out. - GD wondered whether a Newsletter was needed as often as monthly? HS suggested there may be confusion due to similar badging and frequent Ramblers national and volunteer emails in addition to those from the Group. - SW noted that there were some very easy things, e.g. pinning 'How to join' information at the top of main pages. - SB mentioned that she had agreed to look at publicity for the Area, looking at what some Groups did, and could report back on lessons learned. - SW wondered how best to review? GD, BP and SW might be able to provide numbers of hits and on her next walk SW will ask people where/how they expect to receive information. YF agreed to pull information sent by others together. <u>ACTIONS</u> - HS to sound out Pearce Institute as November AGM venue. - SW to contact Karen Murdarasi as AGM speaker. - GD to check out system for automatically posting across Apps. - All with access to back ends of Group social media accounts to pin 'How to join' at the top. - SB to feed back on how other Groups handled PR / social media / communication. - All with access to back ends of Group social media accounts to provide numbers. - SW to ask walkers where / how they expected to receive information. - YF to pull this information together.
5.	Reports and matters arising a – Chair - No report as the Group did not currently have a Group Chair. b – Treasurer (financial report available on request) - BP noted that Alan Watt had now been removed as a cheque signatory and Internet Banking user for both accounts and that SW had now been added, subject to her login arrangements for Internet Banking being put in place. SW confirmed that the latter had now been done. c – Membership Secretary (report below) - FA's report notes that on 20th March "<i>the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is 361 this is an increase of 25 since the last Committee meeting in January 2024</i>" and that two more joiners this week meant membership stood at 363. - TC noted that new members were also coming on walks, but some were ignoring the

request to wait until 2 weeks beforehand to contact the Walk Leader. HS suggested posting this info at the start of the walk description to ensure that it was read.

- In respect of the ratio of numbers of members to walks opportunities, FA had attended a Ramblers Walk Safety session which included the advice that leaders should only take the number with which they felt comfortable – she thought that, particularly for new leaders, this number might be quite small. SB wondered whether shorter walks might encourage more members to try leading, as it would be a smaller commitment.

d – IT / website

- Continuing the above discussion, GD noted that our website could include a link to walks offered by other local Groups, although not all Groups could be listed since not all use the same system. He thought the best strategy would be: (1) to list all walks from local Groups within a certain time period (e.g. the next month) rather than listing those a certain distance from a geographical point (e.g. George Sq) since that may reflect the location of the Group rather than the walk; and (2) to do this on a separate page from the Glasgow Group walks. It was agreed that this should be tried as an experiment. It was possible there might be negative consequences – FA noted that some Groups did not have a booking system, walkers just turned up and this might lead to confusion over the process.

e – Access

- Nothing to report.

g – Secretary's correspondence (report below)

Re Camglen Radio request

SW had circulated a request from Camglen Radio for someone who would be willing to talk about the Ramblers, the walks and benefits of walking. TC had agreed to do this, with input from Jeannie Cranfield.

Re Potential week/weekend away in 2025

SW now had 18 names following a notice in the March Newsletter about a potential week away to Spain in September 2025. Thirty-five would be required for a trip to go ahead – she would email all members.

Re Promotional goods

SW had received Ramblers keyrings, mugs, leaflets and pens from Alan and Catherine Watt and was wondering what to do with them. SB suggested mugs as prizes for photo competitions. All agreed to think of ideas.

Re Fundraising requests

SW reported that she received lots of fundraising requests from other charities, asking the Group to promote their fundraising walks and wondered if it was reasonable to ignore these. It was agreed that it was – Ramblers is itself a charity and therefore is not permitted to promote the activities of other charities, unless part of a joint venture for mutual benefit.

Re International Women's Day Walk

SW wanted to note the great feedback in respect of this walk led by YF – who agreed to send a track to GD for the website.

Re Glasgow walks

SW had been looking at the walks around Glasgow featured via the Ramblers Central website: on going to <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/> and entering 'Glasgow', 71 walks appear. Many of these might be helpful for Walk Leaders looking for ideas, especially as many would work as evening or half day walks. However, it was unclear where these were drawn from and some were no longer viable. SW agreed to ask Jeannie Cranfield whether she knew. It was also agreed to include this as an item on the agenda for the next Committee meeting – who / how might these be checked out?

ACTIONS

- GD to add a website page with walks offered by other local Groups over the next month.
- SW to email all members re a potential week away in September 2025.
- ALL to think of the best use for promotional goods.
- YF to send a track of her Women's day walk to GD for the website posting.
- SW to ask Jeannie Cranfield re the Ramblers Central list of 'Glasgow Walks'.
- SW to include 'Glasgow Walks' on the next Agenda.

6.	Walks and events programme a – Walks programme • TC noted this was OK for April and May (where there were two walks led by new Walk Leaders), but thin thereafter. • TC also reported some issues with the website permissions for new Walk Leaders – he would ask them to check their preferences for contact details and experiment with contacting them himself. It was agreed that, if this highlighted real issues, these should be raised with Ramblers Central. b – Recruiting Walks Leaders • Although the Group now had a few new walk Leaders, all had been recruited via in-person conversations and encouragement - TC had decided to do an appeal whenever he leads a walk. c – Any incidents or anything to report • None. d – Magnificant 11 Update • At the last Group Committee meeting it was agreed to continue the Mag 11 partnership with GCC and that the gap in Glasgow Parks Ranger services, now that Gary Linstead had retired, should be highlighted. • JR had a personal contact, but had had difficulty getting in touch by phone and asked for clarification on what the Committee wanted to achieve. GD suggested simply starting by asking GCC to whom maintenance issues should be reported, now that Gary had gone. In the longer term there might be questions about provision of waymarkers and whether the route should be formalised as a core path. e – 2024 Weekend away - Aviemore • YF reported that this was now full: 32 members were booked on, she thought that all had accommodation arranged, and there were six Walk Leaders. She planned to circulate a draft programme soon, to include the Lairig Ghru guided walk (seven places, now full). ACTIONS • TC to ask new Walk Leaders to check preferences for contact details and experiment with contacting them himself. • JR to contact GCC re gap in Glasgow Parks Ranger service and implications for the Mag 11. • YF to circulate draft September weekend trip programme.
7.	Report of Scottish Council 16th March 2024 • SB had attended as the Group representative. She had left the present meeting prior to discussion of this item, but had indicated that she would provide a written report for circulation. • BP was also present at the Scottish Council meeting, as a member of the Motions Committee. He noted: good attendance; that Terry Robinson, a visually impaired walker, was elected to the Ramblers Scotland Strategic Committee; and that an Emergency Motion was passed, urging the Scottish Government to consider the size threshold at which land management plans were required and that such plans should include provision for public access. ACTIONS • SB to provide Scottish Council meeting report for circulation.
8.	Next meetings • Tuesday 4th June, 7pm – zoom meeting. • YF highlighted the need to condense meetings – this one had lasted two-and-a-half hours.
9.	AOCB • None.

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Chair's report – none as no current Group Chair.

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Treasurer's Report – financial details available on request.

Cheque signatories and authorised users for Internet Banking

It was agreed at the January Committee meeting that Alan Watt would be removed as a cheque signatory and Internet Banking user for both accounts, and that Sandra West would be added.

Although I reported to the January meeting that this could be done online, in fact when I clicked "submit", it produced a form which required to be signed by two existing signatories and also by the new signatory, and evidence of identity produced for the new signatory. This has been done, and the Bank confirmed on 10th March that the changes are now in place. However, they also indicated that they would require to contact any new Internet Banking user regarding log in details, and I understand that that is still in hand.

Barry Pottle
March 2024

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Membership Secretary

Since 17/01/2024 membership figures are as follows:

Joiners:	New to Ramblers	35	
	Members who have moved to Glasgow Ramblers	1	
	Members who have moved to the Area	1	
	Reinstated / Rejoining members	1	
Leavers:	Members who have resigned	8	
	Members whose membership has lapsed	2	
	Members who have moved Group	1	

(Leavers, including lapsed members, by date joined: 2024 – 1, 2023 - 5, 2022 - 3)

On 20/03/2024 the total membership for Glasgow Ramblers is **361** this is an increase of 25 since the last Committee meeting in January 2024.

Frances Arthur
March 24

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IT / Website – no report

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Access – no report

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Secretary Report / Correspondence

1. Camglen Radio Request
2. Potential weekend away in 2025
3. Promotional Goods
4. Fundraising Requests
5. International Women’s Day Walk
6. Glasgow Walks

Sandra West

March 24