

WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of WCEC Away-day meeting held on 21 September 2019
At The Gateway Education Centre, Shrewsbury
10.30am – 3.00pm

		Actions
304/19	<p style="text-align: center;">Present</p> <p>Members: CH (Chair), GA and AL (Vice-Chairs), GL, DMc, SW, EW, GF Co-opted Members: RH and RT Observer guests and representatives: KA</p> <p>Ramblers Cymru Staff: AC (Director, Wales), RB (Policy and Advocacy Manager) and MH (Governance Officer, Wales)</p>	
305/19	<p>Welcome: The Chair gave a warm welcome to everyone and informed the meeting that KA would arrive later due to train delays.</p> <p>He outlined the programme for the meeting and thanked RH for agreeing to deliver a presentation on Health.</p> <p>The meeting commenced with a presentation from RH on Health and RB on Paths for People.</p>	
306/19	Apologies: JC and WR	
307/19	Declaration of Interests: KA declared being General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society and Vice Chair of the Campaign for National Parks.	
308/19	<p>Announcements:</p> <p>The Chair announced the passing of 3 members and asked that condolences be sent on to their families.</p> <p>Isobel Bytautus, Linlithgow Ramblers Charles Moss, Aberystwyth Ramblers Val Jones, Vale of Clwyd Group</p>	
309/19	<p>AoBs as notified prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards 	
310/19	<p>Minutes of 7 June 2019 WCEC meeting: The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Minutes of 24 June 2019 WCEC Budget Meeting: The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
311/19	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>None.</p>	

312/19	<p>The following actions were updated and reported on:</p> <p>298/19: A few audit skills are still outstanding from WCEC. Members were encouraged to complete the forms at their earliest convenience.</p>	
313/19	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>The Chair updated on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Britain's best walking neighbourhood award ceremony. Falkirk came first with Aberystwyth taking 4th place. • Attended Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting in July which was held in Cardiff. Excellent event with a walk held in the Llynfi Valley. Huw Irranca Davies AM and Vice President discussed the manifesto in the evening where Huw gave a rousing talk. • The BoT are discussing some of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Brand positioning ➢ Business plan priorities ➢ Culture and values ➢ The Privacy Policy has been updated • Attending European Ramblers Association AGM in Stuttgart • The meeting agreed, that going forward, Area Chairs would not be invited to WCEC meetings as Ramblers Cymru is now producing an e-newsletter which gives an overview of the headlines from WCEC meetings. 	
314/19	<p>Area AGMs</p> <p>The AGMs were allocated WCEC reps as follows:</p> <p>Ceredigion 30 Nov: CH and AL</p> <p>North Wales 11 Jan: CH</p> <p>Pembrokeshire 26 Oct: GA and AL</p> <p>Glamorgan 9 Nov: AL, GL, GF</p> <p>Powys 1 Dec: CH</p> <p>Greater Gwent 3 Nov: GL</p>	
315/19	<p>Director's update</p> <p>AC updated on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Plan: Three over-arching pillars: Connecting Paths and People, Engaging the future generations and Great Governance. Health and Wellbeing will be added following the earlier presentation at the start of the day. WCEC approved. • KPIs and Impact Measuring Tool: We have been working with a consultant on KPIs and key KPIs will be provided for the next WCEC meeting. • Membership Report was noted • The media report was warmly received, and it was noted that Twitter figures have increased significantly. • RoWAG update: The report was noted and the meeting thanked Paula Renzel for her blog on the slate trail. • Cambrian Way Update: Promotional filming was held with two ambassadors from People Postcode Lottery (PPL). 	AC
316/19	<p>Financial Reports Qtr 3</p>	

	<p>WCEC Budget</p> <p>The report was noted. Members were asked to contact the Treasurer should they have any questions.</p>	
317/19	<p>Management Accounts for 6 months to 31 March 2019</p> <p>The report was noted.</p> <p>Ramblers Cymru E-Newsletter to include a link on how to access funds for translation costs.</p> <p>http://www.comisiynyddygydraeg.cymru/hybu/en/Pages/Proofreading.aspx</p>	BD
318/19	<p>Welsh Council 2020</p> <p>MH informed the meeting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: Margam Park – Field Studies Centre • Via the Ramblers E-newsletter, members were asked to contribute to a questionnaire to help shape the WC2020 programme but only 6 questionnaires were returned. <p>The meeting discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening up to the public • Exhibitors – what local groups do • Panel with questions and debates • Invite external speakers • Walks to be advertised in advance of WC • Hold Area/Group walks on Margam area over the WC weekend. <p>It was agreed to hold the conference/speaker session on the first day and open it up much wider to our members, followed by the AGM and governance matters on the second day.</p>	
319/19	<p>Motions Review Committee (MRC)</p> <p>An application has been received and position will be confirmed.</p>	MH
320/19	<p>Review of terms of office for WCEC</p> <p>GL spoke to the paper and the following was noted during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to reduce the number of Vice Chairs from two to one • Need a defined role description for Vice Chair • Agreed maximum term of office for Vice Chair to be two terms of office. • Vice Chair does not have automatic succession to Chair's position • Agreed to keep the numbers on the committee at 9 • Agreed a six year maximum term for WCEC members (3 + 3) • Need to inform members, when sending out AGM papers, that it is our intention to review WCEC and that we would like it to take immediate effect if passed at the AGM • Ask Simon Kellas about the proposed constitutional changes and run paper by him. <p>The Chair thanked Gwyn for his work on this.</p>	MH MH

321/19	<p>Manifesto Development</p> <p>RB outlined the approach and the plans regarding the manifesto development and how to get issues in front of politicians.</p> <p>The following was noted during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an ambitious plan. • Involve external stakeholders. • Engage with members throughout the process • Flag manifesto at AGMs • Have an overarching statement • Clear asks and set a clear ambition <p>The Chair thanked RB</p>	
322/19	<p>Devolution, Organisational and Location Programme.</p> <p>KA gave a brief update on the DOLs programme. She referred to various working groups that have contributed adding that the Board of Trustees will have sign off.</p> <p>Staff consultation will be separate. A message will be going out in the volunteer newsletter.</p>	
323/19	<p>AOBs</p> <p>The meeting discussed awards.</p>	
324/19	<p>Date of next meeting. Friday 8 November – at the Gate Way Centre in Shrewsbury. Van will attend the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to change the date and location of the Friday 5th June 2020 to Friday 12 June 2020 and hold the meeting near Chirk to fit in with the Big Welsh Walk being held on Saturday 13 June 2020.</p>	
	<p>Signed Date</p> <p>(Chairman) Chris Hodgson</p>	

Notes from Presentation on Health

- The committee strongly endorsed that the health benefits of walking be woven into all the work in Wales
- Widening participation / membership through tailored initiatives that draw particularly on health benefits
- Build on what local groups do already and test a few ideas
- Health and wellbeing at work. Offering corporate membership, special walks and volunteer path maintenance options.
- Build up the training capability as a commercial activity - needs a business case.
- Consider offering a social prescribing package
- Identify sub groups that could be targeted, and tailor offers

Notes from Presentation on Paths for People

- To embed an acceptance of volunteer path maintenance framework by local authorities across Wales
- To increase Community Council involvement in maintaining paths in Wales

- To achieve a higher profile for Ramblers and our volunteer's maintenance achievements
- To enhance local footpaths using volunteer path maintenance teams making physical improvements to structures and surfaces
- To increase the number of Ramblers path maintenance volunteers
- To produce an evidence-base to support investment in paths and access
- To celebrate the impact of paths on communities across Wales
- Secured involvement of 10% (75) community councils in using the toolkit
- Improved/ reopened Rights of Way in 10 communities in Wales
- 75 Councils engaged in learning about their powers and the toolkit
- Media Coverage: 10 news articles; 2 radio/TV
- Delivery of a high-profile event attended by 50% of Local authorities
- Waymarking training to be piloted by Vale of Glamorgan & Cardiff Councils- an approved standard will be sought
- Basic Rights of Way training provision – open to Councillors and Ramblers members
- Planning and the Rights of Way network – new course being developed with Planning Aid Wales
- Existing pilot toolkit currently being revisited
- Identify opportunities to host a Paths for People event to showcase achievements and encourage involvement
- Opportunity to work through IPROW or Welsh Rights of Way Managers group
- Community Council focused events
- e.g. One Voice Wales - AGM October 2019
- One Voice Wales – Innovation Conference July 2020