



y cerddwyr
ramblers cymru

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting of Welsh Council

23rd & 24th March 2019

Nant Gwrtheyrn, North Wales

DRAFT

wrth galon cerdded
at the heart of walking

Mae Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr yn elusen cofrestredig, (rhib Cymru a Lloegr: 1093577, rhif yr Alban SC039799) ac yn gwmni cyfyngedig trwy warant, wedi ei gofrestru yng Nghymru a Lloegr (rhib cofrestru'r cwmni 4458492). Swyddfa Cofrestredig Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr: Ail lawr, Tŷ Camelford, 87-90 Glannau Albert, Llundain, SE1 7TW. **Croesawn ohebiaeth trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.**

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ATTENDANCE LIST

President

Will Renwick

Vice Presidents

Denis McAteer

Ron Williams

Welsh Council Executive Committee

Chris Hodgson (Chair)

Gwyn Lewis (Vice Chair)

George Allingham (Vice Chair)

John Cook (Treasurer)

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

Anne Lucas

Stan Winstanley

Elwyn Williams

Ramblers Scotland

Alison Mitchell, Scottish Vice Convener

Board of Trustees Representatives

Kate Ashbrook (GB Chair)

Richard May (GB Trustee)

Staff Ramblers GB

Van Griffiths (Chief Executive)

Rachael Bayley (Director of Development, GB)

Katy Robinson (Programme Manager, Walk Leadership, Ramblers GB)

Staff Ramblers Cymru

Angela Charlton (Director, Ramblers Cymru)

Rebecca Brough (Ramblers Cymru)

Maria Hamlett (Ramblers Cymru)

Jennifer Horton (Ramblers Cymru)

Paula Renzel (Ramblers Cymru)

Oliver Wicks (Ramblers Cymru)

Area/Group Representatives & Visitors

Appendix A

1. WELCOME & TRIBUTES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to Max Grant. He reflected on the previous day's presentations and workshops and expressed his delight about the exciting work being done.
- 1.2 The Chair explained housekeeping arrangements and encouraged delegates to complete the nomination forms by the mid-morning break.
- 1.3 The Chair thanked Ron Williams, North Wales Area Chair and local members for their help and support in volunteering with the arrangements and proceedings of Welsh Council.
- 1.4 The Chair paid tribute to Vernon Davies, John Stubbs and Edmund Plaxton.

2. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted.

2.2 APPOINTMENT of TELLERS & SCRUTINEERS

Tellers and scrutineers were appointed.

2.3 MINUTES of WELSH COUNCIL 2018

The minutes of Welsh Council 2018 were proposed, seconded and passed. The Chair signed the minutes as a true record.

2.4 MATTERS ARISING

- 2.5 The action from Welsh Council 2018 regarding a bilingual template for business cards will be followed up by the new Engagement and Communications Manager.

3. REPORTS FROM ALLIED BODIES

Reports were noted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND OTHER FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 4.1 The Honorary Treasurer, John Cook presented the published accounts which had been circulated and he reported that Ramblers London had corrected document 4a which had previously been distributed. The revised document was included in the conference pack.
- 4.2 The Welsh Council Executive Committee oversees the budget for WCEC meetings and expenses for delegates who attend Welsh Council. Delegates were reminded to complete and return their expenses claim form to the Treasurer.
- 4.3 The WCEC budget for 2016/17 was £7,600 but the budget for 2017/18 reduced to £1,000 in order to reduce our Accumulated Reserve. The Treasurer informed the Council that the submitted WCEC budget for 2018/19 had been reduced by Head Office from £6,000 to £3,000 which will reduce our Reserve to well below the recommended 100%. The current year's reserve has been used to finance our Paths for People Project in the sum of £9,000.

- 4.4 Unity Bank no longer pays deposit interest and have started charging for depositing cheques. He recommended that Areas and Groups make use of direct bank transfers into their bank accounts in order to avoid such charges.
- 4.5 The Treasurer informed Council that Governance costs will be less in the current year because the accommodation costs for Welsh Council are now funded out of the Cardiff Office budget.
- 4.6 Area Treasurers will now submit their Budget applications directly to Ramblers London for finance, rather than via the Welsh Treasurer. Ramblers GB are rolling out training for treasurers and the Treasurer offered support. The Treasurer thanked area and group treasurers for responding in trying to reduce reserves.
- 4.7 A member raised a question regarding the funding for Paths for People and the WCEC funding which had been halved. The Treasurer reported that delays on receipt of a Welsh Council conference invoice from 2016/17 resulted in this cost being funded from the 2017/18 budget due to our accounting policy being a Cash basis rather than an Accrual basis.

The accounts were formally accepted.

5. **REVIEW OF MOTIONS FROM WELSH COUNCIL 2018**

The update paper on the 2018 Motions was received and the following noted.

5.1 **Welsh Council 2018 Motion 1: Members' Charges for Big Welsh Walks**

A reduction to £15.00 was made for members for the 2018 event. There was no suggested donation on the booking system.

5.2 **Welsh Council 2018 Motion 2: Request for the Financial Account of the Big Welsh Walk 2017**

WCEC received the financial information on Welsh Council's behalf. Representatives of Areas and Groups attending the 2018 Welsh Council have been sent a copy of the approved Financial Accounts.

5.3 **Welsh Council 2018 Motion 4: Making Longer Term Staff Appointments**

Ramblers Cymru are actively looking to secure longer funded projects with a view to a minimum of 3-year contracts being offered in the future.

5.4 **Welsh Council 2018 Motion 5: Ensuring that public rights of way are properly signed where they leave a metalled road**

A meeting was held with the Deputy Minister responsible for Rights of Way, Hannah Blythyn AM, in May 2018 to discuss a wide range of access matters, including signage. Another meeting has been requested with the Deputy Minister to discuss a wide range of access matters. We will again include this issue in those discussions. The Paths for People project has built links with 20 local authorities and we will be meeting the Wales working group of Rights of Way Managers in April where we will also highlight members concerns. We are preparing for a new Wales-wide campaign aiming to tackle issues of signposting and are liaising with a Communications Consultant to develop a strong case for greater support to Rights of Way maintenance and promotion. The new Engagement and Communications Manager will lead this work with the support of the Policy and Advocacy Manager.

5.5 **Welsh Council 2018 Motion 6: Rewilding Policy Statement**

The Policy has been uploaded to the Ramblers' website

6. **MOTIONS 2019**

No policy motions were received.

6.1 **Motion 1: To amend the Constitution to rename the Agenda Committee and to add Standing Order. Submitted by WCEC**

- (i) Clause 3.7 to be re-written as follows:
In view of a Motions Review Committee being appointed under Standing Orders, such members of that committee as are not otherwise members of Welsh Council.
- (ii) To add a new Standing Order 8 to read: A **MOTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE** will be appointed annually by WCEC, which will consider the motions received in accordance with clauses 6.4 and 6.5.

Ramblers Cymru have never formally established an Agenda Committee to set the agenda. The name was taken from the General Council Agenda Committee. The proposed change of name to a Motions Review Committee brings the name up to date and better reflects the main purpose of the Committee. The addition of item 8 to the Standing Orders is required as none of the present Standing Orders refer to either an Agenda Committee or a Motions Review Committee.

It was **agreed** that the Director will be part of the group in an advisory capacity and any member will be able to put themselves forward to join the Motions Review Committee.

The Motion was unanimously **carried**.

6.2 **Motion 2: To amend the Constitution to remove ambiguity of clause 9.2.3 and increase the number of voting co-opted members from one to two. Submitted by WCEC**

The current wording in the constitution regarding co-opted members is ambiguous. It is not clear whether or not non-voting co-optees can be appointed. The new clause would remove ambiguity by limiting co-options to voting members and increases the number to two. The amended clause 9.2.3 would read: *'Not more than two voting co-opted members who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but will be eligible to be co-opted again for up to two further terms of office as a co-opted member, the last term expiring at the third Annual General Meeting following their first co-option'*.

The Motion was unanimously **carried**.

6.3 Gwyn Lewis reported that WCEC discussed at its last meeting the proposal to extend the term of office for honorary officers of WCEC (which includes the President, Vice Presidents, Vice Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members) from one year to three years. Currently only the Chair has a three year term of office. Gwyn added that a three year term of office would align with Ramblers GB Trustees' term of office and could assist with stability, succession planning and on-going training and development. He asked for the views of Welsh Council and the following was noted during discussion:

- A staggered approach would be required for retiring committee members
- Consider two x 3 year term of office?
- A longer term commitment could put members off from signing up
- A longer term could see more ownership and help with succession planning
- Areas and groups are appointed yearly

It was **agreed** that WCEC will revisit the concept and bring it back to Welsh Council 2020.

7. **ADDRESS BY GUEST SPEAKERS**

Richard May, Ramblers GB Board of Trustee

Richard thanked everyone for the invite. He focussed on membership and shared some thoughts about running and promoting events. He encouraged members to be brave and try different challenges and to ensure walks are a friendly experience.

Alison Mitchell, Deputy Convener Scotland

Alison spoke about her experience as Convener of Scotland and her recent attendance at Scottish Council.

Marika Kovacs, Guest Hertfordshire Area

Marika spoke about organising walks to meet people's needs and trying different things.

8. **ADDRESS BY KATE ASHBROOK, CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Kate reflected on her past visits to Nant Gwrtheyrn and the importance of celebrating our history. She spoke about highlighting our rights of way and access and the importance of the evidence we gather that can help us step into campaigns.

Kate added that increasing membership is vital, and the work being done at GB level on surveys and digital apps is crucial. Kate briefly touched on the Devolution, Organisation and Location programme which is currently being looked at by outside consultants. This work is important as it will look at how the 3 Nations are functioning and devolution going forward.

In conclusion, Kate spoke about us being a friendly and welcoming organisation and working as one-team to achieve our aims and objectives.

The chair thanked Kate Ashbrook.

9. **ELECTION OF WELSH COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS**

9.3 The following people were **agreed** and confirmed as officers for the coming year:-

President Will Renwick

Vice Presidents Denis McAteer
Max Grant
Ron Williams
Richard Lloyd Jones
Huw Irranca Davies

Chair Chris Hodgson

Vice Chair George Allingham
Anne Lucas

Honorary Treasurer John Cook

10. ELECTION OF WCEC MEMBERS

10.1 The following people were elected:-

Denis McAteer
Gwenda Fitzpatrick
Gwyn Lewis
Elwyn Williams
Stan Winstanley

Richard Truman Co-optee
Dr Ruth Hussey Co-optee

10.2 Representation on other bodies:-

It was **agreed** that the following individuals would represent Ramblers:

- National Access Forum: Director, Ramblers Cymru
- Mountain Training Board: Director, Ramblers Cymru
- BMC: Stan Winstanley

11. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

11.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the current Auditor, D Arwyn Howells, had agreed to continue. Carried.

12. ADDRESS OF CHAIR AND CLOSE OF WELSH COUNCIL

12.2 Chris Hodgson thanked everyone for attending and thanked all the staff for their continuing hard work and the inspirational work being planned. He wished all a safe journey home.

Signed (Chair)

Dated

APPENDIX A:

Area & Group Representatives/Guests/Visitors

First Name	Surname	Representing
George	Allingham	WCEC
Jeanette	Allingham	Voting Delegate, Pembrokeshire Area
Kate	Ashbrook	Chair, Board of Trustees
Alan	Austin	Voting Delegate, Powys Area
Rachael	Bayley	Director of Delivery & Development, Ramblers GB
Rosalind	Bellamy	Voting Delegate, Dinefwr Group
Jackie	Brett	Voting Delegate, Vale of Glamorgan Group
Rebecca	Brough	Policy and Advocacy Manager, Ramblers Cymru
Angela	Charlton	Director, Ramblers Cymru
John	Cook	Treasurer, WCEC
Eva	Cook	Guest
Jacky	Cross	Voting Delegate, Meirionnydd Group
Ruth	Curle	Voting Delegate, Vale of Glamorgan Group
Bran	Devey	Communications & Engagement Manager, Ramblers Cymru
Gwion	Evans	Voting Delegate, Vale of Glamorgan Group
Shirley	Fermor	Voting Delegate, Clwydian Group
Margaret	Fernley	Voting Delegate, Eryri Group
Neville	Fernley	Voting Delegate, Eryri Group
Graham	Fitch	Voting Delegate, North Wales Area
Patricia	Fitch	Voting Delegate, North Wales Area
Gwenda	Fitzpatrick	WCEC
Ian	Fraser	Voting Delegate, Glamorgan Area
Bernard	Gill	Guest, Gloucestershire Walking Group
Max	Grant	Guest, North Wales
Margaret	Grant	Guest, North Wales
William	Green	Voting Delegate, Ceredigion Area
Mary	Green	Voting Delegate, Aberystwyth Group
Vanessa	Griffiths	Chief Executive, Ramblers GB
Maria	Hamlett	Governance Officer, Ramblers Cymru
Alan	Hancox	Voting Delegate, Merthyr Area
David	Hall	Voting Delegate, Vice Chair, Lampeter Group
Chris	Hodgson	Chair, WCEC
Jennifer	Horton	Administrative Assistant, Ramblers Cymru
Chris	Jones	Voting Delegate, 4 Wells Area
Maud	Jones	Voting Delegate, Carmarthen & District Group
Marika	Kovacs	Guest, Hereford
Arthur	Lee	Guest, Hereford
Gwyn	Lewis	WCEC
Simon	Longman	Voting Delegate, North Wales Area
Margaret	Lowe	Voting Delegate, Eryri Group
Anne	Lucas	WCEC
Richard	May	Board of Trustees
Denis	McAteer	Vice President, WCEC

Alison	Mitchell	Vice Convener, Ramblers Scotland
Will	Renwick	President, Ramblers Cymru
Paula	Renzel	Paths for People Advocate, Ramblers Cymru
Chris	Simpson	Voting Delegate, Ceredigion Area
Kevin	Slattery	Voting Delegate, Conwy Valley Group
Joanna	Slattery	Voting Delegate, North Wales Area
Richard	Tyler	Voting Delegate, Powys Area
Oliver	Wicks	Walking Spaces Officer, Ramblers Cymru
John Elwyn	Williams	WCEC
Elen	Williams	Guest
Ron	Williams	Area Chair, North Wales Area
Stan	Winstanley	WCEC

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