



AMENDMENTS

2022 [1] SIMPLIFICATION OF RISK ASSESSMENTS

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MOTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Delete the final paragraph.

Background notes to amendment

The committee does not wish to express an opinion for or against the desirability of undertaking research as requested by this paragraph. By submitting this amendment we are giving Council the opportunity to choose between voting on a motion covering just the simpler option proposed in the original Merseyside and West Cheshire Area motion or a motion that includes the potentially more time-consuming option proposed in the original Berkshire Area motion.

Substantive motion would read

This General Council believes that the imposed requirement for written risk assessments in the format prescribed is unnecessary, serves no useful purpose and notes it has led to walk leaders standing down. Council urges the Board of Trustees to identify and implement a simpler and less burdensome approach to documented risk assessments for organised walks as a matter of priority. ~~Council further calls upon the Board to undertake urgent research and produce robust evidence into how any risks associated with Ramblers walks can best be identified and managed by walk leaders with a minimum of bureaucracy. This work should draw upon the skills and expertise of, and have direct input from, existing Group members. Progress and findings should be shared openly with all Areas and Groups on an ongoing basis.~~

2022 [4] STRENGTHENING RAMBLERS' ROLE IN PROTECTING PATHS

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SURREY AREA

Delete first two sentences and replace with:

'This General Council is concerned that the Ramblers' charitable object of "the provision and protection of footpaths and other ways over which the public have a right of way or access on foot, including the prevention of obstruction of public rights of way" is receiving insufficient attention and resources when compared with our other charitable objects.'

Background notes to amendment

The motion as originally drafted directly blames Ramblers' staff for the culture. It is morally wrong to do so, as staff may have been following instructions given to them and they are unable to defend themselves at General Council. The complete wording of the relevant charitable object has been included in the amendment. This amendment incorporates that from the Motions Review Committee for the reasons stated by them. We know that the points about use of short-term contracts and high staff turnover were raised in a meeting with the then incoming Chief Executive (Van Griffiths) shortly after her appointment

Substantive motion would read

~~This General Council is concerned that the culture of Ramblers' staff seems to be increasingly divorced from the genuine needs of members. There appears to be a disconnect, perhaps as a result of the use of short term contract staff and high labour turnover, leading to neglect of, or reduced capacity to support, the Ramblers' charitable object of protecting footpaths and other ways over which the public have a right of way or access on foot.~~ This General Council is concerned that the Ramblers' charitable object of "the provision and protection of footpaths and other ways over which the public have a right of way or access on foot, including the prevention of obstruction of public rights of way" is receiving insufficient attention and resources when compared with our other charitable objects. Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to produce a report of actions to rectify this to be submitted to the 2023 AGM.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MOTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

If the previous amendment is successful this amendment will not be debated, as the wording to be removed would no longer exist.

In second sentence, delete from "perhaps" to "turnover".

Background notes to the amendment

The committee took the view that the reasons suggested for the "disconnect" postulated by the motion are speculative. Deletion of the speculative wording would allow Council members to concentrate on the intended purpose of the motion.

Substantive motion would read

This General Council is concerned that the culture of Ramblers' staff seems to be increasingly divorced from the genuine needs of members. There appears to be a disconnect, ~~perhaps as a result of the use of short term contract staff and high labour turnover,~~ leading to neglect of, or reduced capacity to support, the Ramblers' charitable object of protecting footpaths and other ways over which the public have a right of way or access on foot. Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to produce a report of actions to rectify this to be submitted to the 2023 AGM.

2022 [5] RETURN TO MEMBER ACTIVITIES ALONGSIDE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY STAFFORDSHIRE AREA

Replace the first two bullet points as follows:

- revert to members organising Ramblers activities without the requirement to register as volunteers;
- make all relevant information and news available to the whole membership, not only to those who have registered on Assemble

Background notes to the amendment

We sympathise with the sentiment behind the motion but are concerned that it could be misunderstood because there are differing interpretations of the word "volunteer", which is neither mentioned nor defined in our constitution. It is unclear to us what is meant by "member activities", but we take it to refer to the pre-Assemble situation when members could (for example) lead walks without needing any formal registration, and could find relevant information on the main Ramblers website.

Substantive motion would read

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to:

- [revert to members organising Ramblers activities without the requirement to register as volunteers;](#)
- [make all relevant information and news available to the whole membership, not only to those who have registered on Assemble](#)
- ~~return to member activities alongside volunteer activities;~~
- ~~make information for both accessible on the website;~~ and
- remove 'volunteer' from member role descriptions where it is not required.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MOTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

If the previous amendment is successful this amendment will not be debated, as the wording to be replaced would no longer exist.

Replace "return to" by "support".

Background notes to the amendment

The motion, as a whole, assumes a definition of "volunteer" that will not necessarily be accepted by all Council members. Those taking this view are likely to consider that there has been no substantive change from previous practice and, therefore, that a "return" is meaningless.

Substantive motion would read

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to:

- ~~return to~~ [support](#) member activities alongside volunteer activities;
- make information for both accessible on the website; and
- remove 'volunteer' from member role descriptions where it is not required.

2022 [8] WALK MAGAZINE & COMMUNICATION WITH THE WIDER MEMBERSHIP

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Replace 'arrange' with 'explore opportunities'

Replace 'include a section to allow' with 'enable'

Background notes to amendment

The board supports the spirit of this motion, and we shall be reviewing the content and delivery of Walk magazine this year. We want to maximise the effectiveness of this communication tool for all stakeholders. The aim must be to ensure members, and potential members and supporters, are kept informed of Ramblers' activities and feel inspired to get involved. We would not wish to prescribe exactly how this is done at this stage, but we can assure General Council that we shall be exploring this as part of our complete review of the magazine (both paper and digital).

Substantive motion would read:

This General Council requests the Board of Trustees to ~~arrange~~ explore opportunities for Walk magazine to ~~include a section to allow~~ enable Areas to communicate with members and to inform them about items of local interest.