

## **RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at Holiday Inn, West Nile St, Glasgow**

**Friday - Saturday 15/16 March 2013**

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

##### **1 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

- 1.1 The evening started with David Thomson welcoming everyone to the President's reception which was followed by dinner. Sue Hilder, Glasgow City Council Outdoor Access Officer gave a very interesting presentation on access issues in the city of Glasgow. This was followed by a question and answer session on access within Glasgow city.
- 1.2 David also welcomed Dr Andrew Murray (the Scottish Government's former physical activity champion) who had been nominated for election as Ramblers Scotland's President.

#### **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March Morning Session**

##### **2. WELCOME TO GLASGOW**

- 2.1 Barry Pottle, Chairman of Glasgow Group welcomed everyone to the conference. Glasgow Group was one of the first Groups in Scotland formed in the early 1980s, following encouragement by the then Director (as the Chief Executive was known at the time), Alan Mattingly for Ramblers Scotland to form new Groups.
- 2.2 On a personal note, Barry said that Ramblers changed his life twice: firstly when he joined in 1984 and again in 1989 when he met a lady on a Group walk who was to become his wife. He had transferred to Strathkelvin Group when it was formed in 1992, but was involved in re-launching Glasgow Group in 2011 and has since transferred his membership back to that Group.
- 2.3 Glasgow Group was not the only Ramblers Group in Glasgow; in 2007 the Glasgow Young Walkers (GYW) group was established. That Group had had two weddings of its members in the past year, including that of Kimberley Hennessy, who was representing GYW as a delegate at the present meeting.
- 2.4 Both Glasgow Group and GYW run full Programmes of walks of all grades, and there are occasional joint walks held by the two Groups.
- 2.5 Barry said that Glasgow was an extremely fortunate location for walkers, as it was within easy travelling distance to many varied walks in the surrounding area. He added that within Glasgow city boundaries itself, there are more parks (a total of 90) per head of population than any other part of Britain. After 29 years in the Ramblers, he was still discovering new walks, including one recently in the woodlands around the Easterhouse housing scheme!
- 2.6 Barry welcomed everyone to the conference and finished by saying that, for walkers as in many other ways – "Glasgow's Miles Better!"

##### **3. WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE**

- 3.1 Convener David Thomson gave a very warm welcome to all delegates, group observers, visitors and guests. He was delighted to see one of our Vice Presidents in our midst – David Grosz. He welcomed Malcolm Dingwall-Smith (Partnership Manager of **sportscotland**), Benedict Southworth (Ramblers Chief Executive) and Gwyn Lewis (Ramblers Cymru Chair). He said he was very sorry to learn that Jonathan Kipling (Ramblers Chair) was unable to be with us today due to illness.

#### **4. APOLOGIES**

4.1 Scottish Council noted apologies from the following:

John Foster (Vice President)  
John Holms (Vice President)  
Jonathan Kipling (Ramblers Chair)  
Brian MacGillivray (SCEC Member)  
Mary Wilson (Glasgow Group observer)

#### **5. APPROVAL OF ORDER PAPER**

5.1 Barry Pottle, Convener of the Agenda Committee (AC) sought approval of the updated Order paper (07A) which was emailed to delegates on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. Copies were also made available at registration to everyone attending Scottish Council.

5.2 Scottish Council noted the 2 motions being put forward to Scottish Council. Motion 1 contained proposed amendments to the existing Ramblers Scotland Constitution & Standing Orders. Two further amendments for this motion were received from Glasgow Group and North Strathclyde Area by the deadline. Motion 2 was an emergency motion to General Council sent on Scottish Council's (SC's) behalf by the Scottish Council Executive Committee (SCEC). It was only in 2012 that the GB Standing Orders had been changed to allow Ramblers Scotland to submit motions to General Council, and the new Constitution providing for SCEC to be entitled to submit such motions had not yet been adopted. However, the deadline for motions to be submitted to General Council was before the date of the SC meeting. Therefore SCEC had taken the action of submitting the motion, and it was necessary to invite SC to approve this retrospectively.

5.3 Remission of undisposed of motions. The AC had recommended that the date and time for remission of undisposed of motions and amendments, under Standing Order A.5.2 should be 45 minutes after the discussion of motions commenced. SCEC agreed at their meeting earlier in the day, that one hour should be allowed for discussion on motions and the AC had no objection to this being allowed to happen. This was agreed by SC.

5.4 The AC Convener noted that no motions at all had been submitted by Areas or Groups this year. This was not good for democracy within Ramblers Scotland, and compared badly with General Council where, of 14 motions this year, only 2 had been submitted by the Board of Trustees. He encouraged Areas and Groups to submit motions to next year's Scottish Council.

5.5 The AC Convener stated that one of the present AC members was not putting herself forward for next year's AC as she might be out of the country at the relevant time when AC had to consider motions. Therefore it was encouraged that a delegate put their name forward for election. The AC Convener added that it was not an onerous task and did not require a great deal of commitment or any great expertise.

5.6 The Order Paper was accepted by Scottish Council, subject to the change referred to at 5.3 above, regarding the time for remission of undisposed of motions and amendments.

#### **6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

6.1 Dick Balharry addressed Scottish Council with a talk illustrated by slides. He welcomed delegates and said there was a greater need than ever for the Ramblers in Scotland, and we should all give support to our new President-elect, Andrew Murray, in the following years.

6.2 Dick said that we are all part of the biosphere and our earth has the most amazing landscape, and biodiversity – and as a country Scotland is second to none with our cultural and natural heritage, landscape, and our great walking opportunities. As Ramblers we are involved everywhere, enjoying walking in our great country and the social aspect of walking, but we are also working to protect the landscape and biodiversity.

6.3 Wildlife depends on a healthy environment, and while we have tremendous international assets, they are fragile and under threat, whether from large developments such as wind farms, pylons, deer fencing and hilltracks, or from landowners, such as Network Rail over level crossings. Ramblers are fighting to protect our country's assets and we need to remain vigilant. Our future is in the young people and we need to reach out to them.

6.4 Dick thanked the SCEC team and all staff for their hard work and in particular Helen Todd who has done a tremendous job and Dave Morris for his leadership under difficult personal circumstances.

## **7. MINUTES OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2012**

- 7.1 The minutes for Scottish Council 2012 were approved subject to the following amendments:
- a) Item 4.2:  
Add at end: "This proposal was accepted by Scottish Council".
  - b) Item 4.4:  
Add at end: ", subject to the change referred to at 4.2 above".
  - c) Item 9:  
in heading, add "Strathclyde" before "Dumfries & Galloway".
  - d) Item 20.1:  
Because the order of the motions was changed as indicated at 4.2, they should appear in the Minutes in the order they were actually taken.
  - e) Item 20 Motions 2012 [1]:  
The text should read "was proposed on behalf of Badenoch and Strathspey Group by David Lyle (Highland & Islands Area) and seconded by Ann Hadley (Badenoch & Strathspey Group)".
  - f) Item 20 Motions 2012 [2].  
The text should read "was proposed on behalf of North Strathclyde Area by Barry Pottle (Agenda Committee) and seconded by Eleanor Peacock (North Strathclyde Area)".
- 7.2 Scottish Council accepted the minutes and agreed that the minutes should now be signed by the Convener and distributed.
- 7.3 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **8 ANNUAL REPORT, DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN ON MOTIONS 2012**

- 8.1 A short 5 minute annual report was presented in pictures.
- 8.2 Dave Morris gave his report to Scottish Council. The following are highlights from his report.
- 8.3 Dave thanked Andrew Murray for agreeing to be our next President, but cautioned Areas and Groups against contacting Andrew directly with invitations to speak at AGMs because he currently gets around 600 invitations a year to speak at events. Dave asked for requests to go through the Milnathort office.
- 8.4 Dave also thanked Dick Balharry for the great work he had done over the past 3 years as President. He gave thanks to Benedict Southworth and Justin Bend for coming up from Central Office, and to all staff in Scotland for their hard work over the previous year, despite significant difficulties. These had ranged from the photocopier breaking down 3 days before Scottish Council, to Dave's absence for 3 months on compassionate leave following his daughter's second brain tumour operation in December.
- 8.5 Dave drew attention to the fact that 2013 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Generally the legislation has been a success with no significant problems. We have been involved in 2 major court cases which consolidated our position, but we still need to massively extend path networks in Scotland. The main threat to land reform legislation is not coming from farmers and individuals, but from organisations like Scottish & Southern Energy, the forestry industry and Network Rail, who seem to be of the belief that Health & Safety legislation passed by the Westminster government overrides the access legislation. With regard to another organisation, the Ministry of Defence, we have concerns that they will block access to Cape Wrath if they are able to buy the Northern Lighthouse Board land which is not yet in their ownership. This has led to the motion SCEC is proposing to General Council. In our submission to the on-going Land Reform Review Group, set up mainly to look at the community right to buy elements of the legislation, we have proposed a new procedure for looking at access issues, such as arbitration or mediation processes.
- 8.6 As for our work on countryside protection, the construction of hilltracks without planning permission has been a long-running campaign, of concern since at least the 1970s. The Planning Minister has asked us to supply more evidence before he can make a decision on this.
- 8.7 Dave said he had recently visited Glencoe and was concerned that the whole of that area is under threat as wind farms are appearing on the very boundaries of National Parks and National Scenic Areas. He said it is a scandal that massive subsidies are going to landowners, certain communities and multi-national energy companies. We support renewable energy but the turbines are too big and going into sensitive areas; the large turbines should be offshore, and onshore they should be restricted to smaller turbines at a farm or croft level. The NGO sector does not have an agreed position, and many communities are in disarray. We need to send a message of support to Rhona Weir who is leading a community campaign against wind farms to the SNP conference next week.

- 8.8 Energy policy is a UK government issue as well as a Scottish one, and in the Ramblers we are also working to a new devolved agreement.
- 8.9 In our work to promote walking, we are focussing on the 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy through our Medal Routes and Take 30 initiatives. Take 30 is appealing to GPs and non-walkers and we liaised with Dr Andrew Murray on this project, in his role as the government's physical activity champion. The drafting of the National Walking Strategy will take up a lot of our time this year.
- 8.10 For Ramblers Scotland, our relationship with **sportscotland** is very important, especially now we are a governing body of sport. Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, our Partnership Manager, is here today. We have had some money for various small projects so far but are trying to put that investment by **sportscotland** onto a longer term basis. If all goes well, **sportscotland** will shortly approve funding to us for a Development Officer post. The aim of this post will be to work with the groups in establishing new groups and also boosting the membership of existing groups, by diversifying walk programmes, looking at volunteering opportunities and training individuals. This is a unique opportunity which can transform our position. We have agreed a target with **sportscotland** to increase membership by 7% over 2 years to improve the viability of our groups, so please engage with this Development Officer in due course.
- 8.11 Finally, this is the first time we have had this particular format for Scottish Council so please think about what you would like to see next year. There are cost implications and a greater burden to staff if we have a 2-day event, but we need to hear from you.
- 8.12 David Grosz offered best wishes to Esme for her recovery, on behalf of all at Scottish Council.

## **9. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT**

- 9.1 Scottish Council formally adopted the Annual Report and the action taken on motions for 2012.

## **10. STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS**

- 10.1 The Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant, introduced the accounts, which included the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for Scottish Council (paper 4A). He stated that following the low cost of last year's Council, a surplus had been deliberately carried forward to help with this year's increased costs for a 2 day event. There was very little activity on the campaign fund.
- 10.2 Paper 4B showed the Scottish Ramblers Gathering accounts. The weekend is organised annually by SCEC member Alison Mitchell who also pulled together the figures for these accounts. Alistair thanked Alison for her work in carrying this out adding that the SRG was not an income generating activity and all costs were properly managed and accounted for.
- 10.3 The adoption of accounts was proposed by Barry Pottle and seconded by Garry Tait and this was agreed by Scottish Council.
- 10.4 Question from the Floor on Accounts Peter Bartos, delegate for Bearsden & Milngavie Group asked SC why paper 8 (A Brief Summary of the Finances of Ramblers Scotland 2011-12) was not included in the above report on accounts. The Treasurer explained that this was an information note prepared with the help of Central Office. There was a useful discussion on the note, and agreement was made that at SC 2014 this would follow on from the SC Finance accounts. Peter Bartos asked for more of the background information to be made available and the Treasurer agreed to provide this to all SC delegates at the same time as the draft SC 2013 minutes were circulated.
- 10.5 Because of the extended discussion on accounts, the morning break was now extended until 11.55 am with lunch now starting at 1.15 pm.

## **11. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS**

- 11.1 The following were elected unopposed for the positions of President, Vice Presidents, Convener, Vice Convener and Hon Treasurer.

| Position       | Nomination       | Proposed        | Seconded        |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PRESIDENT      | Andrew Murray    | David Thomson   | James Lawson    |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Dennis Canavan   | Ben Douglas     | James Lawson    |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | John Foster      | Alison Mitchell | James Lawson    |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | David Grosz      | Alison Mitchell | David Thomson   |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | John Holms       | Alistair Cant   | David Thomson   |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Cameron McNeish  | Alison Mitchell | Ben Douglas     |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Dr Rennie McOwan | David Thomson   | Ben Douglas     |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Malcolm Payne    | David Thomson   | Alistair Cant   |
| CONVENER       | David Thomson    | Ben Douglas     | Alison Mitchell |
| VICE-CONVENER  | James Lawson     | Alison Mitchell | David Thomson   |
| HON TREASURER  | Alistair Cant    | John Holms      | David Thomson   |

## APPOINTMENTS

The following external examiners were reappointed:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER, Scottish Council Accounts: Paul Kenny

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER, Scottish Gathering Accounts: David Fenlon

### 12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS TO AC AND SCEC

- 12.1 Catherine Watt was appointed as Returning Officer and nominations for AC/SCEC were to be received by end of the morning break at 11.55 with elections, if required, taking place during the lunch break.

### 13. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND SCRUTINEERS

- 13.1 Margaret McGhee and Morag Macintyre (both Glasgow Group members) were appointed as Tellers and Scrutineers.

### 14. PRESENTATIONS

#### 14.1 Group Presentations

David Thomson introduced three members from local groups saying that we now have an opportunity to hear about some of the things that our Groups are doing, which are perhaps outside the usual activities of most of us. The following short presentations were made on their activities:

- a) Volunteering, footpath maintenance and conservation: Euan Scroggie, Balerno;
- b) Rebuilding a group: Elisabeth Longley, Badenoch & Strathspey; and
- c) Fundraising and community links: Elizabeth Berry, Inverclyde

#### 14.2 Ramblers Routes presentation

Justin Bend, Ramblers Routes Project officer gave a presentation on Ramblers Routes (RR). This was followed by a short presentation from Jacqueline Ferguson, Medal Routes Project Officer who outlined how Medal Routes (MR) medal routes used the RR facility to map all the MRs.

- 14.3 At end of session David Thomson thanked Penny Sinclair for her work raising money for path works in her local area and also told Council that Penny had recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and wished her a very Happy Birthday.

## 15. DECLARATION OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS FOR AC/SCEC

- 15.1 The Convener announced that there would be no election for the Agenda Committee as only two nominations had been received for the three places available. Barry Pottle and Liz Hunt were duly elected.
- 15.2 There was no need for election for SCEC as four nominations were received for the seven places available. Those elected were: John Andrews, Ben Douglas, Liz Lawie and Alison Mitchell.
- 15.3 The Convener congratulated those elected to the AC and the SCEC, adding that the SCEC could also co-opt additional members to the Committee if appropriate.

### Afternoon Session

## 16. THE GB PERSPECTIVE

- 16.1 Benedict Southworth, Ramblers Chief Executive gave a presentation on the GB perspective. The following are highlights:
- 16.2 The Trustees have made a big effort to be more transparent and this includes changes to the way minutes are produced. The minutes, which are available on the Ramblers website, now contain more information which illustrate how the decision making process has come about and how it has progressed to the next stage.
- 16.3 He said there was an enormous amount of work going on in Scotland and he thanked everyone for carrying this out. He particularly thanked Alison Mitchell for her involvement with European Ramblers and Dick Balharry for one of the most interesting discussions on recreational killing he has ever heard.
- 16.4 Many things bind us together and it is more than just our interest in walking. We have produced a new GB Business Plan which is available for anyone who wishes to read it. In summary, most of it is about getting the fundamentals right – how to look after you, the volunteers over the next 2 years. This includes the support we give to recruiting volunteers and looking after them, filling committee roles and finding new ways of getting people to do these tasks. We also need to look at the financial stability and need to ensure that we are totally on top of what we have decided to do.
- 16.5 We want the membership of Ramblers to go up but this is not necessarily fixed by focusing on the recruitment of new members. Many members are recruited then leave the following year. We need to ensure that they come into a vibrant, healthy organisation, one that is able to give them what they are looking for so we must get the fundamentals right.
- 16.6 There is a need to communicate effectively everything we do. We are currently looking at how we communicate. **walk** magazine is being refreshed and will include more content about what Ramblers is up to and a timetable has been agreed which will give more localised content. We also need to ensure that Groups and Areas communicate effectively and provide the infrastructure to communicate in the right way focussing on the technical base communication so we are ready to expand.
- 16.7 As discussed earlier in the morning Ramblers Routes is great for Medal Routes. RRs is also great for creating long distance routes and for creating a new 1144 mile walk in England.
- 16.8 Finally, he said the whole Agenda about physical activity needs cross fertilisation about what we do. Looking ahead we need to develop a Ramblers GB vision. We would then be in a position to help RS and RW develop their own vision within the organisation that we can then help put into place. The infrastructure and helping hand support is there. Whatever RS decides to do will then be from a position of strength.
- 16.9 Finally, Benedict said he wants to ensure that our mission is delivered everywhere across the 3 nations.
- 16.10 Questions were asked from the floor on the differences throughout GB and how we work with them and emphasis of the unity of Ramblers members and what we do in Scotland benefits all members.

## 17. FUTURE DIRECTION FOR RAMBLERS SCOTLAND

- 17.1 President Dick Balharry chaired a discussion on the future direction for Ramblers Scotland. A slide was presented to SC giving members points for discussion. These were (1) The Ramblers mission – still fit for purpose in Scotland 2013; (2) Issues for Groups; (3) Issues for Areas, and (4) Training needs.
- 17.2 Below are some of the highlights from the discussions which mainly centred around Areas and Groups.

### Issues for Areas & Groups

- Structure of running a group meeting is quite complex and involves lots of paperwork. Therefore there is a need to make more use of email. Members do not attend Area meetings as they do not see the point of them. There is possibly an area of administration that is not needed.
- The Area provides a framework through which groups can sort out problems between themselves, such as integrating groups' walks on to the Area programme and then on to the Walks Finder. Membership and finance can be dealt with at Group level but Areas are of fundamental importance.
- There are other areas of work where groups need to come together. Regarding the Highland & Islands Area ; this is far too large for a single Area but perhaps it could be split up into former highland regional authorities.
- The Area joint programme is a huge benefit to members. As for General Council, each Area can send delegates and the Board of Trustees needs to listen to these people so how can this gap be bridged if we don't have Areas?
- Members may underestimate the role that the Areas undertake. Members find it very valuable to get together at Area level to share expertise and issues together. The Area also acts as a filter or liaison between Ramblers HQ and Groups and this is a valuable function.
- The Highlands & Islands Area hold their meetings by teleconference which gives members a chance to share opinions and removes the need to travel.
- People do not necessarily join led walks – less than half the membership. If you don't have Areas, how can people get involved in the Ramblers?
- Ramblers groups south of the border do a lot more practical work in terms of path maintenance

### The Ramblers mission

- We don't need to beat ourselves up too much about those who don't get involved in Ramblers activities. A substantial number join because they support what we do and their money is their support, so there is no problem if we don't know them all. They are very valuable to us.
- RS needs to concentrate its efforts in engaging with young people.
- Some members join not wanting to take part in other parts of Ramblers work. Many Ramblers join simply to walk so we cannot criticise them for this.
- There is a constant stream of people who are interested in joining walks so we are having discussions about how to get these people to be more involved. Our conclusion is that for new members they shouldn't be pushed into anything else - in the future they may be more interested in other areas of our mission than just walking.

17.3 Director Dave Morris added to the discussion by saying that when our mission was highlighted earlier in the day by Jacqueline Ferguson. We should remember our charitable objectives from 1935 – to promote open-air recreation, not just walking. He felt that is one of our biggest strengths as the Ramblers and we don't explore it enough. We need to move to the position whereby the range of things on offer is wider than what we think about nowadays. The Scouts have grown its membership because they have made sure there is something for everyone.

17.4 He said that when he had spoken earlier about the Development Officer post, he said they would work with Groups – that needs to be the focus because it is groups which are the driving force of the organisation at grassroots level. Now with electronic communication we can contact individuals. Undoubtedly there are some excellent Areas functioning well, but there are also others who are struggling because we do not get the kind of volunteers who can work at Area level.

17.5 President Dick Balharry rounded off the discussion by saying he liked to see people going for journeys into the countryside – walking, paddling in water or cycling. Everyone should enjoy this incredible country. Our experience and skills need to be transmitted enthusiastically to the next generation. He thanked everyone for their comments.

## 18. MOTIONS 2013

18.1 Alistair Cant introduced the item on Motions 2013. He started off by thanking Barry Pottle and Ben Douglas for detailing the constitutional proposals which included extensive consultations with Areas and Groups. Alistair said that SCEC were proposing the motion to adopt the new Constitution and Standing Orders in one block. For the motion to be passed it needs a two thirds majority. Amendments require a 50% majority to form part of the final motion, which will then require a two thirds majority. However, if the motion is passed it will not come into effect until the new Constitution is approved by the Board of Trustees. Motion 1 is being recommended by SCEC.

18.2 Alistair indicated that an updated order paper which was made available to SC members (see item 5 Approval of Order paper) referred to 2 amendments to the constitutional motion. These amendments are to be tabled before SC discuss the motion.

18.3 **Amendments to Motion 1 - Submitted by Glasgow Group**

The amendment was proposed by Barry Pottle (Agenda Committee, but speaking on behalf of the Group) and seconded by Gerard McCrear (Glasgow Group delegate).

A. *Amend Clause 3.2 of proposed new Constitution to read:*

*In the event of any person being a member of Scottish Council by reason of more than Council for each of the categories which applies, except that:*

*any person who is a member of Scottish Council by reason of more than one of one of the above categories then, he or she shall have separate votes at Scottish*

*3.2.1 categories 3.1.5, 3.1.6 and 3.1.7 shall only have one vote for all of those categories, and*

*3.2.2 no person shall be entitled to a vote as a delegate for more than one Area, for more than one Group, or for more than one affiliated organisation.*

After a debate, a vote was held.

**The amendment was lost.**

**Amendments to Motion 1 - Submitted by North Strathclyde Area**

The amendment was proposed by Barry Pottle (Agenda Committee, but speaking on behalf of the Area) and seconded by Anne Thomson (North Strathclyde Area delegate).

B. *In Clause 6.1 of proposed new Constitution, add “not earlier than the second Saturday in March and” before “not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March”.*

After a debate, a vote was held

**The amendment was lost with an overwhelming majority.**

18.4 **Motion 1 – Submitted by SCEC**

The motion was proposed by Jim Lawson (SCEC Vice Convener) and seconded by David Thomson (SCEC Convener).

*This Scottish Council amends its Constitution and Standing Orders to new proposed versions available separately.*

Note: Papers 7C and 7D detailing the proposed changes were made available to SC three weeks prior to the meeting.

After a debate, a vote was held.

**The motion was passed with an overwhelming majority.**

18.5 **Motion 2 – submitted by SCEC**

The following motion was not timeously submitted in accordance with Clause 6.5 of the Constitution, but under Clause 6.8 may be moved as a matter of urgency with the agreement of two thirds of those present and voting:

*This Scottish Council approves SCEC’s submission to General Council of the following motion:*

*Ministry of Defence proposed purchase of land at Cape Wrath, north coast of Scotland.*

*This Ramblers’ General Council is very concerned at proposals by the Ministry of Defence to purchase land at Cape Wrath on the north coast of Scotland from the Northern Lighthouse Board. The Council considers that this tract of land is one of the most important areas in the UK for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of coastal scenery, notes that it is the terminus of both the Scottish National Trail and the Cape Wrath Trail and welcomes the efforts of the Durness local community to purchase the land and secure its protection and enjoyment. The Ramblers General Council calls on the Ministry of Defence to abandon its efforts to purchase*

*this land from the Northern Lighthouse Board; supports the efforts of Durness Community Council to purchase the land and, if this is not possible, calls on the Scottish Government to secure the land through purchase by an appropriate Scottish Government department or agency. Furthermore, the Council calls on the Scottish Government to initiate a review of all of the Ministry of Defence land that is held in the Cape Wrath area, to consult with all appropriate interests, and to determine whether it is in the public interest that the use of such land as part of a NATO firing range should continue.*

**A vote was taken to allow the motion to be discussed. This was passed with more than two thirds majority.**

David Grosz (Vice President) proposed a remission to the motion and Ben Douglas (SCEC member) seconded this. The proposal was to remit the motion to SCEC to deal with and for SCEC to take account of the concerns that had been discussed at SC, relating to the powers of the Scottish Government to initiate a review of the public interest of the firing range. The meeting was in support of the general intention of the motion.

**The remission was passed by a majority.**

## **19. CLOSING REMARKS**

- 19.1 Gwyn Lewis Ramblers Cymru Chair said it had been very interesting here today and next week he would be attending his first Welsh Council. He said he had made plenty of notes and had lots of homework to do. Scottish Council had been most enjoyable and he wished everyone all the best for the year to come.
- 19.2 David Thomson finished by thanking Barry Pottle for giving the welcome to SC, Gerard McCrear, Margaret McGhee, Gertraute Lowrie and Morag Macintyre who helped either at registration or as tellers and scrutineers, Catherine Watt as Returning Officer and hotel staff and finally everyone who came along today.

## ATTENDANCE LIST

### PRESIDENT:

Dick Balharry

### VICE PRESIDENT:

David Grosz

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

David Thomson (Convener)    James Lawson (Vice-Convener)  
John Andrews                Ben Douglas  
Anne MacDonald              Alison Mitchell

Alistair Cant (Hon.Treasurer)  
Elizabeth Lawie

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL AGENDA COMMITTEE:

Barry Pottle                    Liz Hunt  
\*also attended as Lothian & Borders Area delegate

Olga MacFadyen\*

### AREA DELEGATES:

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Clydesdale to Solway         | Ann Rankin       |
|                              | Garry Tait       |
| Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside | Allen Bardwell   |
|                              | Sean Galbally    |
| Grampian                     | Brian Allan      |
|                              | Jane Catto       |
| Highland & Islands           | Vic Royce        |
|                              | Ann Hadley       |
| Lothian & Borders            | Olga MacFadyen   |
|                              | Peter Sanders    |
| North Strathclyde            | Mike McManus     |
|                              | Anne Thomson     |
| Renfrewshire, Cowal & Bute   | David Collinson  |
|                              | Ross Elder       |
| South West Scotland          | Steve Beeley     |
|                              | Duncan Robertson |

### GROUP DELEGATES:

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Aberdeen              | David Fenlon       |
| Badenoch & Strathspey | Elisabeth Longley  |
| Balerno               | Euan Scroggie      |
| Bearsden & Milngavie  | Peter Bartos       |
| Blairgowrie           | Jim Young          |
| Broughty Ferry        | Linda Pirie        |
| Clyde Valley          | George Firth       |
| Cunninghame           | Christine Jeffers  |
| Dalgety Bay           | Dorothy Patterson  |
| Eastwood              | Roy Keenan         |
| Glasgow               | Gerard McCrear     |
| Glasgow Young Walkers | Kimberley Hennessy |
| Inverclyde            | Elizabeth Berry    |
| Inverness             | Roger Smith        |
| Isle of Bute          | Cynthia Constable  |
| Kilmarnock & Loudoun  | Maggie Atkinson    |
| Kinross & Ochil       | Alan Bridges       |
| Kirkcaldy             | Richard Stenhouse  |
| Livingston            | Senga Macrae       |
| Lochaber and Lorn     | Ian Moir           |
| Mid Argyll & Kintyre  | Andrew Knox        |
| Midlothian            | Gillian Aitken     |
| Moffat                | Elizabeth Tait     |
| Moray                 | Josette Jones      |

**Group delegates cont'd)**

Musselburgh  
 North Berwick & District  
 Paisley  
 SLOW  
 South Ayrshire  
 Stirling & Falkirk  
 Stonehaven  
 Strathkelvin  
 Wigtownshire

Isabel Wilson  
 Paul Sealey  
 Michael Doherty  
 William Graham  
 Douglas Graham  
 Janet McNee  
 Fiona Hill  
 Penny Sinclair  
 Irene Rodgers

**AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS:****SPEAKERS, GUESTS, VISITORS AND OBSERVERS****Speakers:**

Sue Hilder, Glasgow City Council Outdoor Access Officer  
 Dr Andrew Murray, President, Ramblers Scotland

**Guests**

Adeline Balharry

**Visitors:**

Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, Partnership Manager, **sportscotland**

**Board of Trustees:**

Gwyn Lewis (Ramblers Cymru Chair)

**Observers:**

Catherine Allan (Broughty Ferry)  
 Moira Allan (Bearsden & Milngavie)  
 Peter Allan (Bearsden & Milngavie)  
 Ian Cooper (Clyde Valley)  
 Catherine Graham (South Ayrshire )  
 Peter Gordon (Helensburgh and West  
 Dumbartonshire)  
 Robert Lawie (Monklands)  
 Gertraute Lowrie (Glasgow)  
 David Lyle (Badenoch & Strathspey)  
 Margaret McGhee (Glasgow)  
 Morag Macintyre (Glasgow)

Malcolm Macrae (Livingston)  
 Barbara Martin (Strathkelvin)  
 Jacqueline Ritchie (Kinross & Ochil)  
 Jacqueline Taylor (Cunninghame)  
 Eileen Thomson (Paisley)  
 Jean Turnbull (SLOW)  
 Catherine Watt (Glasgow)

**STEWARDS/TELLERS/SCRUTINEERS**

Gerard McCrear, Margaret McGhee, Catherine Watt, Gertraute Lowrie and Morag Macintyre (also attending as Group observers or Group delegate)

**STAFF:**

Benedict Southworth, Ramblers Chief Executive  
 Justin Bend, Ramblers Routes Project Officer

Ramblers Scotland staff

Dave Morris, Director  
 Jeannie Cranfield, Games Legacy Advisor

Helen Todd, Campaigns & Policy Manager  
 Jacqueline Ferguson, Medal Routes Project  
 Officer,

Kareen Robertson, Communications & Finance Officer

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 David Thomson, Convener