



## **RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2012**

### **MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING Held at Glenearn Community Campus, Perth Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012**

#### **1. WELCOME TO PERTH**

- 1.1 Allen Bardwell, Vice Chair of the Perth District Ramblers welcomed everyone to the Glenearn Community Campus. He said the Perth group had been existence for 28 years and was a very active group with 20 walk leaders and over 90 led walks being completed last year.

#### **2. WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE**

- 2.1 Convener Dennis Canavan gave a very warm welcome to all delegates, group observers, visitors and guests. He was delighted to see two of our Vice Presidents - John Holms and John Foster attending Council. Dennis also gave a special welcome to Malcolm Dingwall-Smith (Partnership Manager of **sportscotland**), pointing out to Council that Ramblers Scotland is now a recognised governing body for sport, and welcomed our visitors who have travelled from a distance - Board of Trustee members Rodney Whittaker (Chair), Jonathan Kipling (Treasurer) and Denis McAteer (Ramblers Cymru Chair) and Benedict Southworth, our recently appointed Chief Executive.

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

- 3.1 Scottish Council noted apologies from the following:

Margaret Allan, (North Berwick Group)  
John Andrews, (SCEC member)  
David Grosz, (Vice President)  
Peter Sanders, (Lothian & Borders)

#### **4. APPROVAL OF ORDER PAPER**

- 4.1 Barry Pottle, Convener of the Agenda Committee (AC) sought approval of the Order paper (07) which was distributed with the third mailing in February and listed two motions from Badenoch & Strathspey Group and North Strathclyde Area.
- 4.2 The AC Convener proposed that Motion 2 should be taken before Motion 1 as this would allow continued discussion on the RS vision statement which is an agenda item immediately preceding Motions. This proposal was accepted by Scottish Council.
- 4.3 Scottish Council noted the recommendation on the Order paper proposing that amendments to the existing Constitution and Standing Orders should be put forward at next year's Council.
- 4.4 The Order Paper was accepted by Scottish Council, subject to the change referred to at 4.2 above.

#### **5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

- 5.1 President Dick Balharry addressed Council and said that it had been a tough year for Ramblers Scotland, but staff had been magnificent and we had been very lucky to have someone of Dennis Canavan's calibre leading SCEC. He was pleased to see Rodney Whittaker and Jonathan Kipling with us as they had been very understanding about Scotland's position during devolution discussions, and with Benedict now in post Dick hoped he would be able to lead Ramblers into a new future based on the new devolution arrangements.

## 6. MINUTES OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2011

- 6.1 The minutes for Scottish Council 2011 were approved. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Brian MacGillivray and seconded by Hilary Graham. SC agreed that the minutes should now be signed by the Convener and distributed.
- 6.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 7 ANNUAL REPORT

- 7.1 Before the annual report was discussed, Dennis Canavan said that this would be his last Scottish Council as Convener. When he first took up the job as Convener in 2009 he was not sure what to expect. SCEC was on the receiving end of the Trustee's decision to cut 70% of the RS budget; even the office in Milnathort was in danger of being closed. The two heroic members of staff that were left were Dave Morris and Helen Todd. However, more recently new staff have joined us - Jeannie Cranfield, Jacqueline Ferguson, Callum McAleavey and Kareen Robertson (who previously worked for RS but left in 2009 due to the major cutbacks). Now that the Memorandum of Authority (MofA) is in place and we have a new Chief Executive it is important to look forward.
- 7.2 He wanted to pay tribute to David Thomson and Alistair Cant who represented RS on the Devolution Working Party. This should ensure that in future RS will have a much greater degree of autonomy than we had in the past and will ensure that never again will we experience the difficulties which descended upon us 3 years ago.
- 7.3 A short 5 minute annual report was presented in pictures.

## 8 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN ON MOTIONS 2011

Dave Morris gave his report which touched on the following points:

- 8.1 **Crubenmore underpass** The upgrading of parts of our road network from single to dual carriageway status is creating problems for public access and this is likely to increase in the future as roads such as the A9 are dualled all the way between Perth and Inverness. One section of A9 dualling was completed at Crubenmore, near Newtonmore, in Sept 2011, without provision being made for walkers, cyclists or horse riders who cross the road at this location when using the General Wade Military Road. Campaigning by the Ramblers and others extracted a promise from the First Minister before the new road was opened that he would review this situation with the intention of having a bridge or underpass constructed. We have been involved in discussions with Transport Scotland to try and ensure that this commitment is adhered to, with an at-grade crossing provided in the short term before underpass/bridge can be constructed.
- 8.2 **Active Travel** We support the Association of Directors of Public Health who have called for 10% of national and local transport budget to be spent on active travel, notably walking and cycling. Currently Scotland still spends less than 1% of its transport budget on walking and cycling. We raised this issue at the annual Scottish Environment LINK Congress, at the AGM of Paths for All and at a meeting of the National Access Forum. A very wide range of public and private sector bodies is represented on these three organisations. We persuaded all three organisations to write to the Scottish Government to call for a substantial increase in public fund expenditure on active travel.
- 8.3 **Land Reform** The rights of public access to land and water which were secured under the 2003 Act are always under pressure, sometimes from private landowners but also from corporate interests, many of whom use health and safety arguments against public access, without proper justification. We need to be vigilant and take action to prevent erosion of our hard won rights. Much more also needs to be done to develop path networks. For example next week we will be attending a meeting to discuss the Loch Leven Heritage Trail which is still not complete around the whole loch. The RSPB is demanding that the trail be alongside the main road. We are opposed to this idea arguing that the trail should go across the reserve, with evidence from the environmental impact assessment indicating that this will not cause any problems for birdlife.
- 8.4 **Windfarms** The development of windfarms continues unabated. We struggle to deal with a deluge of planning applications and instead focus on getting the financial support for large scale onshore windfarms (the Renewables Obligation) and redirected towards offshore windfarm development. The first pylon on the Beaully Denny power line has now been erected. The pylons on this line will be seven times larger in volume than the existing pylons. They will be a massive visual intrusion to the landscape of the Highlands and Central Scotland.

8.5 **Network Rail** The closing down of level crossings by Network Rail continues to be a problem. Later this year, a report into level crossings legislation by the Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission is due, and we have been involved in consultations regarding this report. We encourage our members to continue to use level crossings throughout Scotland in the same way as they always have done before NR adopted a confrontational approach to pedestrian public access needs.

8.6 **Promoting Walking** Later this afternoon Jeannie Cranfield (RS Games Legacy Advisor) will be giving a presentation on delivering legacy benefits for Scotland for the 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games. This will include two of our RS projects – Medal Routes and the recent development of our Take 30 website. The Games offer huge opportunities for the Ramblers to promote walking as one of the key physical activity legacy benefits from these major sporting events.

8.7 **Word of thanks**

a) Unfortunately our Vice President David Grosz has been unable to be with us today but I wanted to convey our thanks to David for his dedicated commitment to Ramblers Scotland over the years – he has been a real stalwart of RS and Ramblers GB.

b) Tribute to Alan Blackshaw. We were very saddened to hear of Alan's death in August last year. With his formidable energy and intellect he made a massive contribution to the passing of the Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003 and many other aspects of the Ramblers' work.

## 9 **A THANK YOU TO MEMBERS IN THE FORMER STRATHCLYDE, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY AREA**

9.1 Hilary Graham asked if she could say a few words before the next Agenda item. She wanted to take this opportunity of thanking two individuals for their outstanding work in the former D&G area. Jean Hight provided continued support to the Area and Barry Pottle, who is a full time professional lawyer, assisted the Area with his expertise and knowledge.

## 10. **ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT**

10.1 Scottish Council formally adopted the Annual Report and the action taken on motions for 2011.

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

11.1 The Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant, introduced the accounts, which included the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for Scottish Council (paper 4A), and also the accounts for the Scottish Ramblers' Gathering (SRG) (paper 4B). Both sets of accounts have been independently examined.

11.2 Alistair Cant pointed out that £5K for the SC accounts had been set against the campaign fund for Scotland activities and any donations received specifically for Scotland would be allocated to this fund. He also said that the surplus in the SRG account was necessary to pay deposits for the following year's Gathering.

11.3 The adoption of accounts was proposed by Alison Mitchell and seconded by Brian McGillivray.

11.4 Dennis Canavan thanked Alistair Cant for being such an efficient Treasurer.

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

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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
PRESIDENT	Dick Balharry	Dennis Canavan	Alistair Cant
VICE-PRESIDENT	Dennis Canavan	James Lawson	Alistair Cant
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Foster	Anne MacDonald	Alison Mitchell
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Grosz	James Lawson	Elizabeth Lawie
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Holms	James Lawson	Elizabeth Lawie
VICE-PRESIDENT	Cameron McNeish	James Lawson	Alison Mitchell
VICE-PRESIDENT	Dr Rennie McOwan	Alison Mitchell	Anne MacDonald
VICE-PRESIDENT	Malcolm Payne	James Lawson	Alison Mitchell
CONVENER	David Thomson	Ben Douglas	Donald Wallace
VICE-CONVENER	James Lawson	Barry Pottle	Elizabeth Lawie
HON TREASURER	Alistair Cant	John Andrews	David Grosz

## **APPOINTMENTS**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER, Scottish Council Accounts: Paul Kenny  
 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER, Scottish Gathering Accounts: David Fenlon

### **13. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS TO AC AND SCEC**

- 13.1 Mike Gray was appointed as Returning Officer and nominations for AC/SCEC were to be received by end of the morning break at 11.45 with elections, if required, taking place during the lunch break.

### **14. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND SCRUTINEERS**

- 14.1 Trevor Graham and Jacqui Ritchie were appointed as Tellers and Scutineers.

### **15. SCOTTISH MEMORANDUM OF AUTHORITY**

- 15.1 Following on from the devolution discussions at Scottish Council 2011 and subsequent meetings with the Board of Trustees, the Scottish Memorandum of Authority was signed at Glenmore Lodge on 18 September. Four papers on the MofA were presented to Scottish Council – papers 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D. Alistair Cant explained that Papers 8A and 8B gave a brief summary of the finances of Ramblers Scotland for the two financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, Paper 8C was a brief guide to the MofA and paper 8D was a copy of the complete MofA document signed at Glenmore Lodge on 18 September. He indicated that RS had not stopped with these documents and there was a need to move forward at great speed. David Thomson said we had learnt from the previous memorandum and he was looking forward to advancing this to the next stage.

### **16. INCREASING MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOPS**

- 16.1 David Thomson introduced the workshop on membership growth. He said we should be asking ourselves why we only have 6400+ members when the National Trust for Scotland has over 300K. He felt that Ramblers Scotland and Ramblers Cymru both have great potential for growth and we should work hard to increase our members.
- 16.2 Delegates and visitors were split into 10 groups and discussed various issues such as specialist walking groups, walk leadership skills, setting up specialist walks for dogs, including short walks in group programmes and the need to publicise local Ramblers walks.

## **17. DECLARATION OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS FOR AC/SCEC**

- 17.1 The Convener announced that there would be no election for the Agenda Committee as three nominations had been received for the three places available. Barry Pottle, Liz Hunt and Olga McFadyen were duly elected.
- 17.2 There was no need for election for SCEC as six nominations were received for the seven places available. Those elected were: John Andrews, Ben Douglas, Liz Lawie, Anne MacDonald, Brian MacGillivray, and Alison Mitchell.
- 17.3 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**

## **18. PRESENTATIONS**

### **18.1 Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Commonwealth Games & Sport**

Shona Robison, the SNP MSP and Minister for Commonwealth Games & Sport was guest speaker. The Minister welcomed Ramblers Scotland's various projects and initiatives which aim to increase physical activity amongst all sectors of the population as a key legacy benefit from the 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games. She emphasised such legacy benefits would only be delivered through organisations like the Ramblers working in partnership with others. The Minister recognised how encouraging people to walk can often lead on to other benefits, saying: "Walking can be the first building block to change for a lot of people with not only the physical but social benefits of bringing people together."

### **18.2 Delivering Legacy Benefits for Scotland from the 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games**

Jeannie Cranfield, Games Legacy Advisor, Ramblers Scotland gave a presentation of Delivering Legacy Benefits for Scotland from the 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games.

### **18.3 Benedict Southworth, Ramblers Chief Executive**

Benedict Southworth gave a short presentation to Scottish Council. He said he was delighted to be in Scotland and have the opportunity to meet with SCEC members, Areas and Groups and the Scotland staff. He said he was a keen walker himself and would like to provide as many walking opportunities as possible. In relation to devolution, Benedict said he wanted to work together with the 3 countries (England, Scotland and Wales) to develop a strong and dynamic relationship.

## **19. UPDATING RAMBLERS SCOTLAND VISION STATEMENT**

- 19.1 The Ramblers Scotland Vision 2009 was presented to Scottish Council by Dave Morris and delegates were invited to consider the Vision Statement with a view to suggesting ideas for updating the Vision as appropriate.

## **20. MOTIONS 2012**

- 20.1 Motions not affecting the constitution or standing orders (Rule 6.5 and Standing Order A.3).

### **[2] North Strathclyde Area**

The following motion was proposed on behalf of the North Strathclyde Area by Barry Pottle (Agenda Committee) and seconded by Eleanor Peacock (North Strathclyde Area).

In view of the increased autonomy now held by Ramblers Scotland under the Memorandum of Authority agreed with the Board of Trustees in September 2011, and the intention of the Board of Trustees to commence a process to draw up a new ten-year vision for the Ramblers, this Scottish Council calls upon its Executive Committee to consult with Areas, Groups and members on the future vision for the Ramblers in Scotland, including the roles of staff, SCEC, Areas and Groups..

The motion was carried overwhelmingly

## **[1] Badenoch and Strathspey Group**

The following motion was proposed on behalf of the Badenoch and Strathspey Group by David Lyle (Highland & Islands Area) and seconded by Ann Hadley (Badenoch & Strathspey Group).

Scottish Council welcomes the action taken by the First Minister to ensure that an underpass is built into the newly constructed dual carriageway at Crubenmore, near Newtonmore, on the A9 Trunk Road between Perth and Inverness. Scottish Council also welcomes the opportunity for Ramblers Scotland to participate in the consultations being organised by Transport Scotland on the completion of the dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness and the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen. Scottish Council, however, regrets that, in the setting of the overall Scottish budget, the Scottish government still gives insufficient priority in its transport budget to the needs of non-motorised users. It calls on the Scottish Government to spend at least 10% of its transport budget on non-motorised travel, as is the norm in other European countries where walking and cycling is a great part of everyday life. Scottish Council further calls on the Scottish Government to accept that such spending is essential if Scotland is to deliver physical activity and environmental legacy benefits for the nation as a whole from the forthcoming 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

## **21. CLOSING REMARKS**

- 21.1 Rodney Whittaker, Board of Trustees, thanked Scottish Council for the invitation to attend SC today and for the opportunity to say a few words. He said he had had the pleasure of attending the last 4 Councils and he has now come to the end of his 3 year term as Ramblers Chair. During this time he had experienced his share of robust discussions with Scotland staff and SCEC. One of the most significant things over the last few years was the signing of the devolution agreement at Glenmore Lodge in 2011 adding that it gives a much better platform to move forward with plans for Scotland. He finished by saying he was looking forward to taking on the role of walking secretary in his local Ramblers group and doing a bit more walking.
- 21.2 Denis McAteer thanked Scottish Council for the invitation to attend and say a few words. He said Dennis Canavan had played an invaluable part of the working party and he would be taking away two thoughts – “first, we need to ensure that we prove our worth regarding the recently signed Memorandum of Authority and secondly, following on from your debate on a Vision for Scotland, we need to ensure that we influence the Rambler GB annual business plan”.
- 21.3 Dennis Canavan said David Thomson had been a very valuable Vice Convener and he was very pleased to hand over the baton to him and said the final word of Scottish Council would be from him.
- 21.4 David Thomson thanked Dennis. He said we should not forget the wonderful job that Dennis had done for Ramblers Scotland, especially during the discussions about restructuring. He presented Dennis with a Quaich and thanked him very much for the great contribution to the work of Ramblers Scotland.
- 21.5 Dennis thanked everyone very much. He thanked everyone for coming along today whether they were a Group or Area delegate, visitor or friends from England. He added that there had been interesting debates which would give SCEC food for thought for future meetings. He wished everyone a safe journey home and hoped everyone would keep enjoying the outdoors and walking,

## ATTENDANCE LIST

### PRESIDENT

Dick Balharry

### VICE PRESIDENT

John Foster

John Holms

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dennis Canavan (Convener)

David Thomson (Vice-Convener)

Alistair Cant (Hon.Treasurer)

Hilary Graham

Elizabeth Lawie

James Lawson

Anne MacDonald

Brian MacGillivray

Alison Mitchell

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL AGENDA COMMITTEE

Ben Douglas

Barry Pottle

Liz Hunt

### AREA DELEGATES

Clydesdale to Solway

Mary Ritchie

Fred Young

Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside

Allen Bardwell

Sean Galbally

Grampian

Brian Allan

Jane Catto

Highland & Islands

David Lyle

Vic Royce

Lothian & Borders

Olga MacFadyen

North Strathclyde

Eleanor Peacock

Anne Thomson

Renfrewshire, Cowal and Bute

Ross Elder

David Collinson

South West Scotland

Steve Beeley

### GROUP DELEGATES

Aberdeen

Albert Grant

Badenoch & Strathspey

Ann Hadley

Balerno

Euan Scroggie

Bearsden & Milngavie

Peter Bartos

Blairgowrie & District

Patricia Fraser

Clyde Valley

George Firth

Cunninghame

Christine Jeffers

Dalgety Bay & District

Donald Wallace

Dundee

Ian Young

Forfar

Evelyn Taylor

Glasgow

Gerard McCrear

Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire

Allan Anderson

Inverclyde

Maya Seth

Inverness

Roger Smith

Isle of Bute

Shirley McFarlane

Kilmarnock & Loudoun

Robina Reed

Kinross & Ochil

Alan Bridges

Kirkcaldy

Richard Stenhouse

Linlithgow

Mary Smyth

Livingston

Senga Macrae

Lochaber & Lorn

Colin Roberts

Midlothian Walkers

Gillian Aitken

Monklands

Liz Hunt

Musselburgh

Shona Kerray

North Berwick

Margaret Allan

Paisley

Michael Doherty

Perth & District

Trevor Abell

**Group delegates (cont'd)**

SLOW (South Lanarkshire Older Walkers)  
St Andrews & NE Fife  
Stirling & Falkirk  
Strathkelvin

William Graham  
Pat Ritchie  
Janet McNee  
Alan Gemmell

**SPEAKERS, GUESTS AND OBSERVERS****Speakers:**

Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Commonwealth Games & Sport

**Guests:**

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

**Board of Trustees**

Rodney Whittaker, Ramblers Chair  
Jonathan Kipling, Hon Treasurer, Ramblers Board of Trustees  
Denis McAteer, Chair, Ramblers Cymru

**Observers**

Iain Anderson, St Andrews & NE Fife  
Elizabeth Berry, Inverclyde,  
Roselyn Brown, Dundee  
Christine Ferguson Forfar  
Mike Gray, Stirling, Falkirk & District  
Robert Lawie, Monklands  
Anne McGuire Visitor - Cunninghame  
Jacqueline Ritchie, Kinross & Ochil  
Marjorie White, Linlithgow

James Bennett, Inverclyde  
Tommy Bishop, Badenoch & Strathspey  
Margaret Bush Kilmarnock & Loudoun  
Trevor Graham, Inverclyde  
Arthur Homan-Elsy, (Livingston)  
Elisabeth Longley, Badenoch & Strathspey  
Ann Rankin, Clydesdale to Solway Area  
Penny Sinclair, Strathkelvin  
Bridget Wilcox, Edinburgh

**AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS**

George MacQuarrie, National Secretary, Scotways

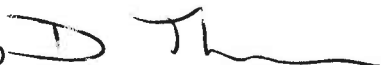
**STEWARDS****STAFF**Rambler GB

Benedict Southworth, Ramblers Chief Executive  
Karen Inkster, Led Walks Officer

Ramblers Scotland

Jeannie Cranfield, Games Legacy Advisor  
Jacqueline Ferguson, Medal Routes Project Officer  
Callum McAleavey, Project Support Officer  
Dave Morris, Director, Ramblers Scotland  
Kareen Robertson Communications & Finance Officer  
Helen Todd, Development Officer, Ramblers Scotland

SIGNED



David Thomson, Convener

DATE:

17 / APRIL / 2013