

Scottish Council 2019 FORMAL Minute

**Scottish Council 2019 minute
RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2019
MINUTE OF THE THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
Held on Saturday - Sunday 9/10 March 2019
at the DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel**

Saturday 9 March

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Alison Mitchell opened the event by welcoming everyone to Scottish Council. She introduced Jess Dolan, director of Ramblers Scotland, Alistair Cant, treasurer of the Scottish Council Executive Committee, and Andy Malby, vice convener of SCEC. She introduced Ben Dolphin, president of Ramblers Scotland.
- 1.2 Ben Dolphin welcomed everyone to Dunblane. He encouraged the good opportunity to speak to other delegates and visitors. He welcomed Vanessa Griffiths, chief executive officer of Ramblers GB, and the other Ramblers GB staff, and Chris Hodgson, chair of the Welsh Council Executive Committee. He welcomed the Russian guests, a delegation of five from the Nizhny Novgorod Mountain Group.
- 1.3 Ben noted that there are staff members available if anyone required assistance, and buddies available for first time attendees of Scottish Council. Volunteer buddies Martin Davison (Lothian & Borders area), Eric Pickering (Clydesdale to Solway area) and Vivienne Pickering (Dumfries & District group) stood to identify themselves.
- 1.4 There were 127 members attending, which is the same as the previous year. Representatives came from 7 areas, 32 groups, and there were a number of local exhibitors.

2. ANNUAL REPORT – Ramblers Scotland

- 2.1 Jess spoke about the Ramblers Scotland 18/19 year. She referred to the Annual Report, highlighting the Ramblers Scotland team. She went on to describe the Annual Report through three key stories.
- 2.2 Jess spoke about Strategic Opportunism, meaning that there is a strategy in places, but she stays aware of when to jump on opportunities as they arise. She explained how the Out There campaign has been running for over a year now, and she described how its aims. With this Strategic Opportunistic method, Jess explained how Ramblers Scotland was able to work with Active Scotland on a social media campaign targeted at younger audiences, which led to a video campaign that Danny Carden, communications and engagement officer, that generated 50,000 views

across three videos. Jess explained a new twelve-month project with two aims – working directly with young walker groups, and supporting a programme for 18-26 year olds to give them skills training and a challenging walk. Jess explained that ideally this will lead to them volunteering for the current groups and becoming new Ramblers members.

- 2.3 Jess spoke on the theme of Reaching Out through focusing on volunteers and members. She explained that the Walk Leadership programme has received good feedback and is growing. She mentioned the Roadshow in Stirling, area leadership, digital support. Jess also highlighted Jeannie's Journeys across Scotland
- 2.4 Jess spoke on the importance of Collaboration, both formal and informal, and how this is key to how business gets done in Scotland, particularly in the small, well-formed charity sector. She mentioned the cross-organisation collaboration Ramblers Scotland participates in, such as the Scottish Environment Link. She mentioned the collaboration on Fight for Scotland's Nature. Jess recognised the support across Ramblers GB.
- 2.5 Jess spoke about the collaboration across SCEC. She mentioned the end of Alison's term as convener, and she thanked Alison and encouraged the Council to do so. Vanessa stepped to the stand to thank Alison and presented her with a card.
- 2.6 Alison stepped to the stand to speak. She gave a reflection on her past three years as a convener, saying she hopes to be fully involved as vice convener. She spoke on the highlights from her time as convener, including working with the staff, Ben, and the volunteers and members.
- 2.7 Jess spoke about future plans for Ramblers Scotland. She explained her goal to grow the reach and impact, mentioning the investment at a Ramblers GB level for the Walk Leadership programme. She explained her goal of increasing outreach and relevance through young adult programme and the project for Mapping Scotland's paths.

3. Impact of Our Campaigns and Policy Work

- 3.1 Helen Todd, campaigns & policy manager, Ramblers Scotland, spoke about the impact of campaigns. She commented on how it has been a challenging time full of change internally and externally. Encouraged Council to campaign more as members in their groups, explaining that a lot of the work is through influencing the community.
- 3.2 Helen explained that the most high-profile event of the past year was the January 2018 Parliamentary event, which Ramblers Scotland members attended. Helen spoke about the time she spends responding to public enquires and collaborating with the Scottish Environment Link as well as giving interviews.
- 3.3 Helen explained the thinking Ramblers Scotland considers when questioning if the organization is having an impact. Helen highlighted how repetition of message and collaboration results in positive impact for Ramblers Scotland campaigns, highlighting specific campaigns on access, specifically two court cases where the access authority won, in which Ramblers Scotland gave public support. Helen mentioned the current work on Coul Links, where Ramblers Scotland is rejecting the planning for a golf course.

- 3.4 Helen mentioned the current work on paths – not all 84,000kms of paths appear on OS maps in Scotland, including some of the 21,000kms of core paths. She explained that 75% of members surveyed found that people would enjoy Scotland's paths more if they were on the ground and on the map. She mentioned the work the local groups have been doing, specifically a response to the River Clyde 2050 strategy by the Glasgow group, and more.
- 3.5 In looking forward, Helen commented that the majority of her work in the coming months will be on the Coul Links public inquiry, where Ramblers Scotland has partnered with ScotWays. She also mentioned the forthcoming Parliamentary debate in May 2019 for the Planning Bill, which will include an amendment on hilltracks, and the mapping Scotland's paths project is moving forward. Ramblers Scotland recently joined the Scottish Landscape Alliance in April 2019 in order to protect landscape at the same level as grade listed buildings and working more with engaging with young people.

4. QUESTIONS AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 A question was asked as to what the proportion is of young walkers in Ramblers Scotland. Laura Scarlett, data & digital transformation director, Ramblers GB, said that 4% of Ramblers Scotland members are under the age of 40.
- 4.2 There were no further questions. The Annual Report was accepted by the Council and therefore was formally adopted.

5. DIGITAL AND DATA TRANSFORMATION – ROADMAP FOR 2019/2020

- 5.1 Laura gave an overview of the progress of the programme so far and details of what's in development.
- 5.2 Laura's overall plan is to build a Ramblers GB data centre online. She explained that the new system will bring all the Ramblers data into one warehouse that supports members and geographical assets. From this data centre, Laura explained that various tools will be developed in order to gain insights in the wider Ramblers community, such as Insight Hub, Assemble, Mobile app, path tools, communications engine, and the public website overhaul.
- 5.3 Laura explained where the progress of the digital transformations has gotten to over the past year, citing the work being done on various tools.
- 5.4 For showcasing, Laura gave a description of Insight Hub, described as a form of self-service intelligence to help members understand their group and area activities. Laura commented that it helps Ramblers evidence their impact, and that data quality is improving, with nearly 1000 volunteers on the Hub, path issue submissions increased, and email opt-ins have increased.
- 5.5 Laura also gave a picture walk-through of the members app, which is likely to be launched in April 2019. The app will give access to all led walks and routes available in Great Britain. Users will be able to submit walks, access mobile membership card, access a message inbox, and groups will be allowed to communicate directly with members, as well as other features. The second version of this is in development.
- 5.6 A member commented that last Council, a motion to support telecommunications improvements for mobile phone coverage was rejected and thus certain groups will

be disadvantaged from the app. Alison commented that there is a time to respond to rejected motions later in Council.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

- 6.1 John Andrews, Perth group, was identified as the Returning Officer and nominations forms should be handed into him by 5.45pm that afternoon. If there were seven or fewer nominations for SCEC and/or three or fewer nominations for the Agenda Committee received there would be no election, but if there were more there would be an election on Sunday morning.

7. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND SCRUTINEERS

- 7.1 Margaret Cook, Stirling, Falkirk and District group, and Mike Gray, Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside area were appointed as tellers and scrutineers. They identified themselves to Scottish Council and will count the votes over the weekend.

8. Formal business

- 8.1 The Convener read out the apologies received from Honorary Vice Presidents
- 8.2 The Convener intimated the deaths of several key members and volunteers who had sadly died in the last year: Dr Rennie McOwan (Vice President), David Grosz (Vice President and former Chairman), Penny Sinclair (Strathkelvin group), and John Watt (former Chairman of Edinburgh group)

9. APPROVAL OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2018 MINUTE

- 9.1 Scottish Council accepted and approved the minute (Paper 03). This was proposed by Michael Docherty, Paisley group, and seconded by Douglas Tullis, Edinburgh group. There were no matters arising from the minute.

10. REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN ON 2018 MOTIONS

- 10.1 The Convener presented the paper outlining the actions that had been taken on motions passed at Scottish Council 2018.
- 10.2 Douglas, Edinburgh Ramblers, explained SCEC's rejection of the motion remitted to it by Scottish Council 2018. Ramblers Scotland and Ramblers GB have a Memorandum of Authority in place which sets out their respective areas of influence which, by and large, correspond with the matters that are devolved to Scottish Government or reserved to Westminster under the Scotland Act. This motion concerns telecommunications which is reserved to Westminster and correspondingly to Ramblers GB. Ramblers Scotland's contacts are with Scottish Government and Scottish organisations which have no role in relation to telecommunications. Any campaign to extend the coverage of mobile phones would more appropriately be pursued by Ramblers GB, and, if those proposing this motion want to pursue it further, they might consider putting it before General Council.
- 10.3 Alistair went over the action taken from last year, referencing paper 4b. Motion 2, about bridges, and Motion 5, about guidance for local members have both passed for material to be prepared, and a paper was circulated.

11. STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

- 11.1 Alistair gave details of the income and expenditure audited accounts (05), the Ramblers Gathering Accounts (06), and of Ramblers Scotland finances (07). Alistair highlighted that in comparison to previous years there has been a significant drop in income and spending as the Scottish Council expenditure is now included in the Scottish Office accounts.
- 11.2 Alistair explained that most of the funds are volunteer and SCEC related expenses. There was also a campaign fund that has no future reports as it has a zero balance, and a small surplus that was given to Ramblers Scotland staff to use on Scottish Council. Alistair gave a brief overview of the funds for the Gathering. He described the report that covers the costs of the Ramblers Scotland office accounts, which comes from a variety of sources including membership fees, donations, and from Ramblers GB. Alistair concluded by giving an overview of the Ramblers GB accounts, highlighting the income from the People's Postcode Lottery which is being spent on new initiatives such as data and digital transformation project and the Walk Leadership programme.

12. QUESTIONS

- 12.1 There was a question from the Council asking for clarification on how the budget balances out, and general discussion on how to make the Ramblers Scotland budget account for the income from Ramblers GB.
- 12.2 There was a question about whether Ramblers GB had a pension deficit, which Vanessa answered and explained why Ramblers GB does not have a pension deficit.
- 12.3 Alistair commented that General Council will have the full accounts information for those who are interested.
- 12.4 The adoption of accounts was proposed by Trevor Jones, SCEC, and seconded by Andy Malby, SCEC, and accepted by the Council and was therefore formally approved.

13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

- 13.1 The appointment of Paul Kenny as the independent examiner for Scottish Council accounts was agreed. The appointment of David Fenlon for the independent examiner for the Scottish Gathering accounts was agreed. Scottish Council accepted both appointments.

14. FORMAL ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, AND HONORARY OFFICERS

- 14.1 There was only one nomination for convener and vice convener and therefore the following honorary positions were announced:

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
PRESIDENT	Ben Dolphin	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
VICE PRESIDENT	Dennis Canavan	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby

VICE PRESIDENT	John Foster	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
VICE PRESIDENT	John Holms	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
VICE PRESIDENT	Cameron McNeish	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
VICE PRESIDENT	Malcolm Payne	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
VICE PRESIDENT	Dr Andrew Murray	Alison Mitchell	Andy Malby
CONVENER	Ronnie Forbes	Trevor Jones	Ann Jones
VICE CONVENER	Alison Mitchell	David Fenlon	Jane Catto
TREASURER	Alistair Cant	John Holms	Andy Malby

15. APPROVAL OF ORDER PAPER

- 15.1 Convener of the Agenda Committee, Barry Pottle, explained the role of the Agenda Committee.
- 15.2 Barry said there are no amendments or late motions, but Motion 3 is being withdrawn. Barry explained that the first three motions were submitted by the same two people, but the constitution says that no person may submit more than two motions. Alistair and Douglas, the proposers of Motions 1 – 3 were given the choice to decide which motion to withdraw and they decided on withdrawing Motion 3. Barry noted no further recommendation for wording, that there was no need for compositing motions together, and that the order was decided by the order submitted.
- 15.3 Alison thanked Barry for presenting the order paper and opened the floor up for debate.
- 15.4 The order paper was duly accepted.

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Motion 1 – submitted by Alistair Cant

- 16.1.1 Alison Mitchell called on the proposer Alistair Cant (member of SCEC) to present the motion. The motion stated:

To amend the Constitution and Standing Orders to rename the Ramblers' Association Scotland as Ramblers Scotland

Alistair explained that there have been changes in the Ramblers GB and Ramblers Scotland across the years and across branding, and that this new name will be simpler and cleaner.

- 16.1.2 The motion was seconded by Douglas Tullis. There were no questions, comments or oppositions.

Vote – The motion was passed unanimously.

16.2 **Motion 2 – submitted by Alistair Cant**

16.2.1 Alison Mitchell called on the proposer Alistair Cant (member of SCEC) to present the motion. The motion stated:

To amend the Constitution and Standing Orders to rename the Agenda Committee and Order Paper to Motions Committee and Motions Order Paper

Alistair explained that the name was inherited and does not suit the role of the Committee.

16.2.2 The motion was seconded by Douglas Tullis.

16.2.3 Liz Hunt commented that the Agenda Committee of Ramblers GB is changing names as well this year.

Vote – The motion was passed unanimously.

16.3 **Motion 3 – submitted by Alistair Cant**

16.3.1 This motion was withdrawn by the proposer, Alistair Cant, (member of SCEC).

16.4 **Motion 4 – submitted by Clydesdale to Solway**

16.4.1 Alison Mitchell called on the proposer Eric Pickering. The motion stated:

Waymarking Scotland's Paths by Ramblers Volunteers.

This Scottish Council believes, that in line with Ramblers Scotland's Vision and Strategic Framework to promote walking for Scotland's wellbeing, making all core paths easier to follow by utilising Ramblers volunteers to follow, say, French waymarking practice would be worthwhile, and therefore instructs SCEC to investigate the feasibility of this proposal.

Eric explained how hardly any paths are waymarked, and how this is an issue. His proposal would look to have volunteers mark paths in an agreed way, in order to have more paths identified.

16.4.2 The motion was seconded by Garry Tait, Moffat group.

16.4.3 There was a question as to the legal position of marking on someone else's land. Douglas answered that Ramblers Scotland volunteers have no legal basis to mark core or other paths without the consent of the landowner. He went on to say that local access authorities do have this power and can appoint volunteer rangers to waymark.

16.4.4 There was a question as to how this motion relates to the Out There campaign. Jess answered that it relates in the sense of mapping Scotland's path, which is currently working with digital datasets. Part of the next phase will be looking at waymarking and signposting. She commented that the legality of the situation is not something Ramblers Scotland could decide, rather that it would require robust partnerships.

16.4.5 There was a comment about how the John O Groats trail worked with landowners successfully. There was a comment addressing concern for how clear the signs would be and how to educate people on a new way to read signs. There was a comment about how this project could expand volunteer roles in local communities. There was a comment about how no waymarks can cause concern for landowners.

Vote – There was a clear majority who voted in favour. There were none against. There were two abstentions.

16.5 Motion 5 – submitted by Glasgow group

16.5.1 Alison Mitchell called on Eleanor Peacock, Glasgow group to propose the motion on behalf of the group. The motion stated:

Planning Regulations are needed to tackle the proliferation of damaging hill tracks on the uplands of Scotland

16.5.2 The motion was seconded by Catherine Watt.

16.5.3 There was a comment that the motion needs to look at something wider than planning permission, due to the nature of people creating hill tracks being able to remove the condition on their permission that sets a time limit to the permission and are thus able to have the hill track indefinitely.

16.5.4 There was a question as to whether the Scottish Environmental LINK amendment to the Planning Bill is coming into Scottish Parliament. Helen commented that the Planning Bill is coming into consideration at Scottish Parliament in May 2019. Her aim is to focus on the tracks that are not in the planning system and then turn to making the planning system better with some measure of public scrutiny.

16.5.5 Alison Mitchell commented that SCEC will look to support the motion.

Vote – The motion was passed unanimously.

16.6 Alison thanked everyone who took part in the debate and proposed motions.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

17.1 It is noted that the following people were nominated for SCEC: Trevor Jones, Elizabeth Lawie, Elly MacDonald, Andy Malby, Linda Moyes, Garry Tait, Douglas Tullis, and Jay Wilson. All the candidates stood to introduce themselves.

17.2 There was no election necessary for the agenda committee as three nominations had been received for the three places available. Those elected were delegates are James Bennett, Liz Hunt, and Barry Pottle.

17.3 Alison noted that the delegates need to place their votes by 12.00pm.

18. ELECTION RESULTS

18.1 There were eight people standing for election. The results were that Elly MacDonald, Andy Malby, Douglas Tullis, Linda Moyes, Jay Wilson, Trevor Jones, and Garry Tait

will form this year's SCEC. Liz Lawie was thanked but will not serve on SCEC this year.

- 18.2 Alison thanked Catherine Watt for her time and service, noting that she was standing down. Alison thanked Andy Malby for his work as vice convener the past three years, noting that he will continue to serve on SCEC.

19. CLOSING REMARKS

- 19.1 Alison thanked everyone for attending Scottish Council and for representing their group or area, as well as the staff and Board members. Special thanks were given to Jeannie for her hard work on the event, Ben, Chris, Kate, the Nizhny Novgorod Mountain Club, as well as the tellers and local volunteers.
- 19.2 Alison reminded delegates to fill out the feedback survey, and travel expense forms should be placed in the appropriate box at the registration desk. Lastly, she highlighted that there is an afternoon walk led by Ray, Stirling, Falkirk & District group.

End of minute

Jessica Browning, Governance and Events Administrator, 30 April 2019

with reduction to a FORMAL minute by Alison Mitchell, Vice Convener, 16 January 2020

The Minute of Scottish Council 2019 was formally approved at Scottish Council 2020 on 7 March 2020
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