

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 17 August 2015, 16.30-20.30
at Scottish Environment Link Office, Shore Road, Perth

51/15 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Jim Lawson, Convener
Alison Mitchell, Vice Convener
Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer
John Andrews

Jane Catto
Andy Malby
Vic Royce
David Thomson

Staff

Jess Dolan, Director Scotland
Helen Todd, Campaigns & Policy Manager
Roxanne Kerr, Office Administrator

52/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Liz Lawie, SCEC member, Benedict Southworth, Ramblers GB Chief Executive and Des Garrahan Ramblers GB Chair.

53/15 WELCOME

Jim Lawson, Ramblers Scotland Convener welcomed attendees to the Scottish Council Executive Committee meeting.

54/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MON, 11 May, 2015

Due to a few corrections that are still required for the May meeting, it was agreed they would be approved at the SCEC meeting in November.

AP1: Roxanne to correct errors and resend to SCEC.

55/15 REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING 11 May 2015 (App 1A)

All action points have been completed apart from AP7 and AP8.

AP7: Jim Lawson agreed to send a thank you letter to Jonathan Kipling for the support he had given Ramblers Scotland during his term as Ramblers GB Chair.

AP8: Alison reduced the length of the Scottish Council minutes but feels it could be reduced further.

AP2: Kareen to send App 8 back to Alison with her corrections so she can reduce the length of the document further.

56/15 REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING 8 June 2015 (Governance meeting)

All action points have been completed apart from:

AP2: An attempt was made to reduce the number of papers for the SCEC meeting but due to the large number of topics for discussion we were unable to do this. However, we will endeavour to reduce papers going forward

AP3: SCEC to divvy up Business plan in progress.

57/15 FINANCE REPORT (App 2, 2A)

It was discussed that £2500 was approved for the Get Outdoors Weekend. £1150 of these funds came from the campaign budget and £1350 from general budget.

Vic Royce asked where the SCEC finance report, App 4, fitted in with the Central Office finance report (entitled 'Brief Commentary'). Alistair explained that the SCEC spending was part of the row entitled 'Areas, Groups and Council', two-thirds the way down, with a spend of £40K which is on budget.

Vic enquired why there was a campaign fund and why it was not under the project expenditure. Alistair explained that it is a fund under our control. The reason we have used it for Get Outdoors is that we haven't fully utilised the campaign fund.

John Andrews asked what happened to the Legal Fund. It was explained that £25,000 is notionally set aside for Scotland from Central office for legal cases. This fund could be accessed if there was a case to warrant the expenditure.

The budget for funds was discussed and SCEC agreed.

58/15 BUSINESS PLAN (App 3)

1) Jess Dolan, RS Director explained that the Milestones and Outputs in the current business plan are difficult to work with and presented her phasing document (App 6) which showed timings. SCEC felt it was easier to work with and more focused.

Vic Royce highlighted that he would like to see more on the next phasing plan such as staff/volunteer time and expenditure etc. Jess said it would be possible as an estimate but would need to be flexible.

AP3: It was agreed that it would be best if there was a key on the Phasing Plan. To be completed by Ramblers Scotland staff

2) We are on track to meet our targets for the Get Outdoors Weekend. Overall the weekend has been very successful with great media coverage. We are hoping to convert 5% of non-members, who have taken part, into Ramblers members.

AP4: Roxanne to send 50 milestones of Ramblers achievement to SCEC members

3) Campaign update:

a. Helen Todd explained that Ramblers Scotland had not responded to the current parliamentary call for evidence on the Land Reform Bill directly, but had contributed to a LINK submission. Access issues are barely covered and it was not felt that significant effort would result in any changes, but we are keeping in

touch with other access organisations with a view to influencing any future land reform legislation. .

- b. The Loch Lomond bylaws campaign is continuing and Ramblers Scotland and MCoS (Mountaineering Council of Scotland) have a meeting with the Environment Minister on 3rd September in which they hope to discuss this issue. Helen Todd and Jess Dolan recently had a meeting at Luss showing the effects of camping. Our view regarding the Loch Lomond bylaws has not changed following this meeting but we continue to call for more informal campsites and other infrastructure.
 - c. Helen has been looking into concerns surrounding Dalkeith Country Park in which they are charging entry to the park.
 - d. Ramblers Scotland has presented ideas for our draft manifesto to the Conservative and SNP party so far, with other parties also contacted. We are planning to send the draft manifesto out as an e-action to invite members to comment.
 - e. New applications for Hill Tracks are being monitored by Helen and other members of the LINK campaign group.
 - f. John and Helen have been working on an access booklet recently. SCEC discussed how we could progress this and could we perhaps tie it in with the 50th anniversary and incorporate the 50 Ramblers achievements into the booklet. It was discussed whether the booklet could be funded from campaign funds although John said that Central office had already agreed to fund this. SCEC confirmed they were happy with booklet.
- AP 5:** To find out how much Jeannie has left of GOW funds to potentially use for booklet and to discuss with Benedict getting funding from Central Office.
- g) John discussed concerns with Network Rail who state that it is illegal for a core path to go over level crossings. The Scottish Law Commission's report however stated this is legal under the Land Reform Act. John would like to seek legal advice and possibly use funds set aside by central office for this purpose. SCEC supports John to do this.

59/15 SCOTTISH COUNCIL

- 1) SCEC agreed that the date for Scottish Council 2016 would be 11th to 13th March 2016.

The motions for Scottish Council will need to be in by the 16th February which is the date for the first SCEC meeting of 2016.

As part of Scottish Council the subcommittee would like to do a lecture as a memorial to Dick Balharry, who had been a great supporter of RS, and sell tickets to the public. John Andrews proposed and Jane Catto seconded that RS should go ahead with organising the lecture. This was put to the vote and a majority were in favour, so it was agreed.

- AP 6:** Helen to discuss with the Balharry family to find out if they would be happy for Ramblers Scotland to do a memorial lecture.

The structure of Scottish Council could not be agreed so the subcommittee agreed to look into this further. However, it was agreed the importance of deciding on a location as a priority.

AP 7: Roxanne to look into venues and feed back to SCEC as soon as possible.

- 2) It was agreed when discussing the co-options paper that:
 - a. An advert for SCEC vacancies will be placed in next edition of Walk magazine.
 - b. Everyone should go back to Alison with potential candidates for SCEC and the subcommittee to interview these candidates informally.
 - c. Ramblers Scotland should have an informal discussion on the One member One vote system separately from GB.
 - d. Alison suggested finding someone to take Ben Douglas's place in the short term.

AP 8: Roxanne, Vic and John to approach candidates who we think would be suitable for Ben's Place in the short term.

- 3) Jim discussed Welsh Council and there was discussion about why their annual conference was later in the year than ours. Alistair explained that the Welsh Constitution was not as robust as the Scottish Constitution and therefore at this point in time we could not move Scottish Council without a vote.

It was brought up that the Welsh Committee has two vice chairs and secretary. SCEC agreed that this should be discussed as part of the wider governance talks and Jim asked everyone to go away and consider it for future discussions.

- 4) It was decided that the gathering in 2016 would have to be a separate event from Scottish Council if going ahead. SCEC agreed that if Alison could get enough volunteers to organise the gathering then she could just go ahead and do this without further discussion. If this is to go ahead it will take place from the 30th April to Monday 2nd May 2016

60/15 SPORTSCOTLAND WALK LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL

sportscotland have shown enthusiasm in our 10 year outline and the direction we are heading in.

In the proposal drafted by Jess Dolan we are bidding to **sportscotland** for £86,000 each year over a two year period which is a significant increase from the £50,000 each year over two years which we have requested in the past.

Jess explained that once proposal is agreed by SCEC, Ramblers Scotland will then need to present to **sportscotland** senior staff in October 2015 and if successful then, the proposal will progress to the next stage with **sportscotland's** Board of Trustees. If successful at this stage Ramblers Scotland will receive funding by February 2016. It may however be possible to receive part funds in October following the meeting with senior staff.

Vic commented that we should liaise with groups first as might have a negative effect on groups, possibly preventing further funding with **sportscotland**. He had already asked groups for their opinions and read the comments to SCEC which were mixed.

Jess explained that all papers shared with SCEC are confidential and as such SCEC are reminded that they cannot share information or papers out with the SCEC group unless explicitly indicated

Jess also explained that proposal is not incorporating a top down system but rather looking at what we could do in regards to training over the next two and a half years.

Vic felt it extremely important to set up voluntary group for training across groups and grass roots.

Whether the proposal was going forward or not was put to a vote in which all members agreed although Vic abstained and will feedback his recommendations directly to Jess.

It was recognised that if we secure the funding for training, that this would enable Ramblers Scotland to do more work at a faster pace but within a GB framework.

61/15 GOVERNANCE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Jess has spoken to **sportscotland** who said they are happy we are working on our governance. **sportscotland** currently have 12 principles for good governance. It was discussed whether SCEC would like them to lead on a discussion about these principles and then have further in depth conversation about specific principles at a later date. It was highlighted by John that SCVO had been particularly useful when discussing Governance at the last meeting and it was agreed it would be good to get an opinion from both not only on governance but on Scottish Council also.

It was agreed that the meeting in November would be changed to Saturday 14th November in order to facilitate the normal meeting as well as these discussions.

AP9: Jess to speak with SCVO and **sportscotland** to see if this date would be suitable

62/15 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND NEXT PRESIDENT

Andrew Murray is coming to the end of his three year term and SCEC discussed who they would like to approach as next year's candidates. Jess suggested approaching Professor Nanette Mutrie who works in the area of walking research at University of Edinburgh.

Vic made the point that although Andrew Murray could not be considered for 2016, he could be considered for 2017 and Ramblers Scotland was not obliged to fill the post.

63/15 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND NEXT MOVE

The benefits of the office move to Edinburgh were discussed and explained that the new office should be up and running from the 1st October 2015

64/15 NEXT SCEC DATES

The next SCEC date has been moved to Saturday 14th November 2015 from 11am to 5pm and will take place at the Ramblers Scotland new office in Edinburgh to allow SCEC members to see it.

AP10: Roxanne to book **sportscotland** office.

The SCEC date following November's meeting will take place on 15th February 2016

Scottish Council to take place March 11th to March 12th 2016

65/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John brought up the issue of Flexigroups and the complications around financing them.

AP11: Alison to discuss this with central office.