

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minute of meeting held on Saturday 14th November 2015, 11.00-17.00
at Caledonia House, Edinburgh

67/15 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Jim Lawson, Convener	Jane Catto
Alison Mitchell, Vice Convener	Andy Malby
Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer	Vic Royce
John Andrews	Liz Lawie
David Thomson	

Staff

Jess Dolan, Director Scotland
Simon Barnett, Director of Development and Delivery
Helen Todd, Campaigns & Policy Manager (minutes)

Visitors

Lorna Callan, Partnership Manager, **sportscotland**
Sandy Hodge, Partnership Manager, **sportscotland**

68/15 WELCOME

The Convener welcomed attendees to the Scottish Council Executive Committee meeting. There were no expressions of interest. He introduced Lorna Callan and Sandy Hodge from **sportscotland**.

SCEC expressed regret at the news of the death of Margaret Giles, a previous Scottish Council Treasurer.

69/15 LOOKING AT GOOD GOVERNANCE

There was a presentation from **sportscotland** on the SGB Governance Framework. Lorna Callan and Sandy Hodge from **sportscotland** left the meeting after their presentations and associated discussion.

70/15 GOVERNANCE – REFLECTIONS AND ACTIONS

SCEC agreed that the governance training had been very useful. It was noted that SCVO had been contacted but were unable to offer same level of support and training as **sportscotland**, and the actions identified from the morning's training were now a matter for the SCEC to take forward.

The Convener explained that the BoT is likely to be carrying out a governance survey of all members which will be structured so as to enable Scottish data to be extracted.

Alison Mitchell raised that in terms of the work being undertaken by the nominations committee, a skills audit of existing members would be needed to look at the skills gaps needing filled. SCEC agreed that while more people should be encouraged to stand at Scottish Council, SCEC should be identifying potential new members too. SCEC could co-opt individuals at this stage to let them see how the committee runs, with a view to them standing at SC. Co-optees could also be non-members. The **sportscotland** self-assessment form will be required for the February meeting.

AP1 Nominations sub-group to produce a paper within 2 weeks for circulation setting out proposals for the next steps. Remit will be: matters arising from the governance discussions including co-option, skills audit, and diversity.

AP2 Convener to contact BoT for copy of the effectiveness review paper, which will be used as a template for the February meeting.

AP3 All SCEC members to complete **sportscotland** self-assessment paper before next meeting and also consider approaching potential new members for SCEC.

AP4 Director to ensure Agenda includes self-assessment item in February.

71/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2015 (App 1)

SCEC approved the minutes. Proposed John Andrews, Seconded Alison Mitchell.

72/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2015 (App 1A)

SCEC approved the minutes, subject to two amendments in paragraph 64/15 which were to hold the next meeting on Monday 15th February, and to hold Scottish Council from 11-12th March. Proposed by Alison Mitchell, Seconded by David Thomson.

73/15 ACTION POINTS (App 1B)

All action points had been discharged, or overtaken by other actions, apart from AP2 although SCEC agreed that the draft Scottish Council minutes should be published in the current version rather than await further amendment. With regards to AP11, Simon Barnett explained that under the 10-year GB strategic framework, Ramblers GB would be looking at how we make it easier for groups of like-minded people to participate in Ramblers activities.

AP5 Convener to write to Chair of BoT asking for the Flexigroups governance structure and concept to be reviewed as a priority.

74/15 APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2015 (App 1C)

SCEC approved the minutes. Proposed Alison Mitchell, Seconded John Andrews.

75/15 FINANCIAL REPORT (App 2, App 2A, App 6)

SCEC noted the finance report. Alistair Cant noted that in his role as Treasurer of Highland & Islands Area, the Area had financed a number of training events.

76/15 FORMAT OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL (App 3)

The Director explained that the first mailing to members would be sent out in early December so there were a number of items which needed decisions and clarification.

SCEC agreed that Cameron McNeish be the speaker for Friday (11th March) evening and shall present the Dick Balharry Memorial Lecture. All members should be invited on a first come, first served basis after delegates are included. Tea and coffee should be available beforehand and a free buffet afterwards. It should be added to the agenda that Jim Lawson would lead a walk on Friday at 14.00 from the Carnegie Conference Centre. David Thomson said that Dalgety Bay Ramblers had offered to help Dunfermline & West Fife Ramblers as volunteers for the event if required.

SCEC agreed that there should be a short slot where a SCEC member would outline the role of the committee while the Director should introduce the roles of the staff in RS/GB.

SCEC agreed that Andy Malby would be the SCEC member to sit on the Agenda Committee.

SCEC agreed to include an external speaker looking at trends in volunteering, and the presentation on group successes should ideally be done by a young walkers group.

SCEC agreed that staff should be delegated to make menu decisions.

Workshop choices: Promoting your walks using GWEM; Promoting your group using Meet Up; Finding and recruiting members; Area Structure (to be led by Vic Royce, John Andrews, and Alistair Cant).

SCEC agreed the discussion on Motions should be scheduled for one hour.

Staff would investigate having an external guest to promote the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust or similar, during the breaks, and some branded Ramblers items for sale.

AP6 Director/Jeannie Cranfield to implement above decisions.

77/15 UPDATES FROM SCEC MEMBERS (App 5)

Confidential minute

Walnut Grove – John Andrews has spoken to our solicitor, Frances McCartney, who will look into the issue and send an indication on how long it would take to be resolved in due course.

Vice President biographies – Alison Mitchell had produced a list of RS Vice Presidents. This information needs checking with each Vice President and can potentially be put on the Ramblers Scotland website if Vice Presidents all agree.

Nomination for GB Vice President – Alison Mitchell has prepared a biography of the proposed nominee, Dave Morris which now needs taking forward.

Report from Devolution Committee held on 28 October 2015 - Alistair Cant gave an update from the recent meeting which particularly focused on the financial settlement. He pointed out that there was a suggestion that the incentive which reflected extra membership growth in Scotland and Wales was to be removed as it had not been used. The Director raised the point that if investment from **sportscotland** was agreed, there will be a membership growth target as part of the agreement for the funding which may have a bearing on this incentive. It was also reported that the time for a 5-year review of the Memorandum of Understanding, but this should be started soon. SCEC agreed that Alistair Cant should raise this with the Devolution Committee.

AP7 Action from confidential minute.

AP8 Director to take forward Vice President biography issue when staffing allows.

AP9 Convener to write to Dave Morris and invite him to take up the Vice President nomination.

AP10 AC to raise issue of the need for a five-year review of Memorandum of Understanding with the Devolution Committee.

78/15 UPDATES FROM RAMBLERS SCOTLAND BUSINESS PLAN (App 4)

Medal Routes – the Director gave an update on the future of the Medal Routes project post-2016 when the current funding ends. The NHS is particularly interested in this project, and Medal Routes from hospital sites is one potential approach.

sportscotland leadership proposal – staff met with **sportscotland** in October to present this proposal and we are now awaiting the decision of the board which meets in December. Any investment would come with a series of targets, such as membership growth, governance procedures, etc.

CALL path work – BoT agreed in this year's budget to contribute funding to path work in the Coigach Assynt Living landscape project, working as partners with Scottish Wildlife Trust and others, but this has now been delayed and may not take place until 2018.

Access – Helen Todd gave an update on the issue of the Loch Lomond byelaws and the manifesto which will be finalised in early 2016. The new access booklet will be circulated to all members with the winter edition of Walk magazine.

79/15 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND'S NEXT PRESIDENT

The Director explained that Nanette Mutrie was not able to take up the invitation as next President, so asked SCEC for suggestions to be sent to her as soon as possible. Dr Andrew Murray has been very helpful at a strategic and operational level, but will be standing down in March. It was agreed that the Director and Convener could decide on any approaches to be made between SCEC meetings. Alistair Cant pointed out that SCEC could agree the appointment in between Scottish Councils, so there was no need to stick to the March deadline.

AP11 SCEC to consider possible Presidential candidates.

80/15 STAFFING UPDATE

The Director reported that an Areas and Governance Administrator post is currently being advertised to cover the work of Roxanne and Kareen and ensure Scottish Council is running smoothly.

There is an ongoing consultation on a staffing restructure in which there is to be no like-for-like recruitment of the Finance and Communications Officer, but a Communications and Engagement Officer post is being created. However, the Director pointed out that having just three core staff makes long term planning extremely difficult. Alistair Cant explained that the Devolution Committee had always assumed that three posts were minimum with five core posts as an aspiration and further project staff on top, although at the previous group meeting RS was characterised as having had over five staff overall even though some of these would have been non-core staff.

81/15 DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th February in Perth. The Director and Convener will call for items on the agenda beforehand.

AP12 HT to book LINK office for 15 February and arrange catering.

82/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Convener asked for a volunteer to attend Renfrewshire, Cowal & Bute Area AGM on 28th November, but nobody was available.

AP13 Convener to check the Area situation with David Gilmartin.