

**SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 15 August 2017, 16.30 – 20.30**  
**at Jury's Inn Edinburgh**

**66/17 ATTENDANCE**

**SCEC**

Alison Mitchell – convener  
Andy Malby - vice convener  
Alistair Cant - hon treasurer  
John Andrews

Elizabeth Lawie  
Douglas Tullis (until the break)  
Catherine Watt  
Catriona Webster

Des Garrahan, Ramblers GB chair

**Staff**

Brendan Paddy, interim director for Scotland  
Jeannie Cranfield, delivery officer  
Helen Todd, campaigns & policy manager

**67/17 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Alison Mitchell, convener, welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Des Garrahan who had travelled up from London. Apologies were received from Ben Dolphin, Trevor Jones, Elly Macdonald and Vanessa Griffiths.

**68/17 CONVENER'S UPDATE (APP1)**

Alison Mitchell informed SCEC that Andy Malby had received a national volunteer award at the Ramblers Roadshow in July in recognition of his contribution to the work of Ramblers Scotland, and also congratulated Elly Macdonald for getting an article in Scottish Field magazine about Aberdeen Young Walkers. Ben Dolphin's update was welcomed and noted.

**69/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**70/17 APPROVAL OF MINUTE FROM SCEC JUNE MEETING (APP2)**

The SCEC minute was proposed by Catriona Webster and seconded by Andy Malby.

**AP1** – Helen Todd to send approved minute to convener for signing and upload onto Ramblers Scotland website.

**71/17 ACTIONS POINTS FROM JUNE SCEC MEETING (APP2A)**

The following items were discussed:

**55/17 (AP3)** - Brendan reported that membership was stable at around 6,500 members. Across GB membership was showing a general trend downwards and there had been little transition to membership from Walking for Health. This had also been the case in a Scottish pilot

with the two national parks' health walk schemes despite the best efforts of Ramblers groups.

**57/17 (AP5)** Alison had not been able to meet Patrick Scott of Ramblers GB to discuss the Gathering as planned due to his illness but this is now set up for Mon.21<sup>st</sup> Aug..

**59/17 (AP10)** Faye had not uploaded these documents before leaving but Helen and Brendan would ensure this was done.

**AP2** – Alison to meet Patrick Scott to discuss the Gathering.

**AP3** – Helen and Brendan to upload documents on to the SCEC wiki.

## **72/17 FINANCE REPORTS (APP3, APP3A)**

Alistair Cant, treasurer, reported on the accounts and took questions. It was suggested that a further column be included showing the previous year-to-date for the same period with percentages to enable SCEC to better compare progress.

SCEC approved the financial reports.

**AP4** – Alistair to look into extending the GB accounts to include an extra column.

## **73/17 ACCESS SUB COMMITTEE (APP4)**

John Andrews introduced the terms of reference and minute of the Access Sub Committee (ASC) meeting held in June. Two topics had emerged as major issues, the management of access during forestry operations and the lack of capacity within local authorities to resolve issues. A key part of the ASC's work will be supporting members to engage with Local Access Forums. Helen reported that Ramblers Scotland has recently been instrumental in setting up a Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance with other recreation bodies to support better implementation of the legislation, and the status of LAFs has also been recognised by this group as a priority area of work. SCEC thanked the ASC for their work.

## **74/17 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE (APP5)**

Brendan summarised the business plan progress update and informed SCEC that both Faye Henderson and Rob Burns had recently left the organisation to move on to very good positions. He had had constructive budget discussions with Christine Grant and was now drafting the 2017-18 business plan.

The safeguarding policy had also been discussed with Douglas Tullis, in particular the question of whether the delegation of powers to SCEC to expel members is valid. There was concern that the Ramblers GB Memorandum and Articles stipulates that any decision on expulsion should be made by the Board of Trustees, so if SCEC has delegated powers this would have the effect of creating two tiers of membership as Scottish members would be expelled by SCEC and English members by the board of trustees. It was recommended that Ramblers GB should clarify the situation with their legal advisors. It was felt this could be easily remedied but it would not be in line with the board's original decision to delegate any Scottish expulsion of members in Scotland to SCEC.

John Andrews asked that any path maintenance discussions should be shared with the ASC and Brendan promised to give an update at the next SCEC meeting.

There was an explanation on the decision by the Board of Trustees not to support the EuroRando 2021 bid.

Brendan and Des explained the background to Ramblers' involvement with the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL) and their financial support of our work, including our walking festivals.

SCEC confirmed that the telephone meeting on Monday 11th September to discuss the business plan and budget would go ahead, although some members indicated that they were going to be absent.

SCEC gave a vote of thanks for Rob Burns' work on the Medal Routes project and wished him well for the future.

**AP5** – Douglas to put in writing the concern regarding the delegation of the power of expulsion in a note to Christine Grant.

**AP6** – Helen to add an update on GB path maintenance work as an agenda item.

**AP7** – Brendan to circulate an invitation to SCEC for a goto/telephone meeting on 11 September to discuss the 2017-18 business plan and budget.

#### **75/17 DRAGON'S DEN PITCHES (APP6)**

SCEC heard three pitches from Balerno Ramblers, Edinburgh Young Walkers and Glasgow Ramblers for funding for their projects. Interests were declared by Catherine, Andy and Catriona as members of the groups who were presenting.

All presentations were of a high standard and after discussion SCEC agreed that they wanted to support all projects with £300, supplementing the funding already allocated with money from other sources (Scottish Council budget and Ramblers GB budget).

**AP8** – Jeannie to contact the groups and let them know of their success, and coordinate the funding.

#### **BREAK**

#### **76/17 APPRECIATING SCOTLAND / OUT THERE**

Brendan outlined the context for the Appreciating Scotland initiative and progress towards launching the 'Out There' campaign identity, logo and straplines. This will happen in September with an engagement campaign focussed around the celebration of people's favourite paths.

Various points were raised by SCEC, which included the need to explain the main purpose of the initiative to members to ensure that they understand the reason for this piece of work, even though it's not aimed directly at existing members. The use of Instagram was commended for the target audience, and the potential conflict with other initiatives such as the Ordnance Survey's Get Outside campaign was raised. While membership growth is not the main aim of Out There, a pathway for conversion of warm supporters to members will be developed with the membership team in London for future phases of the campaign.

SCEC welcomed the progress so far and were very happy to support this campaign.

## **77/17 SCOTTISH COUNCIL (APP7/APP7A)**

Jeannie Cranfield, gave a summary of the various options she had investigated as venues for Scottish Council 2018. She recommended Aberdeen as the best option although noted that delegates would need to take a bus from the centre of the city. SCEC felt that members would be willing to travel to Aberdeen from the Central Belt and it was good to move the location of Scottish Council around the country.

SCEC agreed that Aberdeen Hilton Treetops Hotel would be the venue for Scottish Council 2018.

**AP9** – Jeannie to liaise with SCEC sub group on the programme for discussion at the next meeting.

## **78/17 SCEC GOVERNANCE ROLES (APP8/8A)**

Alison introduced these papers on the role of SCEC, which were widely supported.

There was discussion on whether the submission of motions should be overtly encouraged, but rather delegates should be offered other opportunities for group discussion which would fit more closely with SCEC's overall strategy of reducing the formal, constitutional content of Scottish Council while also enabling discussion of a wide range of topics.

SCEC agreed to provide various opportunities for discussion which were not limited to motions, and to consider actively encouraging delegates to choose topics of interest.

The successful process followed by Ramblers GB to recruit a wide range of high quality candidates for the Board of Trustees was outlined by Des. This had included the chairman and chief executive playing an active role in selecting the skills and experience required, and then personally approaching likely candidates. The hustings event at General Council had been well received.

SCEC agreed to contact all areas and groups and members to specifically invite people to consider standing for the committee, targeting those with fundraising and marketing expertise or those with a public health background. It was also suggested that a person with a landowning background could be useful. Following Scottish Council, other networks could be used, such as volunteering and business forums, to look for co-optees with specific skills if required.

SCEC also agreed that they should be communicating their role better to members to raise their profile, for example by framing some items in the member newsletters as "SCEC has agreed/decided ...".

**AP10** – Alison to update Jess on these discussions.

**AP11** – Brendan to add a call for SCEC candidates into member communications, and to ensure SCEC is given more visibility for Ramblers Scotland activities.

## **79/17 AREA UPDATE**

Brendan reported that the Renfrewshire, Cowal & Bute Area committee is still not up and running, but an area training officer been recruited. It is hoped that if people see some positive activity happening within the area, this will encourage more groups to engage with the area.

Brendan also confirmed that recruitment for the new area & governance secretary would start as soon as funding is confirmed for beyond the current period of the post which ends on December 2017. SCEC welcomed this news as they felt the position had been very important in supporting governance work to date. Jeannie reported that a leadership training day for area chairs in Edinburgh on 1 & 2 September is taking place and it was hoped to hold forums for other area roles as part of Scottish Council.

**80/17 WALK LEADERSHIP AND AREA TRAINING**

Jeannie reported that five area training officers have now been recruited.

**81/17 THE GATHERING 2018**

Alison reported that the 2018 Gathering will be held in Perth during the first weekend of May. In future years this may change to the end of May weekend, to link with Walk About, but discussion still needs to be held about this potential transition. Eildon Ramblers have offered to host the Gathering in 2019.

**82/17 SCEC MEETINGS**

Following the SCEC telephone meeting on 11 September, the next meeting is Monday 13 November at Dewar's Centre in Perth, followed by Saturday 10 February.

**83/17 AOB**

Andy related a positive conversation he had had with Scottish Youth Hostels Association regarding the Young Walkers Weekend and SYHA's initiatives to engage with more young people. There was potential to work together in future.

SCEC expressed their thanks and gratitude to Brendan for his work over the past year and wished him all the best for the future.

20.30 close of meeting.

End of minute.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Alison Mitchell

Ramblers Scotland Convener

