

REDACTED Minute

February 2020 Scottish council executive committee minute

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 04 February 2020, 4:30pm – 8:30pm
Queen's Hotel, Dundee

01/20 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Ronnie Forbes – convener
Alison Mitchell – vice convener
Alistair Cant – hon. treasurer
Trevor Jones
Elly Macdonald

Linda Moyes (attended from Item 3)
Douglas Tullis
Jay Wilson (by videolink for Items
1 to 6 and first part of Item 12)

Staff

Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland
Jeannie Cranfield, delivery officer
Helen Todd, campaigns and policy manager
Hildegard Berwick, governance and events administrator

02/20 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Ronnie opened that meeting and confirmed that all attending knew each other.

Apologies received from Andy Malby.

Ronnie stated that the agenda order would be altered with Item 6 moving to AOB and Item 10 would be taken prior to Item 4.

Ronnie read a statement from Kate Nustedt regarding her relationship with SCEC. This was taken as Kate withdrawing from SCEC and her resignation to be effective from the date of this SCEC meeting.

Comments were invited in relation to the list of Important Dates for 2020 and no omissions were observed.

03/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

04/20 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SCEC NOVEMBER MEETING AND REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS (APP 2a AND 2b)

The full minutes were proposed by Douglas Tullis and seconded by Alison Mitchell. The redacted minutes were proposed by Douglas Tullis and seconded by Jay Wilson. All action points had been discharged.

Comment regarding 78/19. Heading to be changed from Eurorando to European Ramblers Association. The 50th anniversary date to be amended from 2022 to 2019.

AP 1: Hildegarde to amend 78/19 as noted.

Hildegarde noted an email conversation with Simon Kellas regarding the possibility of holding a joint General Council and Scottish Council in Scotland. The earliest this could happen would be 2022. Hildegarde and Jeannie to continue to pursue this possibility including, the process of managing the official business of both Councils if there was a joint Council.

AP2: Hildegarde and Jeannie to continue discussions with Simon Kellas about the possibility of joint SC and GC in 2022 to be held in Scotland.

05/20 FINANCE UPDATE

An update on SCEC finances was presented by Alistair Cant. Alistair also noted that the management accounts compiled by RGB follow a strict quarterly basis whilst the SCEC accounts are presented quarterly but are inclusive up to a few days prior to the date of each quarterly SCEC meeting. Alistair noted that a section of the Walk Leadership budget had not yet been spent in relation to the 2019/2020 accounts. Brendan Paddy noted that there is a timing issue in relation to the spend of core budgets. The underspend is nearer £5,000 rather than the £15,000 noted.

Alistair noted that membership income is shown in the RGB quarterly accounts but other income, such as the PPL income, is not noted.

Alistair presented four options in relation to the presentation of summary accounts by Ramblers GB for Scottish Council. These options related to the wording accompanying the accounts and the location of the wording on the page. Option 3 was confirmed as the preferred option and Alistair to liaise with Ramblers GB.

AP 3: Scottish Council accounts to be presented as noted above and Alistair to liaise with the Financial Controller in Ramblers GB.

06/20 REPORTS FROM ATTENDEES AT SCOTTISH AREA AGMS

Brief verbal reports were presented by SCEC members in relation to six Area AGMs, with additional comments by RS staff who were also in attendance. Comments ranged from observations on how well organised the AGMs were to how poorly they had been planned, including no written annual report (although it is acceptable to provide a verbal report) and no written accounts. Board of Trustee members in attendance tended to focus on RGB issues rather than RS issues. There was considerable interest in the developments in digital initiatives, although with concern about some aspects, and also Mapping Scotland's Paths.

In relation to the low attendance at most of the AGMs, it was suggested that possibly there could be something organised as part of the AGM which would attract a wider audience.

In relation to the poor organisation of some of the AGMs and the lack of time allowed for SCEC members / BoT members to speak, Brendan Paddy suggested a telephone conversation in advance to the chair or a quick word with the chair in advance of the start of the meeting, would aid in clarifying the expectations of those attending the meeting.

AP 4: Jeannie to remind Areas of the guidelines in relation to holding AGMs, producing written annual reports where possible, producing a written statement of accounts, producing an agenda and hosting visiting speakers from SCEC / BoT / Ramblers Scotland staff.

It was also stated that it would be useful to see the results of the surveymonkey evaluations completed by staff, SCEC and BoT.

AP 5: Brendan Paddy to contact Richard Sharp about allowing SCEC members to have access to the survey results completed by SCEC / BoT / Ramblers Scotland staff in relation to the AGMs attended.

The issue of the cost of delegates from Scotland attending General Council and having to pay the cost of overnight accommodation the day before General Council commenced or the delegate's Area having to bear this cost. It was noted that this had previously been discussed with Simon Kellas.

AP 6: Jeannie Cranfield to contact Simon Kellas to confirm whether or not it is possible for Ramblers GB to pay for overnight accommodation for Scottish delegates for the Friday evening prior to the start of General Council.

The Convener thanked everyone who attended as representatives of staff or SCEC at the Area AGMs and for their preparation in advance.

07/20 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2020

Jeannie Cranfield noted that all rooms had now been filled at the Macdonald Marine Hotel in North Berwick. Any delegates now attending Scottish Council and requiring accommodation will be booked into local bed and breakfast accommodation.

Jeannie circulated the attendee list to date, which noted the groups or areas that the delegate was representing. A list of possible discussion topics for Scottish Council was also distributed and discussion was thrown open to those in attendance. One item not on the list was the new volunteer website, Assemble which some in attendance considered would be useful.

Any 'hot topics' from the Saturday could possibly roll over into the Sunday morning, as there are only 2 motions to discuss at Scottish Council.

It was also noted that Scottish Council attracts many of the same people each year and it was important to encourage new attendees. Jeannie noted that the Carnoustie had been provisionally booked for 2021.

In relation to elections to Honorary posts, the post of Convener, it was noted that there was no need for an election as only one nomination form had been received.

AP 7: Jeannie to consider how to increase the profile of SCEC members at Scottish Council, including adding SCEC member profiles and photos to the Scottish Council delegate pack.

It was also proposed that there is a formal thankyou to the outgoing Honorary President, Ben Dolphin.

A SCEC member noted that it was 35 years since the first Scottish Council was held in 1985. The creation of a digital and oral archive maintained by volunteers was proposed and it was thought that funding for this could also be investigated.

AP 8: Alison Mitchell to investigate the possibility of the creation of a digital and oral archive related to the history of Ramblers Scotland and Scottish Council and explore possible funding sources.

08/20 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2020

Brendan explained that Ramblers Scotland have deliberately moved away from highly designed outward facing document as the wider audience for such a document is limited. Discussion on some small amendments to the annual report, including the removal of the list of affiliated groups which had not been previously included in the annual report and which was noted by one member as being out of date. The annual report was approved.

AP 9: Hildegard to remove the list of affiliated groups from the text of the annual report and inform Ian Johnston that this information is out of date.

The FORMAL Minute for Scottish Council 2019 will appear on Ramblers Scotland website once it has been approved at Scottish Council 2020 and there will be a hyperlink to the Scottish Council 2019 FULL Minute. A member of SCEC also enquired about the inclusion of a delegate list with the Minute and it was stated that this had not been done previously but could be done for Scottish Council 2020.

Two ordinary motions have been submitted for possible inclusion at Scottish Council 2020:

Motion 1:

Mobile phone signal coverage

Submitted by Bearsden & Milngavie Group

Motion 2:

Mapping of Scottish Rights of Way

Submitted by Kilmarnock & Loudoun Group

It was noted that the Motions Committee had recommended to date, that both motions be accepted as competent and are taken in the order as listed above. It was noted that in relation to Motion 1, the mobile phone network is not an issue devolved to Scotland. There was also considerable discussion about amending the wording of Motion 2. It was noted that all amendments to the two motions must be submitted to the Ramblers Scotland office by Saturday 29th February 2020.

09/20 GOVERNANCE: ACTION ON SC19 MOTIONS

Helen presented a cover paper detailing the background to the draft action in relation to the SC19 motion:

Waymarking Scotland's Paths by Ramblers Volunteers.

Also a draft paper was presented detailing guidance for Ramblers Scotland members and volunteers in relation to Signage on Paths in Scotland. After some discussion, it was also noted that the draft guidance does not refer to the maintenance of signage installed on path networks.

The action taken in relation to the other four motions was also noted.

AP 10: Helen to add brief text to the draft guidance in relation to the maintenance of signage on paths.

10/20 BUSINESS PLAN ROLLING UPDATE

Brendan reminded SCEC that this is the new version of the Ramblers Scotland business plan adapted from the revised Ramblers GB business plan. The current Ramblers Scotland business plan covers the planning for the first quarter of 2020. Brendan then discussed the summary update of recent activity, noting that good progress had been made in relation to the Out There project, particularly in relation to those facing barriers to walking outdoors. This includes meetings with the Scottish Association for Mental Health and

organisations which manage land, including the National Trust for Scotland. The next phase of the project from October will have specific emphasis on young people who face particular barriers to walking outdoors.

11/20

Item 11/20 and related AP 11 redacted due to their confidential nature.

12/20 REPORTS FROM OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

There was discussion around the extent of the time commitment required from the co-option sub-committee in relation to publicising co-option opportunities to SCEC and the related induction for the selected individuals. The discussion continued focusing on skill gaps within SCEC. The possibility was also suggested of bringing people on 'slowly' to SCEC over time to allow potential co-optees to become more familiar with SCECs work and whether this is the right opportunity for them to contribute their particular skills.

There was also discussion around how to support groups in rural Areas and listening to their concerns. It was also stressed that external knowledge would be helpful in looking at a variety of approaches. The possibility of forming a group focusing on this issue was briefly discussed.

13/20 AOB

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE NEW RAMBLERS SCOTLAND HONORARY PRESIDENT

The nomination form for the new Honorary President, Lucy Wallace, was completed. Lucy's nomination was proposed by Elly Macdonald and seconded by Alison Mitchell.

GOVERNANCE: GROUPS, AREAS AND SCEC

Four members of SCEC declared that they would be standing down: Ronnie Forbes, Trevor Jones, Andy Malby and Linda Moyes. Douglas Tullis noted that he was prepared to continue for a further year. As Alison Mitchell is standing for Convener, this leaves the post of Vice Convener to be filled. If the post of Vice Convener is filled by an existing SCEC member, then this would mean that 5 positions on SCEC would be available from the total of 7, excluding honorary officers.

AP 12: Brendan volunteered Hildegarde to draft a list of possible individuals who could be approached to sit on SCEC. SCEC members were also asked to approach individuals if they have a personal connection to them or to send suggestion to Hildegarde.

The possibility of an exit questionnaire to be sent to resigning SCEC members was raised.

AP 13: Hildegarde to investigate whether there is an existing exit questionnaire. If not, an exit questionnaire to be drafted for consideration by SCEC.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Minutes compiled by Hildegarde Berwick, governance and events administrator
19 February 2020

APPROVED BY THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF RAMBLERS SCOTLAND – 12 May 2020
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