

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings held in the Library (ground floor), Marine Hotel, North Berwick

**Minute of meetings held on
7 March 2020 from 11.00am – 12.00pm
and on 8 March 2020 from 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

PRE SCOTTISH COUNCIL

14/20 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Ronnie Forbes – convener
Alison Mitchell – vice convener
Alistair Cant – honorary treasurer
Trevor Jones
Elly Macdonald
Linda Moyes
Douglas Tullis
Jay Wilson

Staff

Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland
Hildegard Berwick, governance and events administrator

15/20 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ronnie opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Andy Malby. Ronnie noted that point 5 on the agenda (the filling of the vice convener post) would be taken as an item at the SCEC meeting on Sunday, post Scottish Council.

16/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17/20 SCOTTISH COUNCIL

Ronnie noted that SC 2021 would take place in March and the location would be Carnoustie.

Ronnie mentioned the importance of SCEC members mingling with delegates over lunch, dinner and at break times.

Ronnie noted that Ben Dolphin's three years as President had now ended. Adding that that Ramblers Scotland had supported Ben in his pursuit of Mountain Leadership Training. Ben was to be presented with Tiso vouchers at Scottish Council as a token of our appreciation for his time as President.

In relation to Paper 5a, Action on Motions to Scottish Council 2019

SCEC discussed their position in relation to Motion 4 submitted by Clydesdale to Solway area:

Waymarking Scotland's Paths by Ramblers Volunteers

SCEC members agreed that the motion had generated lots of useful debate.

AP1 Brendan to consult with Helen Todd to establish whether waymarking signage in Scotland can bear the Ramblers logo.

SCEC discussed their position in relation to Motion 5 submitted by Glasgow Group:
Planning regulations are needed to tackle the proliferation of damaging hill tracks on the uplands of Scotland

A SCEC member stated that the forthcoming Scottish Parliament review of permitted development rights includes hilltracks. SCEC members also discussed how they could include various aspects of access in the discussion groups they would be leading later that day at Scottish Council.

18/20 SUBCOMMITTEE / WORKING GROUP UPDATES

18/20/1

Meikleour House

Douglas confirmed that the solicitors had now been formally instructed to proceed regarding Meikleour House and there is no longer a concern regarding confidentiality and public knowledge around this case.

The following points were also raised in relation to a paper previously submitted by Alison Mitchell in relation to three proposed working groups

18/20/2

Constitutional Review

There was discussion regarding the term limits for SCEC members, including the proposal that individuals serve a 3 year term with a 2 consecutive term limit.

AP2 The Constitutional Review working group to inspect the KPMG report, once completed, and compile a list of actions / areas for review.

The new constitutional working group would look at including a review of the standing orders for Scottish Council, within their terms of reference.

18/20/3

Remote and Rural Membership, Area and Group Support Review

In relation to the proposed working group focusing on Remote and Rural Membership, Brendan noted that Ramblers Scotland are developing some new tools and ways of working that could help improve the way we support rural members and structures, including supporting independent walkers and a shift to more direct communication with members via digital means. In relation to DOL, Brendan also noted taking into account Ramblers GB work in this field, where it was relevant to Scotland. It was noted by Ronnie that he considered that DOL does not address the issues facing Groups and Areas in rural areas. Ronnie also noted that the State of the Nations will be looked at annually and Scotland's Devolution Agreement will continue as it stands until changes are made. The outcome of the working group exploring Remote and Rural Membership could impact on the work of the group focusing on the Constitutional Review.

18/20/4

Co-options to SCEC

A skills survey of new members will be undertaken. The importance of using individuals' skills was important. Ronnie suggested the possibility of a 'hybrid' co-optee, where the individual could act as a 'consultant' and questioned whether they needed to attend every SCEC meeting. Other suggestions included providing the co-optee with a specific task.

19/20 AOCB

A SCEC member raised a suggestion, as both motions for Scottish Council 2020 had now been withdrawn, that another discussion topic could take the place of these motions.

Alison thanked Ronnie for all his work as convener over the past year. She also thanked RS staff for their work in relation to organising Scottish Council and their participation over the weekend, including the participation of RGB staff.

The meeting closed at 12.00mid-day.

POST SCOTTISH COUNCIL

20/20 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Alison Mitchell - convener
Douglas Tullis – vice convener elect
Alistair Cant – honorary treasurer
Bekah Cork
Beth Dickson
Elly Macdonald
Mike Morris
David Webb
Jay Wilson
Andrea Steel SCEC co-optee

Staff

Brendan Paddy, director of Scotland
Hildegard Berwick, governance and events administrator

21/20 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES, VICE CONVENER POST AND CO-OPTEE

Alison opened the meeting andwelcomed new members, inviting all to provide brief introductions. There were no apologies.

Discussion then focused on the filling of the vice convener post. It was noted that no nomination had been received for this post by the closing date. Alison briefly mentioned the tasks involved in this honorary post. Douglas Tullis was nominated for this post by Alistair Cant, there were no other nominations and Douglas was therefore confirmed as Vice Convener.

Alison also sought SCECs formal approval for Andrea Steel's co-option. Alison invited Andrea to provide background details about herself. Andrea said that she held a strategic

role in health and health policy, as well as being passionate about preventative health measures. All SCEC members agreed to Andrea's co-option.

22/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23/20 URGENT MATTERS AND REFLECTIONS ARISING FROM SCOTTISH COUNCIL

23/20/1

Bank Signatories

SCEC agreed that Alistair, Alison and Brendan would be bank signatories.

23/20/2

Hotel Gratuity

The level of a gratuity would be a Ramblers Scotland staff decision.

23/20/3

Scottish Council

It was considered that the service provided by the Macdonald Marine Hotel was generally good but with a few exceptions, including service at breakfast.

Discussion focused on several topics., in relation to the discussion topic groups, it was noted that some groups were too large and unwieldy, whilst others had few people, including a group which only comprised a small number of Young Walkers.

There will be a working group focusing on the planning of Scottish Council 2021 but this will not commence until September.

One SCEC member wished to re-emphasise that members can contact Ramblers Scotland at any time during the year to put forward an idea, which may or may not lead to a formal motion. If motions are to be put forward for consideration by the Motions Committee and debated at Scottish Council, the Group / Area should be encouraged to contact RS much earlier to encourage discussion well in advance of the deadline date for motions.

If there was a significant change to the process for the submission of motions, this would require looking again at the constitution and exploring the required steps. One suggestion was an Expression of Interest Form, noting the issue of concern and what the Group / Area would like to be done about this issue.

More networking time was also highlighted by a SCEC member.

24/20 DATES FOR SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2021

The dates were noted as 6 and 7 March and the location will be Carnoustie.

25/20 PROPOSED LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES FOR SCEC 2020 MEETINGS

The next SCEC meeting date of Tuesday 5 May in Perth was difficult for a number of SCEC members.

AP3 - Hildegard to ascertain a date suitable for most individuals, possibly during the following week, week commencing 11 May.

Brendan also highlighted that Jade Deeley, Senior Fundraiser at RGB, wished to undertake a two-hour workshop with SCEC members on the same day as the May SCEC meeting.

AP4 - Brendan to continue to liaise with Jade to finalise the timing of this workshop.

The subsequent two SCEC meetings in 2020 will be:
Tuesday 18 August, suggested location is Stirling
Tuesday 17 November, suggested location is Edinburgh

The February 2021 meeting – date still to be finalised.

26/20 CONTACT DETAILS FOR NEW MEMBERS / UPDATED DETAILS FOR EXISTING MEMBERS AND BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS FOR WEBSITE

AP5–Contact details for new SCEC members have already been received by Hildegarde, as well as biographical details, and an updated SCEC webpage drafted which will be uploaded.

27/20 INDUCTION FOR NEW SCEC MEMBERS

New SCEC members will be required to attend an induction session to be led by Alison and Brendan. Two possible dates were suggested: Thursday 16 or Friday 17 April. The process would take around 2 – 3 hours.

AP6- Hildegarde to liaise with new SCEC members to establish which of the two dates would be the most suitable.

28/20 ELECT SCEC REPRESENTATIVES to the RGB BOARD of TRUSTEES

Alison suggested that, as convenor of SCEC, she should take up the role of representing SCEC at BoT meetings. Jay, who was previously representing SCEC on the BoT, stated that he is stepping down from this role and this was noted by SCEC.

29/20 SUBCOMMITTEES / WORKING GROUPS: NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following points continued the discussion from Saturday’s SCEC meeting in relation to the paper submitted by Alison Mitchell regarding three proposed working groups

It was noted by a SCEC member that membership of the working groups should not necessarily be exclusive to SCEC members.

Another SCEC member proposed a fourth working group consisting of an Innovation Group. After some discussion it was agreed. It was proposed that there should be an early meeting of this group and the group could then be taken forward according to the structure of the other three groups, namely: defining its terms of reference, including its remit, timescale for reporting back, and membership of the group, which would then be approved by SCEC.

AP7 – Bekah & Jay to arrange an early meeting once the membership had been agreed and inform Hildegarde of its terms of reference which Hildegarde would then forward to SCEC members.

Concern was raised by a SCEC member that having more than 3 working groups could stretch RS capacity in relation to the number of SCEC members willing to serve on

these groups and the availability of administrative support for the groups. It was suggested by another SCEC member that the Innovation Group could proceed informally.

29/20/1

Constitutional Review Group

Membership to consist of: Douglas Tullis, Alistair Cant, Beth Dickson, Jay Wilson and Mike Morris. Barry Pottle also to be kept informed of the Group's progress but anyone else would be welcome to input their thoughts. It was agreed that this group would provide their own record of the meeting (Douglas subsequently request support from Hildegard Berwick if possible).

AP8 A scoping paper to be produced initially and then actions defined.

29/20/2

Remote and Rural Membership, Area and Group Support

Alison noted that she was keen to obtain feedback from the groups who were or were potentially going into abeyance. Ronnie had facilitated Saturday's discussion topic which focused on support for rural areas.

Membership to consist of:

Alison, Ronnie, Andrea and Jay

AP9 – Hildegard / Jeannie to provide Alison with information obtained by Ronnie during his workshop session.

Existing sub-committees

29/20/3

Co-options to SCEC

Membership to consist of:

Bekah, Elly and Beth

29/20/4

Access sub-committee

Membership to consist of:

Douglas, Alistair, Alison, John Andrews, Jay Wilson, Dave Morris, John Holms and David Webb with Helen Todd attending

29/20/5

The Gathering sub-committee

Membership to consist of:

Alison, Linda Moyes and Jim Lawson

29/20/6

Scottish Council sub-committee

Membership to consist of:

Elly and Bekah

29/20/7

Innovation sub-committee

Membership to consist of:

Jay and Bekah

Alison thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Minutes compiled by Hildegard Berwick, governance and events administrator
(31 March 2020)

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