



ramblers scotland
at the heart of walking

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SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2012, 16.00-20.45
at SRGS (Scottish Royal Geographic Society) Office, Perth

25/12 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Dick Balharry, President
David Thomson, Convener
Jim Lawson, Vice Convener
Alistair Cant – Hon Treasurer
John Andrews

Ben Douglas
Elizabeth Lawie
Anne MacDonald
Brian MacGillivray
Alison Mitchell

Board of Trustees

Jonathan Kipling (Rambler Chair)

Staff

Dave Morris – Director Scotland
Kareen Robertson – Communications & Finance Officer
Benedict Southworth - Rambler Chief Executive
Helen Todd – Development Officer (from 6 pm)

26/12 WELCOME

David Thomson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Benedict Southworth, Jonathan Kipling and John Andrews who had just recently recovered from a bout of ill health.

27/12 Alison Mitchell asked if an Agenda item could be added about the Scottish Rambler Gathering under AOCB.

28/12 At the next SCEC meeting in August Ben Douglas is to receive training from Alistair Cant regarding the SCEC procedures for committee members. Thirty minutes should be allowed for this before the meeting.

Action 1 - KR and AC

29/12 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

30/12 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Appendix 1 and 1A

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6th February were approved with no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Alison Mitchell and seconded by Alistair Cant.
- b) The minutes of the meeting held, pre and post Scottish Council were approved, subject to the following amendments:
28/12 (c) In the last sentence, amend 'Ben Douglas' to read 'John Andrews'.

Action 2 KR

31/12 REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING

All action points have been completed. There were no matters arising.

32/12 CONVENER'S REPORT

David Thomson reported that immediately after the conclusion of the SC he had for the next three days the pleasure of hosting our new CEO Benedict Southworth on a trip around Scotland meeting with staff and volunteers at a number of locations including Glenmore Lodge, Milnathort and Glasgow. He attended the Board of Trustees meeting on 24th March and also attended General Council over the weekend of 21/22 April. More recently he had met 2 landowners at Loch Leven in connection with the disputed route around the loch. On 27th April he had attended a meeting at St Ninian's Open Cast mine along with staff to explore the possibilities of it being transformed into parkland. This would feature 10 km of surfaced walkways which will be open to the public.

33/12 FINANCE REPORT - Appendix 2

SCEC noted the Finance Report and noted there had been expenditure from the campaign fund. Depending on what type of SC council is agreed for next year spending in this area could vary a great deal. It was noted that only 3% of the Volunteer Development budget had been used and it was suggested that this money could be used in another area.

34/12 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director Scotland reported on the following items:

- a) Legacy: Ramblers Scotland had received notification that it is one of 18 named beneficiaries for an estate in Glasgow and a cheque for around £55K is expected within the next week. It is anticipated that it will be to the Ramblers as a whole, without restriction.
- b) Governance: As things get going we do not anticipate revisiting this issue for some years. The devolution agreement was signed last September and the priority now was to ensure that operational decisions, especially in Central Office, are compatible with the agreement. However, RS may need to revisit the agreement in 2015 depending on the outcome of the Scottish Government referendum in the autumn of 2014.
- c) Access
 - i. SCEC noted that RS is still due some money from the Snowie case which RS and Stirling Council won in 2008 and in 2010 won an appeal brought by Snowie against RS and Stirling Council
 - ii. SCEC noted that the issue of level crossings and railway lines was likely to come to the fore later in the year when the Scottish Law Commission report on potential changes in the law affecting railway lines
- d) Windfarms: SCEC noted that the Director gave evidence to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on the inquiry into the Scottish government's renewable energy targets at the Scottish Parliament on 18th April. The evidence footage is available on the website for one month from the date of the meeting.
- e) SMT+ (Senior Management Team) The Director visited Ramblers Cardiff office on 2 May for the very first SMT+ meeting which includes the Directors of Scotland and Wales.
- f) Promoting Walking:
 - i. The Medal Routes project will be launched on May 17th as part of the UK wide 'Inspire Day(s)', a celebration of projects which have been encouraged by the Olympic Games. RS was selected as the main project to be highlighted at the Scottish launch. The launch event will be taking place at Commonwealth House, Glasgow, led by Shona Robison, Commonwealth Games and Sports Minister. Cameron McNeish and Dennis Canavan (RS vice presidents) and Dr Andrew Murray, Scottish Government Physical Activity Champion, will also be speaking.

- ii. South of the border Macmillan Cancer Support has provided substantial funding for health walks to Ramblers as part of the changes in England as the UK Government has withdrawn funding support for health walks. Macmillan is interested in health/walking work of all 3 countries and next week RS is meeting Macmillan staff in Glasgow.
- g) Kinder Scout – RS did not participate in the Kinder Scout anniversary celebrations. Recommendations were made to Central Office to link the celebrations to the main consequential legislation – the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which had relevance to Scotland through the establishment of the Nature Conservancy and Britain's first National Nature Reserve at Beinn Eighe. In the end, however, the focus became rights of way which was difficult to accommodate in Scotland, given the different legislative framework and greater significance of the Glen Tilt right of way battle.
- h) Press Target: This has already been achieved this year for Ramblers as a whole, with Ramblers Scotland making a major contribution primarily through wind farm coverage. RS advertised in the summer edition of Scottish Walks magazine and as part of the agreement an editorial was included by the RS Director on the state of wind farms.
- i) Membership: Current members as at 1st May are 6427 an increase of 58 from 1st October, the start of the financial year.

35/12 SCOTTISH COUNCIL – Appendices 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6 & 7

- a) Action on Motions 2012
SCEC noted Appendix 3 – Action on Motions 2012 and also the paper submitted by Barry Pottle (Appendix 3A).
Motion 1 – SCEC agreed to request a meeting with the Scottish Government's Transport Minister to discuss A9/A90 dualling policy and public access..
Motion 2 - SCEC agreed to set up a working party to action the motion. Jim Lawson agreed to coordinate this and SCEC agreed that initially the main remit would be to:
 - i. decide the aim of group;
 - ii. set a reporting procedure; and
 - iii. set timetable for completion.
- b) Evaluation Report SCEC noted the evaluation report (App 4) for SC 2012 and thanked Anne MacDonald for putting it together.
- c) SCEC noted the analysis of Scottish Councils (App 5) over the last 3 years.
- d) Venue for 2013 After discussing various options for SC 2013, SCEC agreed that it should be a 2 day event and Kareen is to investigate rates for hotels in Glasgow and overnight accommodation. The increase of cost (around £10K) and the extra staff involved to carry out a 2 day event had been noted as a significant issue to consider. Dates agreed are 2nd, 16th or 23rd March.
- e) Changes to RS Constitution and Standing Orders Alistair introduced the papers outlined in App 7. He explained some key points in the Paper which listed the changes agreed between him, Barry Pottle and Ben Douglas. These included: making the difference between the Submission of motions/amendments; and who speaks to them at SC. Alistair then outlined the four aspects where a decision was sought from SCEC on how to proceed. The decisions taken were as follows:
 - i. The deadline for motions - a compromise date of 32 days was agreed.
 - ii. There was to be no additional date restriction on the date of Scottish Council.
 - iii. The proposal from Alistair, stating who can submit amendments, was backed.
 - iv. The majority view was that the status quo should continue, namely individuals only have one vote at SC..
 Alistair explained there may be other minor tweaking changes being proposed but they probably would not need to come to SCEC as they were so minor. The

final document would be put in draft form to the Board of Trustees' constitutional adviser(s) to assist the process of getting any changes approved by SC in 2013 through the final BoT ratification stage.

SCEC also stated that they wished this constitutional motion to be put forward in a manner that would minimise the risk of confusing SC delegates or taking up too much valuable SC time.

SCEC has to nominate one member to sit on the Agenda Committee (as well at the Convener who is a member of it automatically). Ben Douglas was willing to do this and this nomination was agreed. Alistair Cant proposed and Liz Lawie seconded.

Action 3 HT/DM

Action 4 – JL

36/12 GENERAL COUNCIL 2012 UPDATE

- a) SCEC noted that the elected new officers to the Board of Trustees (BoT) were Jonathan Kipling (Chairman) and Robert Peel (Honorary Treasurer). At the next BoT meeting, the new Vice Chair will be elected. Three new people were elected to the Board at General Council.
- b) SCEC noted that most motions passed at General Council did not directly affect Scotland. Dave Morris said that he had indicated to GC that some motions, such as that referring to the break up of the British Waterways Board, could have been adjusted in drafting to include Scotland and this might be borne in mind for the future.

37/12 RAMBLERS SCOTLAND VISION STATEMENT

SCEC noted that the usual process for the RS vision statement is to discuss at Scottish Council (SC) and if necessary revise the statement at next SCEC meeting. No specific comments were made by Council in March and SCEC agreed that RS should look at the statement in the following weeks and affirm any amendments at the next meeting. In addition, Ramblers groups should be invited to suggest what could be included in the statement.

Action 5 - RS staff

38/12 SCOTTISH MEMORANDUM OF AUTHORITY - Appendix 8

SCEC noted the CPC (Constituent Parts Committee) would discuss the services RS receives from Central Office and what it sources itself. The next meeting, to be held later this month, will include staff members Benedict Southworth and Paul Butler (Ramblers Director of Finance) and will essentially look at everything in more detail.

39/12 WALK LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Appendix 9

SCEC noted the paper prepared by Ben Douglas on the Walk Leadership Training Day in 2011 and noted that feedback on the whole day was very good. SCEC agreed that

this should be taken forward in a similar format for later in the year and also agreed that money should be made available for this.

Action 6 HT/KR

40/12 UPDATE ON PROJECTS/FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The list of potential projects will be listed in the Business Plan. Alison Mitchell asked that the 'grey market' should be considered for any potential project.

Action 7 KR/HT

41/12 ACCESS UPDATE

- a) A9/A96 Upgrade. DM reported that he had attended a consultation meeting with Transport Scotland about the A9/A96 dualling from Inverness to Aberdeen. There had been good discussion about a parallel walk/cycle pathway along the planned route. John Andrews also responded to a consultation about the A9 in Perthshire (Perth by pass).
- b) Access Survey John Andrews reported that as a result of the survey distributed to local groups at the time of Scottish Council, there was no great demand from our members for access training.
- c) Loch Leven Heritage Trail This is a significant and serious issue. RSPB is demanding the track be alongside the main road. RS has submitted objections to Perth & Kinross Council to the planning application submitted by TRACKS. SCEC agreed that the proposed path needs to go through the reserve.
- d) Strategy for Access Meetings Jim Lawson informed SCEC that an access meeting was held in Glasgow each year and was interested to know if groups on the east side of the country would like to hold a similar meeting. In view of the response to the access survey John Andrews did not see any point in this happening but agreed to join the Glasgow Access meeting. After the meeting JA would make a decision on whether to progress an access meeting for other groups in Scotland.

42/12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

SCEC noted that discussions had taken place with Willie Rennie (Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats) when he participated in the visit by Benedict. He appeared reluctant to accept that wind farms were a problem.

43/12 REPORTS – RAMBLERS CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND RAMBLERS CHAIR

- a) Benedict Southworth Benedict stated that since his arrival in February he was looking at several issues. These included a) how Ramblers would implement the devolution agreement, (b) the staff conference scheduled for June, (c) business planning, (d) responsibility for health and walking in the 3 nations, (e) making changes to the way management operations are carried out within GB, (f) looking at membership services and why people join, saying that we need to attract different people and also need to meet their expectations.

In addition Benedict said that he had written his 100 day review which had been included in the Board papers. He had also been reviewing and revising Ramblers HR policy including TOIL (time off in lieu) and including salary and job grades.

- b) Jonathan Kipling Jonathan said we need to focus on the work of the 3 nations and it is time to discuss the mission of the organisation. He is trying to do things at a strategic level and we should use new ways to do old things.

44/12 SCEC MEMBERS AND TASKS

SCEC noted that we need to make use of the talents and skills of all SCEC members and agreed that a survey should be produced and sent out to members.

Action 8 KR/HT

45/12 AOCB

Scottish Ramblers Gathering:

SCEC noted that the Scottish Ramblers Gathering held last weekend was the 25th anniversary of the event with over 150 people attending. SCEC agreed that it would be good publicity for an article to be placed in walk magazine. Benedict agreed to speak to Dominic Bates (Editor of walk) about this.

Action 9 BS

Action points

- 1) BD to receive training on SCEC procedures – will require 30 minutes.- KR/AC
- 2) Amend Minutes post SC - KR
- 3) Action on Motion 1: Send letter to Transport Minister with a view to setting up a meeting – HT/DM
- 4) Action on Motion 2: set up a working party – JL
- 5) Look at RS Vision Statement and affirm any amendments at next meeting. Invite groups to suggest what could be included in statement DM/HT
- 6) Organise Walk Leadership training day – KR/HT
- 7) Include the grey market in Business Plan for any potential projects HT/JC
- 8) Produce survey to ascertain talents and skills of SCEC members – KR/HT
- 9) Speak to Dominic Bates about Scottish Ramblers Gathering article in walk magazine.
– BS

SIGNED: David Thomson, DATE: 10 SEPT 2012
David Thomson, Convener