

**SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 16.00-20.00**  
**at Scottish Environment Link Office, Shore Road, Perth**

**ATTENDANCE**

**SCEC**

David Thomson, Convener  
Jim Lawson, Vice Convener  
Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer  
Alison Mitchell

Ben Douglas  
Anne MacDonald  
Brian MacGillivray

**Staff**

Dave Morris – Director Scotland  
Helen Todd – Campaigns & Policy Manager  
Kareen Robertson – Communications & Finance Officer

**1/13**

**WELCOME**

David Thomson welcomed everyone to the February meeting of the Scottish Council Executive Committee.

**2/13**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the President Dick Balharry, SCEC member John Andrews, Jonathan Kipling (Ramblers Chair) and Benedict Southworth (Ramblers Chief Executive).

**3/13**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Appendix 1**

The minutes for the meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December were approved subject to the following amendments:

- 1) Add Brian MacGillivray to attendance list.
- 2) Add dates to the item heading 75/12 – 9/10 November 2012

The minute was proposed for approval by Brian MacGillivray and seconded by Jim Lawson.

**Action KR**

**4/13**

**REVIEW OF ACTIONS POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING**

**Action points** All action points had been dealt with except AP2.

**AP2 76/12** No further discussion about setting a new date had taken place. One of the issues for postponing the conference was that an active travel conference is scheduled for May which would be covering similar issues. However, Paths for All has indicated they might be interested in working with us on a Games Legacy conference. This topic is to be actioned again for the next meeting.

**Action HT/DM**

**AP 5 77/12** There has been quite a bit of publicity around the LRRG (Land Reform Review Group) and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Scotland's land reform legislation. In January we submitted evidence to the LRRG, a press release celebrating 10 years of land reform in Scotland was distributed and a motion was received in parliament. In addition Dave Morris wrote an article for Third Force News about 'The Right to Access Scotland's Land' which was published at the end of January. During the year, we will constantly mention the anniversary to draw attention to it.

***Matters arising from minutes***

1) Alison Mitchell highlighted that the draft minutes from the previous meeting should be distributed soon after the meeting had taken place – this was especially important when members had missed a meeting. Helen Todd agreed that she would ensure that Action Points from this meeting would be made available to SCEC within one week.

**Action HT/KR**

2) 72/12 Alison Mitchell questioned the minute for this item – Skills Audit Sheet' – SCEC confirmed that this was the correct minute as there had been no suggestions to take any further action.

**5/13 REPORT FROM DIRECTOR**

SCEC noted that Dave Morris had been on compassionate leave since the last meeting due to family illness but had been still playing a minor role in the work of RS during his leave of absence. He was expected to be back to work during the first week in March.

**6/13 SCOTTISH BUSINESS PLAN – 6 month update to SCEC – Appendix 2**

SCEC noted the report outlined in Appendix 2 which formally reports progress of the work carried out by RS for the first 6 months of the financial year. Ramblers Cymru is making a similar report to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March. RS will be required to present their report to the Board at the meeting in May.

**Action HT/DM**

**7/13 FINANCE REPORT – Appendix 3**

SCEC noted the Financial Report presented by Alistair Cant, Honorary Treasurer. He said there had been one donation to the campaign fund and had received affiliation income from 2 bodies. Other than that there were no other items to report.

SCEC discussed the possibility of using some funds from the SC account for walk leadership training specifically at the high level skills end which could include winter skills. This was considered particularly relevant in light of the recent accidents that have occurred in the Scottish mountains this year. SCEC agreed that £2,000 should be made available for training and it would be up to staff to decide how to organise the training.

As the Glasgow Young Walkers group had enquired about training, Jim Lawson, on behalf of the North Strathclyde Area, said he would contact the GYW's secretary Seonaid Graham to find out what training was required. He would also contact the Area Treasurer to determine if money was available from Area funds.

**Action: AC/RS staff/JL**

**8/13 DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Helen Todd**

SCEC noted the Director's report which Helen gave verbally in her capacity as Acting Director. Helen wanted to record the hard work carried out by Kareen Robertson and Jeannie Cranfield over the last couple of months during Dave's absence – it had been a real team effort. The following points were highlighted:

- 1) **sportscotland.** Last week a meeting with Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, Partnership Manager of sportscotland was held at the RS office. Confirmation of the funding for the Development Officer post is expected by the end of March. The recommendation coming from the Partnership Manager is £40K to cover salary and £10K to cover operational costs. sportscotland has a history of investing in the long term and this post could be funded for a number of years but initially would be advertised for a period of 2 years. The proposed Development Officer's role would include supporting groups, assisting with group marketing and publicity, and looking at training needs, as well as many other issues relating to the development of groups.
- 2) **Scottish Council**
  - a. Dick Balharry, current President, had accepted a nomination to become a Vice President of Ramblers Scotland
  - b. Sue Hilder, Glasgow City Council Access Officer had accepted our invitation to be our after dinner speaker.
  - c. Dr Andrew Murray, the former Scottish Government's Physical Activity Champion, was delighted to accept a nomination to be our new President.
- 3) **Walking in Scotland Leaflet** RS has held discussions with SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) about producing a general walking leaflet. The leaflet would outline general access issues and give information for less experienced walkers that would direct the reader to our Scotland microsite. It is hoped that the leaflet will be produced in time for Scottish Council.
- 4) **Paths for All** Jeannie Cranfield (RS Games Legacy Advisor) and Helen Todd recently met with Ian Findlay, Paths for All Chief Officer. At the meeting there was a frank exchange of views where RS explained concerns that PfA seemed to be acting as a competitor in many aspects of our work and therefore a conflict of interest existed. JC and HT felt it was positive that the discussions had taken and it led to a number of ideas for working in partnership - PfA may support us in our conference discussions and also a possible parliamentary event that might also be useful to showcase Medal Routes. However, concerns still remain over their future direction.

**Action HT/JC**

**9/13 CAMPAIGNS**

SCEC noted and agreed the following points:

- 1) **Donald Trump** has submitted s new application for his second golf course. RS will view this application and feed back to SCEC at the next main meeting post Scottish Council.
- 2) **Crubenmore** This area is still very much lacking an underpass despite all the assurances from Transport Scotland that an underpass would be built. RS is to remind Transport Scotland that these assurances were given.
- 3) **Forest guidance** Helen Todd met with the Chief Executive Forest Enterprise in January and took part in a stakeholder meeting with Forestry Commission Scotland in December. Public guidance on forest operations has been drafted for the next NAF (National Access Forum) meeting. It has been recognised that

both the forestry industry and the walking fraternity need to undergo a culture change in terms of building trust in reasonable requests made to walkers and others regarding restrictions.

- 4) **National Walking Strategy** There has been no information to date on this strategy.
- 5) **Planning consultations** RS helped produce two consultation responses on the National Planning Framework 3 and the Scottish Planning Policy review, and signed up to these with other active travel organisations.

**Action HT**

**10/13 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2013 – Appendices 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 7A, 7B, 8**

- 1) **Action on motions 2012** SCEC noted and discussed the paper produced by Jim Lawson (App 4A) relating to the Future Vision of RS and agreed we should have a wide ranging discussion on the future directions for RS at Scottish Council with President Dick Balharry chairing the discussion. The Chief Executive could also give an update on the GB perspective.
- 2) **SC Agenda** SCEC noted that we may receive an amendment to the constitutional motion that was put forward by this committee. Amendments need to be submitted to the Scotland office by 9<sup>th</sup> March and if approved by the Agenda Committee will be placed before members of Scottish Council. It was therefore agreed that additional time should be allowed for SC Agenda item 'Motions 2013'.
- 3) **Agenda Committee**
  - a) SCEC agreed that Ben Douglas should be the SCEC nominee on the Agenda Committee. The subject of SCEC nominee for the Agenda Committee should be added to the SCEC Agenda post Scottish Council.
  - b) SCEC further noted that Ben Douglas and Barry Pottle had spent a great deal of time preparing the proposed changes to the existing constitution and standing orders adding that the documents were very thorough.
- 4) **Vice Presidents**

SCEC noted the difficulty in obtaining signatures for VP nominations. To simplify the election procedure, SCEC agreed to the following process:

  - a) Forms for VP nominations would no longer be required. This would be replaced by a letter to all VPs outlining that they would all be put forward for election unless they wished to withdraw. This would be carried out on a yearly basis.
  - b) This procedure would take effect before Scottish Council 2014. Nomination forms would still be proposed and seconded by a member of Scottish Council.
  - c) The current procedure for President, Convener, Vice Convener and Hon Treasurer nominations would continue.

SCEC also agreed that the role of VP was an honorary position for people who had dedicated their own personal time and commitment to RS's work and campaigns over a number of years. The position would continue for life unless they wished to withdraw.

**Action HT/KR**

### 11/13 MOTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL

SCEC agreed that we should propose and submit a motion to General Council about resolving the access issues at Cape Wrath – information about Scotland's National Trail would also be embedded in the motion. SCEC noted that the deadline for submitting motions to GC is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013. The motion to GC was proposed by David Thomson and seconded by James Lawson.

**Action DM/HT**

### 12/13 UPDATE ON PROJECTS

- 1) **Medal Routes** . We are now in Phase 2 of the project. RS is not making quite as much progress, in terms of producing walking hubs, as we would have liked. However, this is due to external circumstances which had been accepted by the funders, and we are now focusing on speeding up the process. We plan to get 35 walking hubs uploaded onto the website by the end of April. The next meeting is due with the steering group at the end of March.
- 2) **TAKE 30** RS is making efforts to work with the NHS for them to help disseminate the TAKE 30 website, perhaps by putting posters in GP surgeries.
- 3) **It's an Outdoor Life** This is still in the pipeline and SNH has also shown an interest in the project. It is expected that a funding application will be submitted to SNH in May.
- 4) **Other projects** HF Holidays has given RS funding of £2,000 to produce two short videos based on promoting walking. The videos would be built around pupils at Newbattle High School who had all found walking a useful way of taking exercise.

### 13/13 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- 1) **Land Reform Review Group** (established by the Scottish Government in July 2012) will not be publishing submissions until April this year. We submitted evidence to LLRG on 11<sup>th</sup> January which is available on the RS website. The NFUS (National Farmers Union Scotland) has also published their submission which is available on Andy Wightman's website, along with many others. Scottish Land & Estates, however, have declined to publish theirs.
- 2) **Scottish Law Commission** the draft bill has not appeared and RS has had no further information on the issue of crossing the line at Ben Lui.
- 3) **Hilltracks** We joined Cameron McNeish at a meeting with the Local Government and Planning Minister, Derek Mackay MSP in January. We are concerned that he has delayed a decision regarding the unrestricted development of hilltracks, which means a setback for our campaign. More evidence of the damage caused to landscapes is required and we are working on a campaign with LINK to ask members who have photographs of new tracks to send these to the Ramblers Scotland office with their date and location.
- 4) **Active Travel** RS is part of the Active Travel Alliance which consists of RS, Paths for All, Sustrans, CTC, Cycling Scotland and Transform Scotland. HT has drawn up an outline of £17m worth of 'shovel ready' active travel projects (projects that could be implemented within one year) to use for campaign purposes with the Alliance.



- 5) **Level crossings – Walnut Grove** This has been an ongoing problem since 2003. Perth & Kinross Council managed to get the crossing onto the core path plan but it is still closed. SCEC agreed that RS should consider using its legal fund to pursue this issue if it was felt it would set a precedent similar to the Gloag and Snowie access cases


**14/13 COMMUNICATION**

- 1) **Scottish Newsletter.** SCEC noted that the Scottish newsletter would be distributed with the spring edition of **walk** magazine.
- 2) **Website launch** SCEC noted that the new website was launched mid December and if they wished to give feedback a website form was available on the footer part of the website on all microsites as well as the main home page.

**15/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of SCEC would be held pre Scottish Council at 9 am on 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Holiday Inn, Glasgow. Future dates would be confirmed at the post SC meeting.

SIGNED:



David Thomson, Convener

DATE:

26 APRIL 2013