

**MINUTE WITH REDACTION August 2019 Scottish council executive committee minute**

**SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 6 August 2019, 4:30pm – 8:30pm**  
**The Golden Lion, Stirling**

**51/19 ATTENDANCE**

**SCEC**

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| Ronnie Forbes – convener                    | Jay Wilson                  |
| Alison Mitchell – vice convener             | Elly Macdonald              |
| Alistair Cant – hon. treasurer              | Trevor Jones (by videolink) |
| Douglas Tullis                              |                             |
| Kate Nustedt (following item 54/19 onwards) |                             |

**Staff**

Brendan Paddy, Ramblers Scotland director  
Jeannie Cranfield, delivery officer  
Helen Todd, campaigns and policy manager  
Simon Kellas, Ramblers GB governance manager

**52/19 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES (APP 1)**

Apologies were received from Ben Dolphin, Linda Moyes and Andy Malby. Also Meg Wright, potential co-optee sent her apology.

The Convener advised of the tragic death of Isobel Bytautas from Lochaber & Lorn group, who was struck by lightning while walking in the Mamores. He thanked Jeannie and other staff for their assistance in dealing with this incident, and the ongoing support offered to the groups involved.

Congratulations were given to Falkirk for winning the Ramblers Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award.

**53/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**54/19 CO-OPTION APPROVAL & WELCOME (APP 2)**

Ronnie thanked the Co-option sub committee and Jessica Browning for her help in organising and supporting the process. In discussion, despite being very happy with the quality of people who had put themselves forward, there was disappointment that it had not been possible to identify anyone suitable with a background in public health.

It was recommended that the sub-committee's report should include background on the resignation of Garry Tait and the fact that three places were available for co-option. Anyone filling a vacancy on SCEC should have been a Ramblers member for at least 12 months, but co-optees do not necessarily need to be members. SCEC recommended that next time a formal framework should be agreed in advance to streamline the co-option process so it could take place more quickly. It was agreed that succession planning for SCEC members and co-

optees should be kept under closer scrutiny and a further sub-committee be formed if needed. It was also noted that SCEC appreciate the circulation of training opportunities previously shared with them by the governance administrator and would like this to continue.

SCEC approved the co-option of Kate Nustedt and Meg Wright and Kate was invited to join the meeting.

***AP 1: New administrator to circulate latest skills register to members to assist with succession planning.***

***AP 2: Co-option sub committee? Alison to update sub-committee report.***

***AP 3: Brendan to ensure new administrator shares training opportunities***

## **55/19 RAMBLERS GOVERNANCE**

Simon Kellas gave an introduction into his role as Ramblers GB governance manager over the past two years and answered questions from SCEC. He noted that Van and the Board of Trustee (BoT) members were keen to have advance notice of SCEC meetings dates to ensure they could be represented.

***AP 4: New Governance and Events Administrator to share SCEC meeting dates with Van, Simon and Kate Ashbrook (Chair of BoT)***

## **56/19 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SCEC MAY MEETING & REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS (APP 3 & 4)**

The minutes were proposed by Alison Mitchell and seconded by Trevor Jones.

All action points had been discharged or were included in the agenda with the exception of the following:

AP 9: Ronnie reported that new staff were now in post in Ramblers GB to cover the issue of complaints and safeguarding, and this area of work was now being taken forward.

AP 11: the sharing of KPIs with SCEC and putting them on the Insight Hub had not been carried out. This would be done by Brendan.

AP 12: In terms of training for areas, Brendan reported that an increased budget bid from SCEC would be submitted to cover training costs, and if this wasn't successful he would try to include training costs from the Ramblers Scotland budget, but he wasn't able to include volunteer training in his core budget. Alistair reiterated that he was unhappy that this training bid be in his budget as it will be wholly co-ordinated and spent by staff. Areas had been told that they should be able to ask for first aid and navigation training but any other training needs could also be applied for.

***AP 5: Brendan to share KPIs with SCEC and put them on the Insight Hub.***

## **57/19 CONVENER'S UPDATE ON RAMBLERS GB MEETINGS**

Ronnie gave an update to SCEC on the BoT meeting in July, which included a discussion on DOL (Devolution, Operations, Location), a state of the nations meeting, the GB business plan and a presentation on cultural values of the Ramblers.

DOL have now begun to generate their recommendations and there are a series of further meetings taking place with stakeholders until the end of the process which will be a presentation to the board in late September. It was noted that the current devolution

agreement runs out in 2020 and there should be a commitment to either continuing or replacing it as a follow on from the DOL process. A successful state of the nations meeting took place in Birmingham in July for chairs, treasurers and directors.

#### **58/19 FINANCE UPDATE (APP 5 & 5a)**

Alistair presented the two finance reports, which included a table showing a slight increase in Scottish membership numbers. Brendan clarified that income statistics are based on the time when people renew, which is on the anniversary of their joining, which is why the income figures in the table don't always immediately track new membership numbers.

#### **59/19 GATHERING SUB-GROUP REPORT (APP 6)**

Alison presented the Gathering report. Jeannie further explained that the sub group had decided that this should be an event for members and they should look to improve various elements of it as time went on. However, it was felt that if this was to be an event open to members of the public it would need to be quite different from the way the Gathering is organised now. The longer term actions in the report may remain aspirational but SCEC felt that they should remain in the report. More volunteers would be needed to take these actions forward as currently the Gathering sub group is fully engaged in managing the annual event rather than developing the event in different ways. SCEC recorded its thanks and support to Alison and the Gathering sub group for all their work.

#### **60/19 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE (APP 7)**

Brendan presented the business plan update which was planned to be supported by a flat budget next year. He drew attention to several items.

Out There: we have commissioned some research (jointly with Paths for All) from the University of Edinburgh into the barriers to people becoming active in recreational walking to ensure that our Out There campaign is properly focussed. Our young groups are being supported through the work of Sam Knight, who is also running the Out There Award which is helping to introduce new members into the groups. This work is being supported by the Scottish Government and they are very pleased with progress to date. Luke Phillips started work today as Mapping Scotland's Paths project manager, so this strand of work will begin to make good progress shortly.

We have had no success in getting a proposed health-and-wellbeing focussed project off the ground and this will be discussed with Central Office staff as to whether we continue to try to influence health policy and practitioners, or mainstream health into existing projects.

The Walk Leadership project is making great strides, including trainer-training sessions which are now taking place.

There is a tension in terms of targets for membership growth, with both Active Scotland/**sport**scotland and Ramblers GB asking us to increase membership, and yet Ramblers Scotland does not have full control over the levers which would lead to membership growth. There are a number of proposals in the 2019-20 business plan which may help to address this aspect of our work. It's hoped this will be done in partnership with the GB membership team. Also, individuals who are members of other non-Ramblers walking groups would be targeted as they are already walkers and members of groups.

The discussion included suggestions about supporting groups to walk core paths and check their status. It was noted that the Mapping Scotland's Paths project will use an element of ground-truthing of paths which could help this aspect of our work, including the use of the

Ramblers app. Also, there was a proposal to look at working more closely with health walking groups.

It was hoped that the Ramblers Scotland governance and events post will be filled by early September.

The opportunity for Scotland to try out different ways of working compared to GB was emphasised and welcomed by SCEC.

#### **61/19**

Item redacted due to confidential nature.

#### **62/19 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2019 EVALUATION & SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2020 UPDATE (APP 10)**

Jeannie presented the evaluation report on Scottish Council 2019 and noted that the Scottish Council sub committee recommended that we should generally maintain the same format for 2020, although they would take account of suggestions made in the evaluations and from SCEC. The Scottish Council Challenge is not appealing to groups so will be dropped. Dunblane has been provisionally booked but if there is a higher budget settlement for 2020 there are other options, such as Edinburgh, Carnoustie or North Berwick.

SCEC supported the proposal to have discussions on 1 or 2 topics, which would be less formal than a motion proposal and not necessarily lead to a final decision.

It was noted that there will need to be a communication/engagement session on the outcomes of the DOL process.

SCEC agreed they would like higher visibility for SCEC members during the event, with more involvement in the sessions – perhaps by facilitating discussions.

The group successes session was well received, but it was noted that sometimes we were highlighting individual successes as well as group successes. This is also welcome.

SCEC agreed that they were happy with the current style of Scottish Council, although the formal AGM business and updates needed to be done in a more diverse way.

The November SCEC meeting will see a draft programme and confirmed venue. This will also need SCEC members to discuss their skills set and consider succession.

#### **63/19 ROADSHOW 2020 UPDATE**

Jeannie reported that there are currently 49 bookings for the roadshow, which is lower than last year although there are multiple bookings from some groups which is a positive development.

#### **64/19 AREA AGMS & FUTURE MEETING DATES (APP 11)**

The BoT has agreed that a trustee will go to each area AGM, although sometimes this may be a SCEC member. Staff members should also attend each AGM where possible.

SCEC requested GB themes could be linked to Scottish activities.

Dates were agreed, with venues TBC by email. It was requested that meetings are for a 4.00-8.00pm time period to suit better the Aberdeen members travel arrangements.

**AP 7: *Brendan and new administrator to confirm venues and times.***

**65/19 AOCB (APP 12)**

SCEC considered the long list for future presidents and gave feed back on their preferences. Staff will bring a recommendation to the next SCEC meeting. It was suggested that Ben Dolphin be nominated as a Vice President and a potential role in membership growth considered in the future.

Ronnie suggested appointing a buddy each for Kate and Meg to explain what was involved in the role on SCEC, and Alison and Elly agreed to take on this role.

**AP 8: *Brendan to pass on contact details for Kate and Meg to Alison and Elly respectively.***

The meeting closed at 8.30

*Helen Todd, campaigns & policy manager (7 August 2019)*

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| APPROVED BY THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF RAMBLERS<br>SCOTLAND – 26 NOVEMBER 2019 |
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