

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minute of meeting held on Thursday, 9 February 2017, 16.30 – 20.20
at sportscotland building, Edinburgh

01/17 ATTENDANCE

SCEC

Alison Mitchell – convener	Siggi Skulason
Andy Malby - vice convener	Douglas Tullis
Alistair Cant - hon treasurer	Catherine Watt
Liz Lawie	Catriona Webster (part meeting only)
Vic Royce	

Staff

Brendan Paddy, interim director for Scotland
Jeannie Cranfield, delivery officer
Rob Burns, senior project officer - medal routes (part meeting only)
Katy Robinson, project officer - walk leadership (part meeting only)
Faye Henderson, area and governance administrator

02/17 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Alison Mitchell, convener, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies had been received from Vanessa Griffiths the new chief executive and Des Garrahan, Ramblers GB Chairman as there was a Brexit and Board of Trustees meeting due to take place the following day. Vanessa Griffiths had sent an email to apologise for not attending in person and looked forward to meeting SCEC soon in Scotland. Alison and Brendan stated they could bring up any business arising from this meeting with Vanessa as they would also be in London the next day for the BoT meeting. It was noted that Catriona Webster was travelling from work and would arrive about 6pm. John Andrews had also given his apology as he was attending another meeting in Perth. Several SCEC members raised the fact they had not been informed regarding the recent BoT resignations and there should be more clarification in communications. It was agreed that Alison would speak with Vanessa regarding her e-newsletters/updates and decide if they should be sent directly to SCEC members.

Alison Mitchell noted there had been several members' deaths and she had sent condolence cards on behalf of SCEC. Gordon Wallace (Paisley Group), George Sinclair (Eastwood Group) and Bernadette McDoughall (Moffat).

AP1 - Alison to speak to Van regarding communications to SCEC

03/17 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SCEC NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING (APP1, APP1A)

Alison Mitchell asked if there were any amendments to the minutes from the November SCEC meeting. The following amendments were noted regarding App 1:

- Revise the date of the Gathering
- Revise the attendee list

Subject to the above amendments being made, the minute was proposed by Andy Malby and seconded by Catherine Watt.

Alison Mitchell asked if there were any amendments to the confidential minute from the November SCEC meeting. The following amendment was noted regarding App 1A:

- Revise the attendee list

Subject to the proposed amendment being made, the minute was proposed by Andy Malby and seconded by Douglas Tullis.

AP2 - Faye Henderson to make changes to App1 and App 1A, send to Alison for signing and upload onto the SCEC wiki and Ramblers website.

04/17 ACTION POINTS FROM SCEC NOVEMBER MEETING (APP1B)

The following items were discussed:

- 99/16 SCEC to discuss Scottish Council 2018 at a future date is ongoing. It was noted that the dates for Scottish Council 2018 and General Council 2018 should be on the agenda for SCEC March meeting
- 100/16 Des Garrahan to liaise with Ramblers GB and Brendan Paddy regarding confidential November meeting. Brendan raised this with the Senior Management Team and it was agreed there was unlikely to be a confrontation at Scottish Council. The guest list has been monitored to see if the member in question had registered. Alison will be briefed to deal with any issues arising on the day if necessary. It was agreed that Brendan would update John Andrews on this action.
- 103/16 Alison Mitchell to take counsel regarding potential Ramblers members attending short walks at the Gathering 2017. This is ongoing until Alison knows how many places will be available
- 105/16 (App 10) Brendan Paddy to look at the covering letter of the walk leadership questionnaire. Brendan has done this and stated that there will be re-assurance to members that there is not a focus on qualifications. Brendan and Katy will keep a close eye on this matter and will address when needed. Katy Robinson will give a full update on the walk leadership project later in the meeting.
- 105/16 (App 12) Brendan Paddy to liaise with GB membership team regarding the clarity of wording when signing up to a group or area. There was further discussion around whether members should be given the option to join an area or if this should happen automatically if they do not want to join a group. It was agreed that Brendan would remind Janine Chasmer to look at this wording.
- 108/16 Faye Henderson to arrange a meeting with four groups in the RCB area currently in abeyance. This is ongoing and Catherine Watt offered support as she has connections within the groups.
- 56/16 Repair and replacement of bridges paper is ongoing.

AP3 - Faye Henderson to put SC 2018 and GC 2018 dates on the agenda for SCEC March meeting

AP4 - Brendan Paddy to update John Andrews on confidential minute action point - Scottish Council

AP5 - Brendan Paddy to speak with Janine Chasmer regarding membership

05/17 FINANCE REPORTS (APP2, APP2A)

Alistair Cant, treasurer, provided an update on both SCEC Management Report and the Ramblers Scottish Council account. It was noted that Alistair did not receive a draft of the Management Report and Faye Henderson will ask Jing Tao to send a copy to Alistair in the future.

There were no questions regarding the accounts.

AP6 - Faye Henderson to ask Jing Tao to send draft copy of finances to Alistair for future meetings.

06/17 MEDAL ROUTES UPDATE

Rob Burns, senior project officer for medal routes provided SCEC with an update. Jess Dolan provided an update at the August 2016 meeting so Rob would give an update primarily on the second phase of the project. The Medal Routes Communities phase (October 2011 – November 2016) ended successfully with all targets being met for the project. Rob set out the objectives for year one of the new phase of the project and as the new phase will be health focused, explained which health boards were engaged.

SCEC thanked Rob for his interesting presentation and Brendan echoed that Vanessa was very impressed with the project when she visited Scotland in January.

07/17 sportscotland FUNDING APPLICATION (APP3)

Brendan Paddy provided an update regarding the **sportscotland** funding application. Ramblers Scotland has formally submitted their bid for funding, £50,000, which is the same for years 1 and 2 of the project. Brendan stated this is a strong bid however there is a slight concern regarding safeguarding and equalities. Good progress has been made however Ramblers Scotland has not fully met the criteria set by **sportscotland**. There have also been cuts in **sportscotland** budgets which could potentially affect the bid. Brendan thanked Douglas Tullis and Jeannie Cranfield for the work they have done on safeguarding. As part of the safeguarding policy a motion will go to General Council which will allow the BoT to suspend members when appropriate and this power will be devolved to SCEC. A safeguarding policy is also required to be in place for Ramblers GB therefore Ramblers Scotland will share their knowledge on this matter.

Brendan Paddy gave an update regarding equalities (App 3). The top headline is that a foundation level equalities policy is a requirement of **sportscotland** funding. The aim of having a policy or template around equalities that is in tandem with Ramblers GB will delay matters slightly. Brendan has arranged for an anonymous survey to be sent to SCEC and staff that will focus on diversity of the leadership team. The timescale to have this completed by March which is ambitious and SCEC will have the opportunity to comment on the policy in April. There was also discussion regarding safeguarding and Douglas Tullis commented that **sportscotland** are targeting an excessive disciplinary procedure that might not be appropriate for a member organisation. The aim is to have a policy that is proportionate and clear so that groups would be supported if disciplinary action was necessary.

Walk Leadership

Katy Robinson provided SCEC with a detailed update regarding the walk leadership project. Katy's update included targets for 2017, an update on the sounding board, walk leader numbers as reflected in Integra and the walk leadership questionnaire. Katy also ran through the proposed structure of a Pilot Walk Leaders induction Course and training framework. Ramblers GB's interest in the walk leadership model has been very positive and there is scope to roll out similar projects for other volunteer roles within the organisation.

SCEC asked questions regarding the future of walk leadership project and agreed that this was a positive step and is work that needs to be progressed. SCEC thanked Katy for her presentation and the work she had done.

BREAK

Catriona Webster arrived.
Katy Robinson and Rob Burns departed the meeting.

08/17 sportscotland GOVERNANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Faye Henderson provided an update regarding the sportscotland governance questionnaire. Overall results of the surveys show an improvement in the majority of the questions asked of SCEC. It was agreed that a self-reflective survey had its pros and cons and this survey could be greatly improved upon in the future. Comments included having a survey available on survey monkey and the option of comment boxes. It was also very difficult to fill in the survey if you were a new member who recently joined SCEC. It was agreed that a sub group would be formed including Catriona Webster, Andy Malby and Faye Henderson who would work on a revised survey. Faye Henderson will organise this after Scottish Council.

AP7 - Faye Henderson, Catriona Webster and Andy Malby to discuss new governance survey after Scottish Council 2017.

09/17 NETWORKS

Faye Henderson provided SCEC with an update on the four network Facebook groups which are currently being piloted until May 2017. Internal objectives had been sent to have at least 20 members in each network by May and this number has already been exceeded:

- Ramblers Scotland Access Campaigners (21 members)
- Ramblers Scotland Walking Tips (41 members)
- Ramblers Scotland: The Gathering (28 members)
- Ramblers Scotland: Meet up and arrange trips (27 members)

Faye Henderson will update SCEC on networks after the May review.

10/17 SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2017

Jeannie Cranfield provided SCEC with an update regarding arrangements for Scottish Council 2017. Jeannie ran through the agenda and SCEC accepted it with a few minor amendments. Jeannie also gave information on which groups and areas were sending official delegates. Jeannie asked if she could open up Will Copestake's talk to non-members and SCEC agreed this was a good idea. Jeannie stated that the 3rd mailing was now ready to be sent out and she would send a copy to Alistair Cant and Alison Mitchell for comment before issuing. The following was also agreed:

- Pre SC SCEC meeting will be held at 11.30am on 11th March
- Post SC SCEC meeting will be held at 1.30pm on 12th March
- SCEC to have coloured badges
- There will be a seating plan for the dinner top table
- Katy Robinson will be arranging the night navigation exercise
- Stirling and Falkirk Group members have been a great support and Jeannie to arrange to thank them
- There has been 72 entrants for the Walking with Pals photo competition and Danny Carden has sent the photos to the sub group for shortlisting
- It was noted that the Annual Report should not have any abbreviations for clarity. There should also be mention of SCEC members who specifically supported work mentioned in the Annual Report.

Brendan Paddy gave an update on the search for a new President. Ben Dolphin, a park ranger and walker/blogger with a strong online presence was approached and met with Brendan and Andy Malby. It was a very productive meeting and Ben accepted the nomination. We all look forward to working with and meeting Ben Dolphin during the year.

Faye Henderson asked SCEC if they would like to have a Scottish Council 2017 challenge to continue on from the membership challenge set at Scottish Council 2016. The challenge would be to ask groups to pitch to SCEC for money to implement an idea or project that coincides with the new objectives set in the strategic framework. It was agreed that groups could ask for up to £500 and that staff were to come up with an application form, terms and conditions etc.

Faye Henderson read out the two motions received so far by Scottish Council and would let SCEC know if any more were received by the deadline.

11/17 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE (APP6)

Brendan Paddy gave SCEC an update on the business plan and answered questions. Brendan stated that the engagement element of Appreciating Scotland campaign will focus on Core Paths following the response Ramblers Scotland has already had. Therefore this has the greatest potential for success for the campaign. Brendan also gave a detailed update on Walnut Grove level crossing legal case. Brendan highlighted that the LL&T camping bylaws are being implemented from the 1st March 2017 and we will be keeping a close eye on this. Brendan noted the Strategic Framework has been printed into a booklet which will be distributed in delegate packs at Scottish Council.

Alison Mitchell gave an update on Eurorando 2021 bid process.

12/17 DEVOLUTION COMMITTEE

A pre-meeting with Alison, Alistair, Douglas and Brendan was held on 9 February 2017 and the full devolution committee will meet in March. As the existing devolution agreement is five and a half years old it is important to review and make amendments according to the new strategic framework and structure. A further update will be provided at a later SCEC meeting.

13/17 NATIONAL YOUNG RAMBLERS WEEKEND AND THE GATHERING 2017

Andy Malby, vice-convenor, provided an update on the National Young Ramblers Weekend. There are currently 88 attending and the committee will be meeting soon to finalise the walks programme, walk and talk session and a ceilidh. Andy will provide another update once the details are confirmed.

Preparations are well underway for the Gathering 2017 and 70 have booked to date.

14/17 AOB

Alison Mitchell noted most of the area AGMs had now taken place and that the Highland & Islands AGM was taking place in Inverness on Saturday 18 February 2017. Alison had also attended the Northumbria AGM as a BoT trustee.

End of minute.

SIGNED: Alison Mitchell

Alison Mitchell
Ramblers Scotland Convener

DATE: 29 March 2017