

WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2013
Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 25th November
@ The Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury

	Actions
PRESENT	
186/13 Members - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Alan Austin (Vice Chair), Chris Hodgson (Vice Chair), John Cook (Hon Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Kay Davies, Ron Williams, Staff – Angela Charlton (Director Wales),	
187/13 Apologies – Asta Smith, Alex Marshall, Jonathan Kipling, Benedict Southworth	
188/13 Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
189/13 Announcements There were no announcements.	
190/13 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 14th September 2013 – Were agreed and will go on the website.	MG
191/13 Matters arising from all previous minutes were listed on the action sheet. 110/13 Working Group to review Affiliated Clubs – there had been feedback from some Areas which had all been contacted to request volunteers to assist in the review. It was agreed that a pilot review would be carried out in North Wales Area.	MG
192/13 111/13 Glastir scheme – the new WG officer for Glastir had not yet been ascertained. Queries from John Ferguson had been responded to by RW, but actions to improve mapping are still on agenda. It was reported that the review of the Glastir scheme by Welsh Government has been delayed. CH asked that members be kept informed of Ramblers Cymru responses to developments relating to Glastir and Tir Gofal schemes.	AC MG
193/13 116/13 Renewable Energy Policy – it was agreed that AC would decide when best to issue a press release.	AC
194/13 120/13 Motions for Welsh Council 2014 A draft guidance on motions from Groups and Areas, based on those used at General Council, have been circulated and comments made. A further shorter draft will be issued based on these comments.	MG
195/13 165/13 – Report on review of educational requirements related to walking by Elly Popp has been published, and will go on the website. A copy will be circulated to WCEC.	AC
196/13 166/13 – Future proposals for Lets Walk Cymru – Ramblers Cymru have put in a bid for a three year business plan to WG, and should hear the outcome in December.	
197/13 179/13 – Ramblers Cymru 40th birthday celebrations. Various ideas were discussed including suggestions from Central Office (CO) that the celebrations could be linked to the DofE and/or the Big Welsh Walk. It was agreed that we need to gain publicity by maybe promoting highlights from the last 40 years such as 4 big footpath wins. It needs to be agreed before WC 2014 and to go on the website.	

Could Groups and Areas be involved?

- 198/13 **160/13 Membership – two separate points were made –**
The image which is presented of members on Ramblers lead walks needs to be one of ordinary walkers, not that of a mountaineer when only going on a short low level route.
There has been a problem with members' renewals when cheques are used, and only being presented to the bank at the end of each month. It was agreed to raise this at the next Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting. GL MG
- 199/13 **Accounts 2012-13**
WCEC & WC – the final budget monitoring report had been circulated, together with a summary of the final accounts. As the monies for the Senior Policy Officer had not been taken by CO until mid November 2013 (in 2013-14 accounting year) it was agreed that a note to this effect should be included in the final accounts. JC
It was noted that the exceptional sum for May of 837.98 in the WCEC expenses, included the payment to WEL, which in future years will be in the Cardiff Office figures.
- 200/13 **Areas & Groups** – a summary of incomes, payments, reserves and quarterly bank balances had been circulated. Those Groups and Areas with high reserves were highlighted.
It was noted that some Groups had a zero expenditure as their accounts had not yet been received by the Hon Treasurer.
- 201/13 **Cardiff office** – a verbal report was given on a brief commentary which had been received from CO which stated ---
Core expenditure is £24k below budget, but this includes the legal fund.
Project expenditure is £101k above budget which is mainly due to the extension of the Lets Walk Cymru Project.
Project contribution towards overheads is £23k below budget. Although project income exceeded target, the level of contribution was lower than expected.
Both these items regarding projects are to be queried with CO. AC
The actual report would be circulated after the meeting. AC
- 202/13 **Legal Fund**
There had been no further expenditure or expenditure committed from the Legal Fund since the last WCEC meeting.
- 203/13 **Budgets and accounts 2013-14**
All budgets are due to be signed off at the next BoT meeting in early December.
Areas & Groups – we have been asked by CO to reduce the total request by £870. It was noted that the figures for both Cardiff YMCA and Dylan Thomas School are not required as these flexi groups have closed. It was agreed to approach Glamorgan Area treasurer to request a reduction in their bid as it concerned their reserve level. JC
It was noted that the vast majority of Areas and Groups have been prudent and have been offered or requested less than last year.
- 204/13 **Cardiff office** – the request for an extra £50 k for investment should be approved at BoT meeting.
The figures for expenditure to date in 2013-14 would be circulated.
It was agreed that in future when Cardiff receive monthly figures from CO, they will forward them to WCEC members.
- 205/13 **Welsh Council 2014**
A meeting had been held between Ceri Thomas, GL and DD to discuss WC 2014.

- A format had been agreed very similar to that of WC 2013. After their next meeting it was agreed that Powys Area would be appraised of their input into the weekend. GL DD
CT
- 206/13 There was a discussion on the proposals for **President** made by CH, who was thanked for his input. It was agreed that AC would use her contacts to approach Rod Gilbert. AC
- 207/13 **Constitutional Motion** – DD had circulated a revised paper on the proposal to change the procedure for nominating Vice Presidents, which was agreed.
- 208/13 **Non Constitutional Motion** – DD had circulated a revised paper on the proposal to change the delegate system for WC, which was agreed. There would be a workshop on this at WC 2014.
- 209/13 **Footpath working groups** – it is proposed to hold a conference to promote the work of Ramblers Cymru in footpath development work and best practice. It was agreed that WC would not be the best place, but that maybe the showground at Builth Wells would be suitable. All current Ramblers teams in Wales would be invited, together with the relevant Council officers and those from the health sector. If internal funding is required then WCEC agreed to look at this possibility. It was noted that a practical path work day was held in England last year, at which the Silver Slashers gave a presentation on their work.
- 210/13 **Policy Paper on Walking for Health** – the redrafted paper had been circulated and was agreed. This can now go on the website. It was suggested that the best place for policy papers was under governance of Ramblers Cymru AC
- 211/13 **Policy Paper on Access and Recreation** – the redrafted paper had been circulated and was agreed. This can now go on the website. AC
- 212/13 **Policy Paper on Agri-environment Schemes** – a draft had been circulated for discussion. It was agreed that more could be added based on decisions made at WCEC meetings. MG would draft some suggestions and send to DD. MG DD
It was agreed that there were apparently no more policy papers to be drafted based on the background paper which DD had drafted from motions at WC and GC. DD was thanked for all her work on the policy papers.
- 213/13 **Directors Report** – a verbal report was given.
Access & Outdoor Recreation Bill – an update report for November 2013 had been prepared by Justin Cooke and would be circulated. This includes the useful meeting held with the Minister John Griffiths at the end of September. It was noted that the date for the release of the green paper had been postponed from December to spring.
JC is putting together a paper on an exercise on one Welsh valley, to see how Rights of Way, open access and the health agenda can all come together, with a view to influencing John Griffiths.
It is hoped that JC will continue to be available for one day per week, with the policy advocate to be on a 3 day contract.
- 214/13 **Walking Hub Paths** – the launch had gone so well that National Trust wish to work with Ramblers GB to produce more. Director Wales will lead on this.
- 215/13 **Big Welsh Walk** – it has been decided to invite other organisations to participate in this in May 2014.
- 216/13 **Health walks initiative** – a walk is being arranged with Ruth Hussey who is the Chief Medical Officer for Wales.

Mel Jones has been seconded to assist Walking for Health at CO due to loss of a manager, so Elly Popp is helping out with Lets Walk Cymru.

217/13 **One Voice Wales** – DW attended a conference, which lead to a discussion on the importance of getting Community and Town Councils involved in access issues particularly Rights of Way. There are still many of the “Communities on Foot” folders in Cardiff office which were not circulated to Community Councils. This is to be on the agenda for the next Cardiff meeting.

MG

218/13 **Planning Applications** – a discussion was held on responses to local or national planning applications. It was confirmed that the relevant local Group or Area should respond to a planning application, and that a national response should be looked at in exceptional cases.

219/13 **Dates and venues for future meetings**

Saturday	8.02.14	Cardiff
Saturday	13.04.14	Newtown
Sunday	14.04.14	Newtown

Signed.....Gwyn Lewis....(Chairman)..... 25/11/13.....(date)