

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 2011**  
**Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
**@ Ramblers Cymru offices, Coopers' Yard, Cardiff**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>Actions</b>
78/11	<p><b>Members</b> - Denis McAteer (Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair), Gwyn Lewis (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Maggie Thomas</p> <p><b>Invited</b> - Alex Marshall (vice President),</p> <p><b>Staff</b> – Angela Charlton (part)</p>	
79/11	<b>Apologies</b> – David Allison, Chris Hodgson, Richard Lloyd Jones	
80/11	The Chair <b>welcomed Diane Davies</b> as a member of WCEC.	
81/11	As the two <b>new members of staff</b> were in the office, the Chair introduced Ceri Thomas as the new Office Manager, and Gwenda Owen as the Community Engagement Officer.	
82/11	<p>The Chair updated the meeting on the current position regarding <b>President</b> of Ramblers Cymru. He had spoken to Jane Davidson and she had agreed to be nominated for the position. VD voiced some concerns but following discussion it was agreed that she would be offered the position which could be formally announced at the Hay Festival on 26<sup>th</sup> May with a press release.</p> <p>Richard Lloyd-Jones had agreed to stand down after being President since 1993. All present were asked to consider an appropriate way of thanking Richard for all his efforts since then, such as a painting.</p>	DMcA All
83/11	<p><b>Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011</b> were agreed.</p> <p>The Chair stated that he would ask Angela Charlton to update the meeting on items from previous meeting minutes being dealt with by Rob Hanna as she had been working on these matters since WC. This would be after all other actions had been dealt with.</p>	
84/11	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>6/11 Eisteddfod – it was reported that DA had matters in hand. As MT had equipment from Welsh Council which would be used at the Eisteddfod in Wrexham, DMcA agreed to take these to North Wales.</p>	MT DMcA
85/11	14/11 – it was reported that the <b>training event</b> organised by Central Office in Rhayader on 17 <sup>th</sup> March had been cancelled due to poor take up.	
86/11	<p>16/11 <b>British Waterways</b> – it was not known how the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between British Waterways and Ramblers Cymru was progressing. GO to be asked to take this up.</p> <p>A draft response from Kate Conto at Central Office regarding the consultation on the proposed charity to take over British Waterways had been circulated. It was agreed that there was nothing to add to this response from Ramblers Cymru.</p>	DMcA MG
87/11	17/11 A query was raised on the <b>£5k earmarked to fund an expert on obtaining</b>	

- European funding, Dr Liz Mills**, for Rights of Way work in Wales. This would be taken up by checking the files. DMcA
- 88/11 **28/11 Consultation on undergrounding of electricity cables by National Grid** – DMcA had responded following the circulation of his draft response.
- 89/11 **Lost Ways** – it was agreed that the discussions between Pete Bland and Rob Hanna should now be passed to GO. Pete Bland would now be asked to take this forward with GO. MG
- 90/11 **Minutes of WCEC meeting held pre WC on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011** were discussed and amendments agreed which would be circulated for agreement. MG
- 91/11 **Minutes of WCEC meeting held pre WC on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011** were agreed with minor amendments.
- 92/11 **Matters arising**  
49/11 **Bank mandate forms** were completed today. JC
- 93/11 51/11 It was announced that there would be Ramblers Cymru presence at the **Hay Festival** this year, as preliminary organisation had been carried out by Helen Lloyd-Jones. DMcA would be present for one day. DMcA
- 94/11 53/11 **Induction for new members of WCEC** – a copy of the induction pack contents list was handed to MT and DD. This will be followed up by copies of the documents being sent by the Secretary. MG
- 95/11 54/11 **Motions from WC 2011** – it was agreed that actions regarding lobbying for the Framework Powers for Marine and Coastal Access Act should wait until after the new Assembly Government has settled in. GO to briefed on this matter MG
- 96/11 **Minutes of emergency WCEC teleconference held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011** were discussed and agreed with the addition of a report by AA to 70/11.
- 97/11 **Matters arising**  
Following discussions, it was agreed that certain matters regarding the resignation of Rob Hanna would be raised at the Board of Trustees meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May. DMcA  
MG
- 98/11 **Angela Charlton**, Project Fundraiser for Wales and Scotland, joined the meeting to **report on matters** which she had been progressing since Welsh Council.  
**Research project at Swansea University** by Andrew Morgan continues satisfactorily, with Jane Davidson taking over as supervisor. AC does not know whether RH met JD before his resignation.
- 99/11 **Wales Coast Path** – AC had a meeting with Pembrokeshire and is to attend a meeting to discuss the post for marketing WCP. There will be a Wales Festival of Walks to promote the opening of WCP in May 2012.  
The bid for HLF of £50k for the Coastal Communities Project has been withdrawn, but will be bid again in the next round together with partners CCW and Visit Wales.
- 100/11 Ramblers Cymru involvement in a possible **BBC programme on WCP** has been passed to Maria at Central Office, who will keep in touch with BBC in run up to opening.  
AC is talking to Element Productions. DMcA agreed to be involved.
- 101/11 The **gaps in WCP in Ynys Mon** have been discussed with the Local Authority, but Jane Davidson did not meet before she stood down from Assembly.

All WCP issues will be passed over to GO.

- 102/11 **CROW 10 year review of access land** – this needs to be picked up as Rob Owen the CCW lead on this has taken early retirement. The new DW and GO need to be briefed. MG
- 103/11 **Glastir** – the meeting with Norma Barry (CNP) and WAG officer was postponed, but AC is to meet Norma Barry to pick up on this.
- 104/11 **Partnership with LANTRA** – the project to give training on practical footpath work is running late, Andrew Briscoe a consultant has delivered training in Swansea, Bridgend is next, then Gwynedd with partners Snowdonia Society. There will be follow up meeting in June to discuss future funding for training.
- 105/11 **Walking and Wales Economy research project** – copies of the draft report were circulated, and any comments should be made to AC by the end of the month. Figures posted on Twitter should have been that there were 28 million walking related trips to the Welsh countryside in 2009, with associated expenditure of £632m (direct spending).
- 106/11 **Access for All, Turning Point** – the money funded by Sport Wales, is now spent, and the report will be published soon.
- 107/11 **“Everything Walking” website** - £20k funds. This has been offered but has potential to conflict with GB. AC is talking to partners to make an informed decision on how this grant should be best utilised. How is this to be spent? Talking with Pembrokeshire – GO to pick up.
- 108/11 **e Trails** – National Museum of Wales has £3k funding – agreed for Jonathan to do as a consultant. Possibly this could be part of a student work experience. Vale of Glamorgan project – getting town county involved to take ownership, but this has cost us £13k due to a break in grant conditions. Mid Wales project is going well – Consultant Angharad Wynne is delivering the Mid Wales Tourism Food and Farm project leading. Report awaited then claim grant. Pilot project with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust using a consultant, also Mid Wales Tourism - £1,200. (Ramblers Cymru did not deliver the Montgomeryshire element). Mary Wells bible etrail is being developed. AC is liaising with the Bible Society. We need to reassess the value of e Trails to Ramblers Cymru. Meeting with Peoples’ Collection, Tony Hall, AC to discuss future.
- 109/11 **Cultivate** – AC has no involvement in this overarching project.
- 110/11 Involvement with **Ordnance Survey** – AM will circulate notes after his meeting. AM
- 111/11 Currently AC is sending **weekly reports** to Tony Hall. It was agreed that DMcA should discuss with AC and GO how best they can report to WCEC. DMcA
- 112/11 **Director Wales** – it was reported that interviews will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- 113/11 **Review of Welsh Council** – there were no feedback sheets issued, so there was no written feedback. Members gave their views which varied between matters being rushed through, agenda reordered, matters discussed satisfactorily, but generally not much involvement by delegates.
- 114/11 It was reported that **membership of Ramblers Cymru** had dropped from 6383 to 6044 over the last year.

- 115/11 **Devolution Working Party** – the Chair had circulated a paper for discussion at this meeting. This concentrated on agreeing the **priorities for Ramblers Cymru** once the new Memorandum of Authority, and the finances, have been agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- 116/11 The following items were raised by members of WCEC as being their priorities – Promoting walking, and being seen as a positive organisation. Getting paths open so all can walk them, ensuring that the access provisions of Glastir are implemented, and that WCP becomes an economic success story. Problems with loss of members – suggested that there be more involvement with NHS and the Walking for Health agenda, with possibly joint walks with affiliated walking clubs. Need to focus on our core work of paths and access, Glastir scheme, that LAs follow up on their RoWIPs. Look at affiliated groups to see if they can be used to increase membership. We need to improve communication with our members. Keep pressure on LAs to retain RoW funding and progress RoWIPs. Pursue Glastir cross compliance and encourage practical work by members. Involve the new Director Wales in our Business Plan, using the manifesto. Find out what is relevant to the 80% of our members who don't walk with us. After WCP we need another Big Thing to campaign for as a focus. Look at Group funding. Encourage more use of public transport, especially for led walks. Look at the national organisation, in particular relating to affiliated clubs, with the possibility of becoming a federation of walking clubs. Better communication with members and what Ramblers Cymru are doing, especially to combat the bad feeling there is that unpaid volunteers are asked to implement projects for which the project workers are paid. When the new DW is on board, we need to renew our relationships with government partners and other like minded bodies so that we can work together.
- 117/11 DMcA agreed to pull all this together including what devolution means, and ask Areas and Groups for their views, possibly using surveymonkey. This draft paper of priorities from WCEC should be circulated for comment by Areas & Groups. There should be plenty of time for review, so that a plan can be presented to Welsh Council in 2012. DMcA
- 118/11 **Democracy at Welsh Council** – the question of who could attend WC (as the Ramblers Cymru Constitution) had been raised. As the number of delegates relates to Areas and Groups, it was decided to put the future of Areas and Groups on a future WCEC agenda. MG
- 119/11 The **promotion of Ramblers Cymru** was briefly discussed, with the suggestion of having a young person as a figurehead.
- 120/11 **WC 2012** – as this will be the first WC with the new devolved powers, it was suggested that it be a two day affair which would allow socialising during the evening. DMcA agreed to look into overnight costs in the bunkrooms at Plas Tan y Bwlch (SNPA training centre). All were requested to bring their ideas to the next meeting. DMcA All

- 121/11 **Ramblers Cymru future finances** – a paper based on the Devolution Working Party agreements, and a finance paper discussed with Jonathan Kipling and Tom Franklin, was presented and discussed. If this was agreed by the Board of Trustees, Ramblers Cymru would manage their own budget of around £170k including staff costs, Cardiff office costs, Areas' & Groups' funding, and WCEC budget. There would also be a funding incentive to increase membership. This overall finance could be enhanced (but not reduced) in future years. It was hoped the core funding would be guaranteed for future years provided that Ramblers finances did not decrease steeply.
- 122/11 **Treasurer's report** – had been circulated and was discussed. A number of items from the WCEC budget may move to the general Ramblers Cymru funds for 2011-12. The WCEC budget would not require approval from Central Office when the finances are reorganised as above.
- 123/11 **Membership of WEL** – after some discussion it was agreed that we should continue with our membership as it was considered worthwhile to belong to such an organisation. JC
- 124/11 **Support for ABC** – a request had been received via the Carmarthenshire Area, for a letter of support for this charity which is a building preservation trust with the aim of turning redundant vernacular buildings into affordable homes in rural Wales. As ABC were looking for local support, it was agreed that the Area should respond on behalf of Ramblers Cymru. DMcA
- 125/11 **General Council** – brief comments were made on GC 2011 by those members who attended. The atmosphere was completely different to that of 2010, and all motions were debated. It was reported that the report of the Devolution Working Party was accepted with only one comment.
- 126/11 **National Access Forum Wales** – it was agreed to ask Gwenda Owen to attend as our representative at the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July in Cardiff. DMcA
- 127/11 **Dates of next meetings** – these were agreed as  
Shrewsbury September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Cardiff December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Shrewsbury February 6<sup>th</sup>

Signed.....(Chairman).....(date)