

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2011**

**Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**  
**@ Ramblers Cymru offices, Coopers' Yard, Cardiff**

		<b>Actions</b>
	<b>PRESENT</b>	
1/11	<b>Members</b> - Helen Lloyd Jones (Chair), Denis McAteer (vice Chair), Alex Marshall (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Alan Austin, Vernon Davies, Gwyn Lewis, Chris Hodgson, Richard Lloyd Jones <b>Staff</b> – Rob Hanna	
2/11	<b>Apologies</b> – David Allison, Jill Eaton-Evans	
3/11	<b>Minutes of WCEC teleconference held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010</b> were agreed.	
4/11	<b>Matters arising</b> <b>117/10 Staffing</b> - The Community Engagement Officer post (replacement for Mike Mills) has been agreed and will be advertised now, for a start in April. The Office Manager (for 6 months) has not yet been signed off by London, but is imminent. Although a 50k grant has been secured for the Wales Coast Path Officer (2 years post), another 50k of match funding is required before this can be advertised. A decision on funding from CCW for the other two posts (for mid & north Wales) is still awaited. It was reported that Angela Charlton (funding and Training Officer for Wales and Scotland) had moved to the Scottish Office without RH's prior knowledge as AC's line manager is in London. A grant training day in north Wales had been cancelled as a result. WCEC asked for details of grants obtained by the Funding and Training Officer for Wales to be itemised as they were not aware of any. There appeared to be none to report.	RH RH RH
5/11	<b>120/10 Rail Rambles Virtual Group</b> – All matters have now been sorted and RR is now a Virtual Group (a Group without all the full formalities of a committee etc) within Powys Area. The remainder of the £400 grant from WCEC to RR will be agreed between AA & JC.	AA JC
6/11	<b>122/10 Eisteddfod</b> – N Wales Area is organising. A stall is to be booked for £770.	DA
7/11	<b>123/10 Walking and Wales Economy research project</b> – RH reported that the report will be published in mid April.	
8/11	<b>124/10 Glastir</b> – RH reported that a review of the scheme is now under review with a panel consisting of all farmers/landowners except for one representative from WEL, with whom RH is liaising to ensure the access conditions in Glastir are not diluted. The WCEC are concerned about the composition of the review committee and this lack of balance. The concerns of John Ferguson of Ceredigion Area regarding the lack of implementation of the requirement for Tir Gofal farmers to maintain their Rights of Way were discussed. This seems to be a particular concern in Ceredigion, and will be raised again by RH during his forthcoming meeting with the Minister Elin Jones.	RH RH

- 9/11 **136/10 Ramblers Cymru Manifesto launch** – hard copies were distributed to WCEC, and members were encouraged to use these in the forthcoming Assembly elections. The photograph is of the Garw valley north of Bridgend. The manifesto will go out electronically, together with a covering letter, to all 240 Assembly candidates once known. The formal launch will be in the Senedd on 9<sup>th</sup> March to which all WCEC members are invited. RH  
All
- 10/11 **138/10 All Wales LAF's manifesto** – MG reported that this had been sent to all four main parties, and encouraging replies received.  
It was agreed that an argument could be made regarding the imbalance in the Glastir review committee, comparing it with the required balance in LAF membership between farming/landowner sector and others interested in access.
- 11/11 **Quarterly Report by Rob Hanna** – reports had been circulated before the meeting:  
Monthly Report for WCEC Jan 2011 (based on the Business Plan) in a schedule format as discussed at last meeting. This format met with approval.  
A number of back up papers including job descriptions for new posts and Glastir documents. Discussions followed as noted below, although some items had been discussed under Matters Arising above.
- 12/11 **Wales Coast Path** – problem sections in Gwynedd – RH agreed to send details of these to DMCA which are in Snowdonia National park.  
A meeting is being arranged for the Minister to visit Ynys Mon to discuss problem sections there, following useful meetings with Ramblers Cymru volunteers and Council staff.  
Interesting parts of the WCP are requested so that they can be used by the BBC in a forthcoming programme to publicise the path.
- 13/11 **Area and Group contacts** – RH reported on numerous visits to volunteers throughout Wales to assist them in matters of the Walking Environment. These visits were much appreciated by all concerned.  
It was agreed to define Walking Environment as related to Wales. RH
- 14/11 **Training** – an event is being organised by London as an introduction to Ramblers' work for new volunteers. This has been rearranged for 17<sup>th</sup> March in Rhayader, with Bob Seabrook being part of a panel to answer questions.
- 15/11 **eTrails** – work continues in partnership with Peoples Collection Wales. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed to develop Trusted Trails. Need to ensure that London knows about this, so that work is not duplicated in England. HLJ  
Agreed that HLJ would write to Tom Franklin.
- 16/11 **MofU between British Waterways and Ramblers Cymru** – a proposed MoU was suggested by BW after attending the Senedd event last year. Again HLJ agreed to inform Tom Franklin as this development was considered to be nationally significant. HLJ
- 17/11 **Treasurer's report** – had been circulated and was discussed.  
It was agreed to report against the agreed budget of £21.9k rather than the budget being paid from London of £13k, as there is currently £25k in the bank.  
The budget for 2012-13 is required by London by the end of August. It was agreed that most of the work to set a budget could be carried out online.  
It was agreed to fund the purchase of compasses for a map reading training event at Hay Festival, maps being provided free by OS. which was much appreciated by the Welsh Executive Committee  
Up to £5k was earmarked to fund an expert on obtaining European funding, Dr Liz

Mills , for Rights of Way work in Wales. It was reported that some Local Authorities in N Wales have applied for, and received some significant European money. The closure of the walk along the old railway line from Brecon to Swansea due to a landslip and the potential to make it a long distance route if European funding could be found. was flagged up

**Welsh Council 2011** – Maggie Thomas was thanked for her work on this so far. The proposed agenda was discussed in particular the following sections:

- 18/11 **Nominations for officers and members of WCEC** –  
President – As the Assembly elections are not until May, Jane Davidson cannot be proposed at WC. MG agreed to check the constitution to see whether WCEC can nominate later. (*post meeting note – this is allowable under clause 9.3*) MG  
Vice presidents – there is a maximum of two in the constitution, so it was agreed to propose an amendment at WC for this to be no maximum. DMcA is still waiting to hear whether Iolo Williams will accept our offer. Other nominations agreed were Alex Marshall and Richard Lloyd Jones.( Richard has indicated that he will be happy to step down as President when a new President has been chosen) MG  
Vice Chairmen – there will be two places – nominations agreed were David Allison (who it was reported had agreed to go on email), Alan Austin and Gwyn Lewis.  
It was also agreed to nominate Alex as a Vice President of Ramblers GB. HLJ  
Members – nomination forms were completed for VD, CH & Maggie Thomas.
- 19/11 **Motions** –  
After discussion it was agreed not to debate a **change of name** of Ramblers Cymru at WC.  
No maximum for Vice Presidents as 162/10 above.  
The **new Memorandum of Authority for Ramblers Cymru** should hopefully be available for debate at WC, assuming agreement is reached at the next DWP on 16<sup>th</sup> February. There should therefore be a motion to approve this MoA proposed by WCEC. MG  
There will also be motions proposed by Areas.
- 20/11 **Allied Bodies** – It was agreed to delete the Gower Forum and River Wye Forum from the list. Gerald Moss was no longer the representative for CPRW.
- 21/11 **WC programme** – activities in the morning will be a **led walk** (also a walk on Sunday morning) at 10.00  
Presentation on Wales Coast Path by Andrew Morgan with the BBC at 10.00  
Question & Answer session lead by John Trevelyan (whose fee of £300 was agreed) with Bob Seabrook on panel at 11.30  
WCEC pre WC meeting will be a working lunch at 12.30
- 22/11 **4 Wells Group** – now has more committee members and is running a programme of walks. The possibility of establishing a new group in Brecon is being explored. Traditionally the National Park and the Park Society have led walks but there may be advantages to everybody if there was a Ramblers group in the Park.
- 23/11 **Ramblers Cymru Business Plan 2010-11** – this forms the basis of the monthly reports in schedule format from RH as 155/10 above.
- 24/11 **Devolution Working Party** – the latest draft (v5) of the Memorandum of Authority had been circulated, together with an email from Rodney Whittaker laying out the discussions and agreement with Tom Franklin concerning those clauses which had been “parked” until TF had been consulted. These mainly related to having a Director Wales who shall be a member of a reformulated Senior Management Team, and management/discipline/recruitment/dismissal/consultation issues of staff.

The following points were raised:

Contents of email were accepted.

Clause 2.8 – the MoA should be implemented as soon as practicable, with informal arrangements soonest. It was recognised that there will be a requirement for changes to the constitution (Ramblers Cymru) and M&A (RAGB).

Clause 4.1/4.2 base level of funding – there should not be a rigid formula, but should be based on membership with extra for the need to lobby/consult Assembly, Parliament, and Welsh Quangos & NGO's, and cover for the Welsh language.

Clause 9.1 – members of Constituent Parts Committee to be volunteers.

The DWP programme now has a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February at which it is hoped the MoA can be agreed, and possibly the base funding. The MoA would go to WC for approval (see 19/11) and then to Board of Trustees for ratification. (A report from DWP is going to BoT meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February)

DMcA  
MG

25/11 **Dead End Campaign** – the question was asked about how this campaign should be run in Wales. Some work is being carried out using the tools available such as lobbying for RoWIP money, our manifesto, but until we have more staff any further work lies with volunteers. Staff in London need to be informed of what is happening in Wales.

26/11 **“Walking Wales” magazine** – DMcA had circulated a paper asking whether Ramblers Cymru could assist in the future of this publication. Following discussion it was agreed that although we were keen for the editorial to realise how much we appreciated the magazine we are regrettably unable to assist.

27/11 **Walks leaders certification** – email correspondence with Karen Inkster (Ramblers' Led Walks Officer in London) had been circulated. During discussion it was noted that Mary Shepherd, previous Director of Fitness Wales, is willing to assist with certification of walk leaders if that is the avenue we decide to pursue in the future.

28/11 Consultation on **undergrounding of electricity cables** – DMcA had circulated an email on National Grid's consultation on its approach to this matter. DMcA has drafted a response, the contents of which were made known, such as protection of the countryside, and use of sub sea cables around the Welsh coast, connecting to the coast via various hubs of sources of electricity generation. Following discussion it was agreed that the draft response should be circulated asking for comments. This would then form the RC response to the consultation.

DMcA  
All

#### **Any Other Business**

29/11 **Tiger Bay Ramblers** – during their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations they will be publicising their achievements. WCEC agreed to send their congratulations.

HLJ

30/11 **Lost Ways** – it was reported that this had been discussed at the recent North Wales Area Council, and that the time limit of 2026 still stands. Pete Bland had agreed to draft some guidelines for volunteers who wish to carry out research and claim for paths, and would liaise with RH. It was agreed to ask PB if he would be the lead in Lost Ways for Ramblers Cymru, and take this forward in Wales.

MG

31/11 **Meeting with Minister** – RH is meeting with Jane Davidson for the final time before she stands down at the Assembly elections in May. RH asked for any other items to agenda apart from –

Creation Orders for paths by the Secretary of State particularly for WCP, Launch of WCP, Pilot funds for RoWIP, Invite to WC

32/11 RH reported that RC is being consulted by S4C on a programme to be screened at Easter on farmers and Rights of Way.

33/11 **Membership fees** going to Groups in special deal – the question was asked about how this affects their reserves policy.

34/11 **Dates of next meetings** –  
Before Welsh Council 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011  
After Welsh Council 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 – further dates to be agreed at this meeting.

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