

WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JULY 2012
Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 9th July 2012
@ Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury

	Actions
<p>PRESENT</p> <p>109/12 Members - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Chris Hodgson, Maggie Thomas, Ron Williams Staff – Angela Charlton (Director Wales) Others - Alex Marshall (vice President)</p>	
110/12 Apologies –Jane Davidson	
111/12 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 14th May 2012 – were agreed	MG
<p>112/12 Matters arising</p> <p>77/12 Legal Fund procedures – draft 3 was agreed. This is for the use of members and volunteers. The Communities Engagement Officer (CommEO) has produced a document for staff use which is based on the document used at Central Office for the Ramblers GB Legal Fund.</p>	MG
<p>113/12 82/12 Resignation of Chair – the new Chair Gwyn Lewis was formally proposed, seconded and elected unanimously as the second Ramblers Cymru representative on the Constituent Parts Committee of Ramblers GB to replace the previous Chair Denis McAteer, as per clause 9.7 of the Ramblers Cymru Constitution. Similarly the new Chair Gwyn Lewis was formally proposed, seconded and elected unanimously as a member of the Welsh Executive Committee to be the “ex-officio” member of the Board of Trustees.</p>	
114/12 83/12 Second Vice Chairman – it was agreed that there was no current requirement for a second Vice Chairman as allowed for in the Constitution. It was agreed to wait until the elections at Welsh Council 2013.	
115/12 85/12 The Bank Mandate – the relevant papers were signed at today’s meeting.	
116/12 86/12 Constitution – draft 2 of the Ramblers Cymru Constitution as amended at Welsh Council 2012 was agreed. This will be sent to the Board of Trustees for ratification.	MG
117/12 92/12 - motion 6 at WC 2012 - Wind turbine project at Nant-y-moch (remitted to WCEC). The Director Wales reported that she and the Chair were unable to attend the next Ceredigion Area meeting as there was no opportunity, but no adverse comment had been received on the agreed communications.	
118/12 99/12 Future Welsh Councils – the weekend of 23 rd March 2013 was agreed as the date of WC 2013. The venue in Cardiff was not agreed but suitable locations	AC

would be investigated by staff. The possibility of a two day meeting was discussed but a decision would be deferred until costings had been received. This will be put on the agenda for the next WCEC meeting. MG

119/12 **WCEC Budget 2012-13** was discussed. The budget in 2011-12 was £10k, but we will be spending far less as WC 2012 was a one day meeting, and expenses for WCEC meetings and WCEC expenses are lower than last year. It was agreed that the intention is to have a two day WC in 2013. All expenses can be financed from our reserves.

The meeting was reminded that Ramblers Cymru has an overall budget for 2012-13 which was fixed in 2011 for three years, as a percentage of the overall Ramblers GB core budget. This figure (about £243k) includes for staff costs, office costs, WCEC budget, Areas and Groups budgets, plus a centrally funded but locally controlled legal fund of £25k. It is the responsibility of Ramblers Cymru to manage these budgets, so money may be moved between pots except for the legal fund.

120/12 **Future funding for Areas and Groups in Wales**

A paper which had been circulated by the Honorary Treasurer was discussed. Area and Group budget packs will be received by the treasurer by 20.08.12 and will be reviewed and summarised for submission to WCEC September meeting on 10.09.12. WCEC will either approve or refer back to Areas. JC

Money will continue to be distributed by Central Office to Areas on a half yearly or quarterly basis. Areas then distribute to Groups.

121/12 **Reserves** – it was proposed by the treasurer and agreed that groups and areas that have not reduced their Reserve Fund below the 80% upper limit of their expenditure should have their budget allocation frozen at the 2011/12 level, and that the Reserve Fund topic should be placed on the agenda for next year's Welsh Council in order to take a more financially acceptable view of our Wales Reserves.

122/12 It was agreed to introduce a **quarterly monitoring report process**, whereby groups and areas report to the WCEC via the Honorary Treasurer. There would be a basic report initially; annual budget allocation, expenditure and income to date and cash at bank (less unrepresented cheques plus bank deposits not yet cleared).

123/12 It was agreed that **Group expenditure** should be looked at in detail at financial year end by WCEC, as Groups have differing practises on matters such as walk recce expenses. This should then be discussed by our next Welsh Council meeting so that the views of groups and areas should be sought before WCEC come up with recommendations for change.

124/12 It was suggested that the treasurer should **meet with the Area/Group Finance Officer** at Central Office to go through the suggested proposals for policy and procedures. JC

125/12 **Flexigroups** – a report from the Chair on the three recent flexigroups set up in South Wales was discussed. It was agreed that whilst supportive of Ramblers (Central Office) initiatives to increase membership and/or further the Ramblers Mission/Charitable Aims, WCEC holds that flexigroups should only be established within Wales if they have a Wales based sponsor.

126/12 **Business Plan for Ramblers Cymru** – this will be for two years 2012-14. This will be part of the Ramblers GB together with plans for England and Scotland. DW has input as a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT).

127/12 A short brainstorm session was run on Ramblers Cymru **SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) which will be compared with a SWOT carried

out by staff. We need our priorities for the coming years which are ---
 An effective communications structure
 Volunteers and support
 A new diverse audience in particular families and young people
 Strengthen and streamline the governance structure in Wales
 Develop and strengthen policy in Wales
 Members need to be engaged in the next two years on formulating our vision.

- 128/12 Feedback is required on five heads – All
 1 vision
 2 mission
 3 stability
 4 supporters and volunteers
 5 communication
 DW will circulate these to WCEC with a deadline for the feedback. AC
- 129/12 DW will circulate the heads of the feedback required, with deadlines for responses. AC
- 130/12 **Lets Walk Cymru** – the Development Project Officer Mel Jones gave a presentation to the meeting, first introducing herself and her public health background and as an enthusiastic walker. 60 walking groups have leaders trained up, who lead various walks such as “40 minutes round the park”. Participating walkers are mixed, some 50+, some with health problems. Coordinators are employed by local authorities or health bodies, maybe only for 2 days per week. A case is being made for a further 3 years funding which goes to the end of the current government’s term. This bid will also look at younger groups, and is due in this week. AC
- 131/12 The DW reported on the Sub Group which has been set up to **review Ramblers Cymru Renewable Energy Policy**. A meeting has been held which was facilitated by Ruth Chambers, whose fees are being paid from our Legal Fund.
- 132/12 **Internal Local Authority boundary reviews** – it was noted that a team leader involved in the review was ignorant on the matter of definitive maps which was worrying.
- 133/12 **Recruitment of members** – a PowerPoint is being put together for use by Ramblers Cymru speakers to other local organisations.
- 134/12 **Dates and locations of next meetings** – MG
 Shrewsbury 10th September 2012
 Cardiff 26th November 2012
 Shrewsbury 11th February 2013

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