

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012**  
**@ Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury**

	<b>Actions</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	
135/12 <b>Members</b> - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Chris Hodgson, Maggie Thomas, Ron Williams <b>Staff</b> – Angela Charlton (Director Wales)	
136/12 <b>Apologies</b> – Alex Marshall, Jane Davidson, Benedict Southworth, Jonathan Kipling	
137/12 <b>Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b> – were agreed with minor changes.	
138/12 <b>For future meetings</b> it was agreed to have standard items on the agenda for <i>Announcements and Declarations on Interest</i> .	MG
139/12 <b>Announcements</b> The meeting noted with sadness the sudden death of Stephen Luke, an active member who was very involved with the Maesteg Group.	
<b>Matters arising</b>	
140/12 <b>112/12 Legal Fund procedures</b> – there were a number of minor points raised by staff. It was agreed to redraft the document to be used by members and volunteers and circulate to WCEC members for agreement.	MG
141/12 <b>116/12 Constitution</b> – the Ramblers Cymru Constitution as amended at Welsh Council 2012 was on the agenda at the Board of Trustees meeting of 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2012 for ratification.	
142/12 <b>125/12 Flexigroups</b> – there was a short discussion on the progress of the flexigroups in Wales.	
<b>Accounts 2011-12</b>	
143/12 <b>WCEC and WC</b> – the Hon Treasurer presented the monitoring report to the end of August. It was noted that we were well below budget mainly due to having a one day WC in 2012, and that WCEC members have claimed less expenses than in previous years. Year end expenditure is expected to be about £5k.	
144/12 <b>Areas and Groups</b> – there was no report as Ramblers Cymru will commence managing these budgets from October 2012. However a schedule of Areas and Groups' bank balances at 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012 had been circulated.	
145/12 <b>Cardiff Office including staff</b> – there were no exceptions to report. All items are on target.	
146/12 <b>Legal Fund</b> – it was reported that £4.5k had been allocated for a consultant to	

assist in the Renewable Energy Review Sub Group, and that about 50% had been paid.

RW reported that some s63 notices had been made in Flintshire without action by FCC. Advice received from London was to make further applications, so there may be applications from the Legal Fund.

### **Budget 2012-12**

147/12 **Areas and Groups** – a spreadsheet had been circulated by JC which showed budget requests by Areas and Groups for 2011-12 and 2012-13. Most had requested the basic funding or less. Estimated reserves at year end were also listed. Those Areas and Groups with increased requests were discussed. There was a 7% increase over last year to £32k which could be attributed to postage rates and Walk recce costs. Both of these matters should be looked at in the future such as more use of electronic mailing, possibly at WC 2013, where best practise could be disseminated.

It was agreed that all these requests for 2012-13 budgets should be honoured, These would be distributed by Central Office as usual. JC

JC reported that all Areas and Groups had cooperated well with the budget process.

Area and Group budgets will be monitored quarterly with reports to WCEC. JC

Reserves will be looked at during WC 2013, and treasurers asked whether any training is required. Some Areas and Groups receive local training. Subjects such as is this good value, what grants are available, other best practice, can also be discussed at WC 2013. JC

A question was raised whether a percentage of Area and Group accounts should be audited by WCEC.

Another question was whether monies spent on our mission could be totalled for the year end accounts, such as Row, access, countryside, promoting walking.

148/12 **WCEC and Welsh Council** – it had been agreed at the last WCEC meeting that the budget of £10k would be funded from reserves.

149/12 **Other budgets for Cardiff Office** were not discussed, as the overall allowance will not be known until the Ramblers GB budget for 2012-13 is agreed by the BoT at their next meeting this coming weekend.

### **Director Wales update**

150/12 **Membership figures** for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 were the same as at year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. A schedule Area membership had been circulated which included Affiliated Groups. It was reported that Cardiff staff are now able to use the CRM database.

Staff assisted the volunteers who manned our stall at the **Eisteddfod** in the Vale of Glamorgan. The benefits of attending future Eisteddfods and other events in Wales at which Ramblers Cymru has a presence will be analysed. AC

151/12 The DW is **reporting on Ramblers Cymru to the BoT** meeting this weekend. A copy of her report will be circulated to WCEC members. AC

The Ramblers Cymru Business Plan 2012-14 is in draft, but there has been a knock on effect with the delays in producing the Ramblers GB Business Plan 2012-14.

152/12 **Potential Walking Hub projects** are being looked at with partners Valleys Regional Park, National Trust at Stackpole, and the new Canals and Rivers Trust.

153/12 **Glastir** – the potential contract to monitor the access parts of Glastir is being discussed at present.

A useful meeting has been held with Welsh Government officials who agreed that we could organise a working party with other like minded bodies to advise on how AC

best the permissive access and RoW on Glastir farms be mapped and publicised.

- 154/12 The Sub Group to **review Ramblers Cymru Renewable Energy Policy** has held 2 useful meetings facilitated by Ruth Chambers, whose fees are being paid from our Legal Fund. Another meeting will be held in October. AC
- 155/12 **Review of open access maps** – North Wales Area is piloting representations to CCW on the new draft maps, which will then be rolled out to the other Areas.
- 156/12 **Volunteer footpath maintenance groups** – ComEO has met with Powys CC to develop this, and run training courses at Plas y Brenin.
- 157/12 **Wales Coast Path** – talks have been held with CCW re loops and links, but the map of hot spots is on hold.
- 158/12 **Lets Walk Cymru** –  
Results of the case which we made for a further 3 years funding (which goes to the end of the current government's term) should be known by the end of September.
- 159/12 **Ramblers Routes** – training for staff has been held, and training for volunteers has been organised in Wales. We hope to progress eTrails into Ramblers Routes.
- 160/12 A working draft has been produced for **Wales Priorities** for the coming years. The results of the SWOT exercise carried out at the last WCEC has been circulated.
- 161/12 **A Rights of Way and Access Group** has been set and held its first meeting in September in Newtown. The draft terms of reference for the group include –  
Inform the strategic direction for RoW and Access work in Ramblers Cymru  
Contribute towards a communication plan for this work  
Develop tools and resources to enable volunteers to represent Ramblers Cymru
- 162/12 A guidance document has been drafted relating to **WCEC contacts with staff**, based on a similar document produced for contacts between Trustees and staff. It was agreed that this should go on the website. AC
- 163/12 An excellent paper was presented by DD on proposals for **Welsh Council 2013** based on research carried out by staff. It was agreed that WC will be held over 2 days from around 11.00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 1.00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013. It will be based at the Welsh Institute for Sport with accommodation elsewhere.  
It was agreed that a minute taker be hired for the meeting. AC  
The meeting was reminded that the draft minutes of WC 2012 have not yet been circulated, and this should be actioned urgently. AC MG  
It was agreed that information regarding WC should be sent to Areas and Groups now, including discussion topics such as Area and Group finance. AC
- 164/12 **Constitutional changes** – it was agreed that –  
Clauses 3.2 to 3.8 – there should be no change at present re membership of WC, but that a debate should be initiated in the future with Areas and Groups.  
Clause 3.11 (Agenda Committee) – no constitutional motion be proposed, but a ballot be trialled for order of motions on the WC agenda.  
Clause 3 final para – a job description be prepared for a volunteer Council Secretary, and a revised job description be drafted for a nominated member of staff. This could be based on that used at General Council for Ramblers GB. The work will be carried out this year by staff and volunteers from Cardiff Group.  
Clause 4 – affiliated organisations – a current list be prepared for DD to propose a future for this clause to WCEC.

Standing Orders – constitutional amendments are brought forward to WC 2013, but be split into four separate motions as tabled. DD agreed to prepare a paper for distribution to Areas and Groups now, rather than waiting until February, so that there was plenty of time for local debate. Comments would be requested from Areas and Groups in time for the next WCEC meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November. DD

165/12 Clause 5 – **Chairman** – GL stated that, if elected as Chair at Welsh Council 2013, he would stand down at WC 2015 so that his term of office would not exceed 3 years.

166/12 **Cambrian Way Celebration** – proposals had been circulated to members, and discussed with Mavis Rear. It was agreed that a memorial seat and plaque be acquired with a view to erection at Tyn Cornel hostel in Elenydd. RW agreed to pursue this with the possibility of sponsorship. A celebration walk would also be held. RW

167/12 **WCEC member skills** – the results of the analysis had been circulated. There is a lack of young members. It was agreed to discuss having Saturday meetings at the next WCEC, although those in November and February should remain on Mondays. Also for discussion is targeting new nominees for WC 2013. MG

168/12 AA reported that he recently attended a **meeting with Powys CC** where Newtown Walking Club put forward proposals for waymarking local RoW, but there was a negative response from Powys CC.

169/12 The meeting was reminded that the **AGM season** is nearly upon us. All requests for attendance by members should be channelled through Ceri at Cardiff in order to obtain efficient cover. All

170/12 **Dates and locations of next meetings** –  
Cardiff 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
Shrewsbury 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 MG

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