

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2012**

Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 26th November 2012
@ Ramblers Cymru Offices, Cardiff

- | | Actions |
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| PRESENT | |
| 171/12 Members - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary) part, Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Chris Hodgson, Maggie Thomas, Ron Williams part.
Staff – Benedict Southworth (Chief Executive) part.
Guest – Jonathan Kipling (Chair of The Ramblers) part. | |
| 172/12 Apologies – Angela Charlton (Director Wales), Alex Marshall, Jane Davidson, | |
| 173/12 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest. | |
| 174/12 Announcements
(i) The death of Donald Hoare, a member of Aberystwyth Group, was reported. He was active on footpath work and as a walks' leader. His death is a great loss to the Group.
(ii) The meeting was also informed of the death of Sian Busby, also a member of the Aberystwyth Group. | |
| 175/12 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 10th September 2012 –
The following corrections were made: (i) in 163/12, "actioned" for "auctioned"; (ii) in 164/12, "Comments would be requested from" for "Copmments would be requested froma". With these corrections the minutes were approved and signed. | |
| 176/12 Matters arising
140/12 Legal Fund procedures –
GL to check with AC in regard to getting the policy on the website. In regard to the procedures to be followed it was understood that GO had sent out the draft procedures to the Rights of Way and Access Group for comments. | GL AC |
| 177/12 155/12 Ten year review of open access maps –
MG reported verbally that last Friday 23 rd November was the last day representations for changes to the new draft open access maps could be made to CCW.
It had been agreed between Ramblers Cymru and CCW that all representations from Ramblers Cymru would be sent electronically from one source, Max Grant, using maps prepared by Pete Bland, and a proforma agreed with CCW. This was in place of the cumbersome hard copy system set up online by CCW which was only discovered when it went live on 16 th July, so our procedure was only agreed in early October.
A total of 130 representations was made covering 5744 hectares. A full breakdown is available online. It was noted that only 11 volunteers participated. The reasons seemed mainly to be that our members were satisfied with the open access maps as published in 2004, or that volunteers involved in the original mapping process in | |

2002-03 were dissatisfied that their hard work in putting forward areas for inclusion in the map had been frustrated. Virtually all were declined by CCW, and there was no come back for them.

We now have to wait until August 2013 to know the results of our representations. CROW Act 2000 requires a review every ten years, so discussion followed on how Ramblers Cymru should campaign for a better system of open access to the countryside. It was agreed that this should feature in our campaigning for the forthcoming Environment Bill.

MG

Thanks were given to all involved in the process, especially Pete Bland for preparing all the maps including those on habitat, Max Grant for the representations.

178/12 **163/12 Welsh Council 2013**

GL circulated a draft copy of the agenda for General Council 2013 for comparison and there was a discussion on the draft agenda for WC 2013 circulated by DD. The meeting stressed the need for sufficient time for discussion of motions and for informal discussions. DD pointed that flexibility to move events was built into the draft, however, finalisation of the draft would need to wait until it was clear how many motions were being submitted. In regard to workshops, the meeting approved the idea of one on Area and Group Funding. The draft was then approved.

DD

It was reported by MG that the draft minutes of Welsh Council 2012 would be ready for circulation within two weeks

MG

179/12 **164/12 Constitutional changes –**

The meeting discussed the paper circulated by DD. DD reported on the responses from the consultation and stated that she had received a number of very helpful comments regarding improvements to the wording of SOs and the layout of the paper containing the motions. In the light of discussion amendments were approved to certain motions as follows:

(i) Motion 2 SO1.4.3: last sentence to read “Expenditure from this fund shall be authorised by the Director Wales with input from WC.”

(iii) Motion 3 SO 1.5 to read: “WCEC shall be responsible for the operation of effective procedures of budgetary control.”

(iii) Motion 4 SO 1.9: the opening sentence was amended from stating the Treasurer “shall instruct Central Office to pay to” to stating the Treasurer shall “ensure payment to”.

DD

180/12 **166/12 Cambrian Way celebrations –**

RW reported on the current position regarding placing a slate memorial to Tony Drake on the Cambrian Way at the Tyn Cornel youth hostel. The cost will be approximately £1,000 to £1,200 to buy the slate, engrave, and erect. It was agreed to launch an appeal for this, starting in Wales, then England, and possibly at General Council. RW agreed to take forward.

RW

CH reported that he is organising walks on the Cambrian Way of differing lengths on 22nd June 2012. Details are to be finalised at the next WCEC meeting.

CH
MG

181/12 **Any other matters arising**

(i) 141/12: Ramblers Cymru amended constitution was approved at BoT meeting 15th September 2012.

(ii) 162/12: GL raised the question of why the guidance document for WCEC members contacting staff should be on the website. GL to investigate.

GL

(iii) 150/12: CH questioned the significance of the column for “Clubs” in DoW’s membership reports. He agreed to research the topic and provide some basic information about the forty affiliated Clubs for the next meeting.

CH

- 182/12 **End of year Accounts 2011-12: WCEC and WC & Areas and Groups**
 JC provided a spreadsheet that included financial details for WCEC, Areas and Groups. See also minute 185/12
- 183/12 **End of year Accounts 2011-12**
Cardiff Office including staff and Legal Fund – there was no report
- 184/12 **Budget 2012-13: WCEC and WC & Areas and Groups**
 The spreadsheet for the 2011-12 Accounts also included the Budget for 2012-13 although it was emphasised that this is now an allocation as all have been approved. JC highlighted the issue of the high % reserves of some Groups and Areas and the need for feedback on this issue. It was pointed out that if high reserves were to be moved to a centralised account there was a need for a clear vision as to how this money was going to be spent; Areas and Group needed to be assured that the money was going to be used as an investment for the future. JC was thanked for his report and both aspects of his report were approved.
- 185/12 **Budget 2012-13**
Other budgets for Cardiff Office –
 These had been the subject of discussions between Director Wales, staff in London, and officers of WCEC.
- 186/12 **Director Wales update** – had been circulated together with a report on membership figures. As the DW was not present, the Chair asked for any comments on the report.
- 187/12 There was a query on the focus on **Lets Walk Cymru (LWC)** in the report, but BS responded that LWC is only a small but important part of the DW work.
- 188/12 It was noted that there was no **financial report**. It had been agreed that a full report on the Cardiff office including staff was not required, but that a report on exceptions would be sufficient. There was no report on the spend in the Legal Fund. AC
 AC
- 189/12 A request was made for a report on the outcomes of what was happening. AC
- 190/12 **Membership figures** for Ramblers Cymru for 1st October 2012 had been circulated – total of 6,073 compared with 6,024 in October 2011.
 The figures for Affiliated Clubs were queried, but there was confusion between Affiliated Clubs and Ramblers Cymru Groups. A discussion on Affiliated Clubs followed, including their membership numbers, which were not known.
 It was agreed to put **Affiliated Clubs** on the agenda at a future WCEC meeting, and CH agreed to prepare a paper on this. MG
 CH
 Also queried was the ability to obtain information on recent leavers so that local membership secretaries could chase them up. Can a list of recent leavers be generated by the membership department? BS
- 191/12 **Renewable energy review** – the paper on the draft “Ramblers Cymru policy on renewable energy development” had been circulated and was presented by CH who is a member of the working group. Thanks were expressed to DW, Ruth Chambers (who facilitated the report) and the working group on producing the paper. CH DW
 A few points were raised which will be taken by CH to DW for action.
 2 & 6 Review of TAN 8 to be by Welsh Government.
 3 potential problem of approval of single large turbines setting precedent, and then a proliferation of them.
 4 Expansion of the terms “micro-generation” and “marine technologies”

7 Ramblers Cymru to be expanded to include local, group and/or area.
7 Query on phrase including carbon reduction.

- 192/12 **WCEC meetings on Saturdays** – there was further discussion on whether to hold WCEC meetings on Saturdays instead of Mondays in order to attract more younger members to stand for election to WCEC, as they would not have to miss work on a Monday.
It was agreed that Saturday meetings should be tried. A vote was held on whether to hold all meetings next year on Saturdays of half and half. By 5 votes to 4 it was agreed we should try half and half.
MG will draft up proposed dates and venues for agreement at next meeting (see below). MG
It was agreed that CH will draft a paper for discussion at the next WCEC meeting on possibility of moving the meetings around Wales. CH MG
- 193/12 **Lets Walk Cymru**
RW raised the matter regarding a recent LWC training session which he had attended. The slides used were out of date and referred to “.....when The Ramblers take over.....”
Mel Jones the Ramblers Cymru LWC officer has responded and will take this up. The current position on LWC was explained.
MJ had written to the Health Minister with suggestions for funding of LWC by Welsh Government for the next 3 years, which is until the end of this WG term. A response was promised for September 2012 but we are still waiting. If the response is favourable, then Ramblers Cymru will be bidding for the tender to run the LWC programme, similar to Ramblers running the Walking for Health programme with Macmillan in England.
- 194/12 **General Council 2013**
There were no motions to go to GC from WCEC.
There was no volunteer to attend General Council 2013 as WCEC rep, though the opportunity to attend would remain open until WCEC’s February 2013 meeting.
- 195/12 **Long standing members**
There had been a query from member Lynne Roberts (Dinefwr Group) regarding recognition of long term members by letter or certificate. Due to the large number which was found, an alternative would be to post up their names on a board at Welsh Council. It had been agreed that Areas or Groups could ask for certificates for their long standing members. GL agreed to ask the Community Engagement Officer to respond to Lynne Roberts. GL
- 196/12 **New Ramblers website**
BS reported that the new website was going online on 10th December, but there would only be publicity in January. There will be a separate web address for Ramblers Cymru, it will be bilingual, and there will be a microsite for Welsh content. All
All were asked to use the feedback forms if there are any comments.
- 197/12 **Proposed dates and venues for future meetings**
- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------------------------|--------|
| Monday | 11.02.13 | Shrewsbury | agreed |
| Saturday | 23.03.13 | Cardiff pre Welsh Council | agreed |
| Sunday | 24.03.12 | Cardiff post Welsh Council | agreed |
| Saturday | 20.04.13 | Cardiff | |
| Monday | 15.07.13 | Shrewsbury | |
| Saturday | 14.09.13 | Cardiff | |
| Monday | 25.11.13 | Shrewsbury | |
| Saturday | 8.02.14 | Cardiff | |

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