

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2012**

Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 6th February 2012
@ Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury

		Actions
1/12	<p>PRESENT</p> <p>Members - Denis McAteer (Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair), Gwyn Lewis (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), David Allison, Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Chris Hodgson</p> <p>Invited - Alex Marshall (vice President)</p> <p>Staff – Angela Charlton (Director Wales)</p> <p>There had been problems with some trains, so JC, DD, VD, AM & AC joined the meeting after the start.</p>	
2/12	<p>Apologies – Rodney Whittaker</p>	
3/12	<p>Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 5th September 2011 – The latest draft was discussed relating to whether or not the meeting had been adjourned at the commencement of minute 146/11. All present accepted the minute as written, except CH who did not agree.</p>	MG
4/12	<p>Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 5th December 2011 – Were agreed with an amendment to the final paragraph of 200/11.</p>	MG DMcA
5/12	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>200/11 Aberystwyth Group concerns – the email received from John Morgan dated 18.01.12 was discussed. This related to the no confidence motion of Aberystwyth Group recorded in 200/11. The Group wishes the following from their motion –</p> <p>We would ask for an assurance that in future the administration of WEC meetings would encompass:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An agenda sent out in advance which lists all the important matters to be discussed at an impending meeting of WEC. 2. That decisions taken by WEC on all important matters are subject to the usual procedure of a motion being formally proposed and seconded and voted upon with those passed by a majority vote then becoming resolutions of WEC. 3. The minutes of the meeting record motions, names of proposers and seconders together with any amendment proposed (and voted upon) as well as the final voting on a motion. <p>It was agreed that item 1 is currently carried out, and would continue. Additionally the final agenda will also be placed on the website.</p> <p>With regards to item 2, it was agreed that the current method of using consensus rather than formal motions should continue. However it was agreed that on the agenda there should be an extra column which will state the purpose of the item – For noting, for agreement, for discussion. Those items for agreement would be minuted as agreed, not agreed or results of a vote.</p> <p><i>(after meeting note - the heads used for BoT agenda items are for information, for decision, for discussion, for approval, for ratification – these would be better)</i></p>	

With regards to item 3, it was agreed that WCEC minutes will summarise discussions and what, if anything, was agreed.

- 6/12 **178/11 OS Notifier** – MG reported that both he and ComEO had managed to access the site. There had been communications between MG and Chris Phillips of OS re lack of ability to input incorrect open access land which is to be addressed. It was agreed that members should be requested to send any anomalies they find on OS maps to Cardiff Office so that the OS Notifier site can be further trialled. AC
- 7/12 **183/11 Ramblers Worldwide Holidays (RWH)** – AC reported that she and DMcA had met Tony Maniscalco in Manchester for a useful meeting about working together. Due to possible legal difficulties between Ramblers (GB) and RWH it was agreed not to enter into any national agreement, but that Groups and Areas were free to take up RWH offers. RWH Charitable Trust funds are also available for Groups and Areas to apply for DW Walking Partnerships. Application forms had been circulated to Groups.
- 8/12 **185/11 WCEC Wiki website** – currently information on the WCEC section of the Board of Trustees Wiki is out of date. There is very little understanding and hence use by WCEC of the site which is only available for updating by Jo Smith in London office. It was agreed therefore to include this in the project on communications to be carried out by Elly Popp who starts work on 13th February. AC
- 9/12 **191/11 Monthly financial figures** – it appears that London staff are not familiar with the devolution agreement, particularly that Ramblers Cymru manage their own finance. This will be raised at the Constituent Parts Committee meeting in two weeks time. DMcA
MG
The financial systems used by London may need updating due to their slowness and necessity for manual input. It was agreed to raise this at BoT meeting. DMcA
AC reported that Cardiff office figures which have been received show expenditure is to budget, with no exceptions to report. These will be received monthly, but also need to be received by DMcA. MG
- 10/12 **194/11 Legal Fund procedures** – a draft procedure which had been circulated was discussed, together with suggested amendments. A further draft will be circulated incorporating the agreed changes. MG
- 11/12 **197/11 Open Access Maps 10 year review** – AC reported that meetings have been arranged with Richard Owen (CCW lead officer), and with BMC Cymru. AC
MG reported that there is a Denbighshire LAF meeting on 8th Feb at which a CCW officer is talking about the review. It is proposed to ask a number of questions regarding the review process. MG
- 12/12 **Treasurer's report** – an updated spreadsheet was circulated showing little expenditure so far. It was reported that one large cheque had not yet been presented. Cardiff office would chase up the recipient. AC
- 13/12 **Financial figures from London** – AC reported that there was a possibility of the resources of the Promoting Walking Team may reduce and not be available to Ramblers Cymru.
- 14/12 **DW report** – AC had circulated the monthly update for January 2012 of which the following points were discussed.
Wales Coast Path – negotiations are in hand with NLBI and Wildlife Trusts to open their facilities on the opening weekend of 5th & 6th May, together with free car parking there and at National Trust and Local Authorities' car parks. If anyone is

- considering inviting the great and the good to their opening walks, please let Cardiff office know.
- We wish to send out positive messages at the opening. Can we get a pledge from the Minister John Griffiths, to continue to improve the path once opened, and the current funding finishes in 2013? Can this include using framework powers contained in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009? Jane Davidson is keen to keep pressure on for improvements, as there were on the Pembroke Coast Path after that was first designated.
- S4C wish to televise 4 gems of the coast path, so a plea has gone out to name these gems. CCW is already organising 3 major events in Cardiff, Prestatyn and Aberystwyth.
- Ramblers new CEO Benedict Southworth, and Minister John Griffiths are expected at the opening.
- 15/12 The way that footpath problems are communicated is being investigated as part of the GO Wales placement Elly Popp. The updating of the research on RoWIPs has slipped. A query was raised on the latest reporting by Local Authorities on their BVPI on RoW easy to use and signed. This will be investigated. AC
- 16/12 **Welsh Council 2012** – the draft agenda for WC 2012 was discussed with the following points agreed.
- Introduction by Chair – any interesting points, photos etc from Groups would be welcomed. All
- Welcome from North Wales Chairman to be replaced by spot by new CEO Benedict Southworth. DMcA
- DA agreed to find volunteers for tellers and scrutineers. DA
- Ask visitors at BoT meeting who will explain election procedure and invite nominations for WCEC.
- Minutes of WC 2011- agreed addition to item 9 on new president, but no further comments on draft. MG
- No matters arising from minutes were raised.
- 17/12 Election of officers – nomination forms were completed where possible with nominators and seconders – President Jane Davidson; Vice Presidents Alex Marshall, Richard Lloyd Jones, Huw Irranca-Davies, John Robinson, John Morgan; Chairman Denis McAteer, Vice Chairmen Alan Austin, Gwyn Lewis: Treasurer John Cook: Hon secretary Max Grant.
- Auditor nomination as before David Arwyn Howells.
- Break for buffet lunch to be short and ask delegates to continue eating on resumption of meeting.
- 18/12 Review of 2011 motions – under new Memorandum of Authority for Ramblers Cymru, a review of the current structure of Groups and Areas will be lead by DMcA. MG
Written reports from allied bodies to be chased up – query on Brecon Beacons forum(s). Reports from AC to be combined. AC
- Reps for allied bodies – BMC Cymru - DA to stand down, MG willing to take over DA will continue with Mountain Training Board Cymru.
- Hustings and elections only needed if more than 5 nominations for WCEC members.
- Motions – agreed there will be 5 motions on changes to constitution and standing orders. These to be amended after discussion on draft constitution and submitted to Cardiff. *(note – proposers and seconders for these motions was not discussed – needs to be agreed)* MG
MG
- Only one other motion received so far. Areas and Groups to be encouraged to make composite motions on those of similar subject.
- Possible dates and location in South Wales for 2013 were not discussed. Cardiff Office has been asked to check out the possibility of the HF centre in Brecon.

- 19/12 **Review of Constitution –**
Draft 5 of the amended constitution had been circulated. Further comments from GL had also been circulated and were discussed. Certain changes to draft 5 were agreed and will be incorporated in an updated constitution and circulated. This will form the basis of the motions at WC 2012. MG
- 20/12 **Annual “Gathering” for Ramblers Cymru members** - was deferred to a later WCEC meeting.
- 21/12 **Reorganisation of Areas and Groups –** a paper had been circulated on suggested procedure for a consultation on a review of Areas and Groups at Welsh Council if time permits.
- 22/12 **Communications between staff and members –** a paper on communications between Director Wales, Chairman of WC, staff and members had been circulated and the questions raised were discussed.
It was agreed that job descriptions for Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Treasurer and Hon Secretary would form part of the brief for Ely Popp. AC
It was also agreed that Ely Popp should look at the generic job descriptions on the web for Area and Group officers with a view to including lines of communication, and also draft guidelines for staff and members regarding who to contact for information. AC
- 23/12 **Any Other Business –**
Membership fees – the question was asked whether they were too high. Glamorgan Area may possibly raise a motion on this. It was suggested that General Council would be a better forum than Welsh Council. It was noted that monthly direct debits would be available from April 2012.
- 24/12 **Compasses and maps –** AA had a stock of compasses and maps which had been donated to Ramblers Cymru for their use at the Hay Festival. It was agreed that they should be distributed to Areas which would be able to use them for training. AA
- 25/12 **Dates of next meetings –** these will be -
Wrexham before and after WC on 31st March 2012
Cardiff 14th May 2012
Shrewsbury 10th September 2012
Cardiff 26th November 2012
Shrewsbury 11th February 2013

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