

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 2012**

Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 14th May 2012
@ Ramblers Cymru offices, Coopers' Yard, Cardiff

	Actions
PRESENT	
70/12 Members - Denis McAteer (Chair) (part only), Alan Austin (vice Chair), Gwyn Lewis (vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Maggie Thomas, Ron Williams Staff – Angela Charlton (Director Wales) Others - Alex Marshall (vice President)	
71/12 Apologies – Chris Hodgson, Jane Davidson	
72/12 Maggie Thomas and Ron Williams were welcomed back onto WCEC following their election at Welsh Council 2012. Maggie Thomas was congratulated on her election as a Trustee of the Ramblers at General Council 2012.	
73/12 New members of staff were introduced to WCEC – Elly Popp, has completed her communication research paper (bar minor amendments) and has had her contract extended to support ComEO's work in Swansea. Mel Jones, has started today as the Lets Walk Cymru Project Officer for one year Mike Erskin, is working with CADW on the pilgrimage from Llanthony Priory to St. David's as part of the cultural Olympiad.	
74/12 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 6th February 2012 – were agreed	MG
75/12 Matters arising 7/12 Ramblers Worldwide Holidays (RWH) – a letter had been sent to all Groups and Areas from the Chief Executive Benedict Southworth. There will be no further correspondence with Groups – the logos can stay on their websites if they wish. Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust (RHCT) – Benedict had met RHCT regarding further Ramblers' bids for their funds.	
76/12 9/12 Monthly financial figures are now being received from Central Office.	
77/12 10/12 Legal Fund procedures – a further draft will be issued following the discussions at the 6.02.12 WCEC meeting.	MG
78/12 11/12 Open Access Maps 10 year Review – papers on an action plan to take forward the motion agreed at Welsh Council 2012 were briefly discussed and will be circulated to WCEC.	MG
79/12 Minutes of WCEC teleconference meeting held on 29th March 2012 – were agreed	MG
80/12 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 31st March 2012 pre WC – were agreed	MG
81/12 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 31st March 2012 post WC – were agreed	MG

- 82/12 Matters arising
53/12 Resignation of Chair – Denis McAteer had previously notified members of WCEC that he would resign at this current WCEC meeting.
Gwyn Lewis was formally proposed and seconded and unanimously elected as the Chair of Welsh Council. GL then took over and chaired the remainder of the meeting.
DMcA was thanked for his work as Chair, particularly as there had been some difficult times with staff and other issues.
- 83/12 The requirement for a **second Vice Chairman** was discussed. It was agreed that GL should consider the situation and it would be on the agenda for the next WCEC meeting. GL MG
- 84/12 **55/12 The Bank Mandate** was considered and the following was agreed
At the meeting of the Ramblers Cymru Welsh Council Executive Committee on 14th May 2012 it was resolved that:
- i. Unity Trust Bank (“the Bank”) shall continue to act as Bankers for the Welsh Council Executive account which is called “The Ramblers’ Association (LW4) Welsh Council –CTC Cyngor RCN 109” (sic)
 - ii. The Bank’s terms and conditions were produced at the meeting.
 - iii. This mandate for the operation of the bank account payment instructions and banking services is provided to the Bank and that amendments to the Mandate may be provided by any Committee member, Director or Trustee or any other officer of the organisation who is notified to the Bank as being authorised by the Committee to do so;
 - iv. The Bank is entitled to rely upon this mandate until it receives a later Mandate amending it;
The Bank will be notified in writing of any change in Committee members/ Directors/ Trustees of the organisation.
- 85/12 The Chair proposed and it was agreed that the following names be included in the bank mandate: John Cook (Treasurer), Gwyn Lewis (vice Chair), Alan Austin (vice Chair) Max Grant (Hon secretary)
Papers will be circulated for signatures. JC
- 86/12 **61/12 Revisions to Constitution** – a revised constitution in line with the motions at WC 2012 had been circulated. This was agreed except clause 1 which will be redrafted and circulated. MG
- 87/12 **Proposed Revisions to Standing Order 1** had been referred back to WCEC from WC 2012. As this included the requirements of the new Memorandum of Authority for Ramblers Cymru it was agreed to propose amendments on this to WC 2013.
Many clauses referred to funding of Areas and Groups which were the subject of debate at WC 2012.
Discussions on funding of Areas and Groups included the point that Group Treasurers would need to prepare budgets and may need training.
The matter of the reorganisation of Areas and Groups had been out for consultation to the Areas and Groups, but had received no response. The Chair and Vice Chair deemed this matter not to be a priority with no one demurring.
Concerns had been expressed by CH (not present but through AA) that WCEC were being the arbiter of funding to Groups. It was pointed out that this was due to its inclusion in the Memorandum of Authority for Ramblers Cymru.
- also refer to the Treasurer’s Report later
- 88/12 **62/12 Non constitutional motions**

- 1 Completion of Wales Coast Path** – actions agreed were – AC
 ME would build up an interactive map of the problem lengths of WCP.
 Work with CCW on problem sections.
 Lobby Welsh Government.
 Funding past current 2012-13 year will be required.
- 89/12 **3 Ten year review** – see 78/12 above
- 90/12 **4 Review of TAN 8** was included in motion 5. AC is looking at using a consultant to assist this process of campaigning for a review by Welsh Government. AC
- 91/12 **5 Review Ramblers Cymru energy policy**, terms of reference for a sub group to review policy are being drafted and will be circulated for comment, with a view to organising the first meeting soon. AC All
- 92/12 **6 Wind turbine project at Nant-y-moch** (remitted to WCEC) – some members of WCEC could not support the opposition to this project as they were unaware of the details. Agreed that AC would talk to Ceredigion Area about applying to the Legal Fund for assistance, and write to Area offering to attend their next Area meeting, together with the Chair. AC
- 93/12 **7 WCEC meeting procedures** (remitted to WCEC) – the contents of this motion had been debated at WCEC meeting on 6.02.12. This was minuted under 5/12.
- 94/12 **8 President of Ramblers Cymru** (remitted to WCEC) – it was noted that Dinefwr Group had written to Benedict Southworth and DMcA that they were unhappy with the proceedings at WC where their motion was remitted. It was agreed that AC would respond regretting that time ran out, but noting that the President was re elected overwhelmingly, and that WCEC will consult more widely in the future. AC
- 95/12 **69/12 Use of Legal Fund** – all attending WC 2012 had been circulated with an offer of assistance for major planning applications.
- 96/12 **Wales Coast Path** – DMcA gave thanks to all volunteers and staff who had been involved in the launch of the WCP which had been a great success. A letter will also be circulated. AC
- 97/12 **Wildlife Trusts** – DMcA noted that his local Group has received money from the North Wales Wildlife Trust for organising walks for them. There was a potential here for forming partnerships with other Wildlife Trusts in Wales. It was agreed to look at this nationally. AC
- 98/12 **Welsh Council 2012 debrief**
 Minutes of WC were to be collated from notes taken and recorded. AC MG
 All members gave their comments on the meeting which were generally positive except for the end, when debate on motion 5 was curtailed, and other motions remitted. It was noted that the meeting had been notified by the Chair that WC would end at 16.00 as some delegates needed to catch trains.
 Most of the business went well and the mood was upbeat.
 The possibility of having an Agenda Committee to deal in particular with motions was discussed but not agreed.
 It was noted that delegates need to be well informed in order for there to be an informative debate.
- 99/12 **Future Welsh Councils** – possible locations were discussed and agreed as – 2013 Cardiff, 2014 Llandrindod Wells, 2015 North Wales. The date for 2013 will be proposed by AC taking into account Easter, GC and SC. AC

- 100/12 **Treasurer's Report –**
The WC/WCEC budget monitoring report was presented and discussed. It was noted that the cheque for the painting (for RLJ) had still not been presented. Funding for Areas and Groups – JC proposed that the procedure for setting budgets for 2012-13 should be similar to last year, being run from Central Office, as the process has already commenced. Could proposed budgets be looked at by WCEC before being agreed?
It was agreed that a paper should be presented to the next WCEC meeting by the Treasurer on possible future management of Area and Group budgets and funds, including a reserves policy. JC
- 101/12 **Financial figures up to March 2012 –** these have been received by AC. All are on track, the only exception being staff travel which is over budget.
- 102/12 **Budget figures for 2012-13.**
In the Memorandum of Authority, these should be presented in May 2012, but this will not happen as there is now a proposed two year business plan throughout Ramblers.
- 103/12 **Director Wales update –**
The written report had not been circulated, but will be emailed round. AC
Main points from the report were –
Over 4,000 walkers took part in the WCP launch, walking over 800miles of the coast.
Ramblers Cymru membership was down by 50 to 5991 last month.
Now that Mel Jones is on board, Ramblers Cymru can take the lead on the walking health initiative.
- 104/12 **Flexigroups –** details about what flexigroups are, and how they can be set up, are available on the Ramblers website. Glamorgan Area has been asked to support the YMCA flexigroup which has been set up by Central Office. A meeting has been organised with Area and staff to take it forward. It was agreed to agenda Flexigroups for next WCEC. MG
- 105/12 **Tony Drake –** there were discussions on how best to commemorate Tony's life, such as work on the Cambrian Way, upgrade of website, republish guide book, or next year's Big Welsh Walk. RW agreed to research and put forward proposals. RW
- 106/12 **Annual "Gathering"** for Ramblers Cymru members – there were no volunteers to take this forward.
- 107/12 A **vision for Ramblers Cymru** was discussed. There will be visions for Ramblers GB and Ramblers Scotland, so how do we proceed?
- 108/12 **Dates and locations of next meetings –**
The possibility of a meeting in July in Shrewsbury was discussed. Possible dates to be circulated. MG
others will be -
Shrewsbury 10th September 2012
Cardiff 26th November 2012
Shrewsbury 11th February 2013

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