

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 2013**  
**Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013**  
**@ Ramblers Cymru offices, Cardiff**

	<b>Actions</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	
67/13 <b>Members</b> - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Chris Hodgson (Vice Chair), John Cook (Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Kay Davies, Vernon Davies, <b>Staff</b> – Benedict Southworth (Chief Executive)	
68/13 <b>Apologies</b> – Alan Austin, Ron Williams, Alex Marshall, Jonathan Kipling, Asta Smith, Angela Charlton (who was meeting with staff from Central Office Nicky Philpot, Kate Conto, Justin Cooke, and BMC staff Elfyn Jones and Cath Flitcroft to discuss the Environment Bill) Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Alan who is in hospital after an emergency operation.	
69/13 <b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest	
70/13 <b>Announcements</b> Members noted with sadness the deaths of Shirley Kinghorn, former Secretary to Aberystwyth Group, and Barry Smith, a lifetime member of Aberystwyth Group.	
71/13 <b>Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013</b> – were agreed and should go on the website.	MG
72/13 <b>Minutes of WCEC meeting held before Welsh Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013</b> – were agreed and should go on the website.	MG
73/13 <b>Minutes of WCEC meeting held after Welsh Council on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013</b> – were agreed and should go on the website.	MG
74/13 <b>Matters arising from all three previous minutes</b> <b>6/13 Legal Fund procedures</b> – The final document will be placed in the members section of the website.	AC
75/13 <b>9/13 Cambrian Way celebrations</b> – RW had circulated the latest position on the proposals for a memorial wooden bench for Tony Drake on the Cambrian Way at the Tyn Cornel youth hostel on June 22 <sup>nd</sup> . It was agreed to ask Ron to provide light refreshments for guests in the form of tea and cake.	MG RW
76/13 <b>17/13</b> It was agreed that the <b>Working Group to review Affiliated Clubs</b> to Ramblers Cymru should be an email group. MG agreed to draft up a brief and circulate for comment.	MG All
77/13 <b>18/13 Glastir scheme</b> – the notes of the Stakeholders meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup>	

- January 2013 had been circulated. It was noted that actions from the meeting needed to be progressed. AC MG
- 78/13 **19/13 WCEC meeting locations and dates** – were discussed with a new member present and agreed that they should stand.
- 79/13 **24/13 Ramblers Cymru policies** – DD was thanked profusely for drafting out the source documents consisting of motions from Welsh Council and General Council provided by Kate Ashbrook, and policy statements from the website. This would be a useful document from which information for the Environment Bill could be extracted. AC  
Although the document was specifically for Wales, it was agreed to send the document to Head Office for their information. It was suggested that it may also go on the Trustees' Wiki. MG  
DD agreed to draft up heads of suggested policy statements on current issues (including off-roading) for circulation to WCEC for comment. DD
- 80/13 **26/13 Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Resources Wales (NRW)** is still to be negotiated. AC
- 81/13 **44/13 Welsh Council 2014** – the preferred dates were agreed as 12/13 April, 5/6 April and 26/27 April. These would be sent to Powys Area to assist in their search for appropriate venues at their Area meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. MG  
CH suggested that Aberystwyth could be a back up venue to Llandrindod Wells.
- 82/13 **54/13 Eisteddfod 2013 at Denbigh** – it was confirmed that the Woodland Trust stand was not being shared, as this was not in the Cardiff Office budget. WCEC agreed to fund it for this year. AC and RW to be contacted to check that arrangements can be made to go ahead as previously agreed with North Wales Area. MG AC  
RW
- 83/13 **56/13 Induction Packs** – had been sent to new trustees KD and AS. It was noted that Ramblers Cymru current Business Plan 2012-14 was in draft and not on the website. AC
- 84/13 **57/13 Constitution** – it was confirmed that the revised constitution (following Welsh Council 2013) had been sent to Head Office for verification at the next Board meeting. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be at the Maldron Hotel Cardiff on Friday and Saturday 10-11 May 2013. Invitations are to be sent for Friday evening at 8pm. AC
- 85/13 **58/13 Renewable Energy Policy** – it was confirmed that this was now on the website. A press release would be issued at the appropriate time of the planning process for the windfarm scheme in Powys. AC
- 86/13 **62/13 Cooption of trustee** – CH agreed to lead on this. Need to look at which skills are missing from WCEC such as marketing and IT social networking, and see if there are any members who could be approached to fill these. We could possibly invite them to a meeting of WCEC as a trial. CH
- 87/13 It was agreed that CH should lead on finding an appropriate **president for next year**. We need to agree on what type of president we would like – should they be a figurehead famous person, or someone who can assist in our mission. CH
- 88/13 **65/13 Email group for treasurers** – JC reported that all Area Treasurers are members of this group, with the Area Treasurers then cascading down to their Group Treasurers.

- 89/13 **Environment Bill – request for resources**  
A paper had been circulated to WCEC members requesting funds to support Ramblers Cymru impact on the forthcoming Environment Bill. These would be used to fund the Senior Policy Officer at Head Office, Justin Cooke. It was agreed to use the reserves in the WCEC/WC budget to the tune of £18k, and £10k from the 2012-13 Legal Fund, which would pay for six months work. There would be a one month trial period. JC  
There is probability that another six month's work may be required. It was agreed that this should be included as an extra request in Ramblers Cymru 2013-14 budget bid to the Board of Trustees, over and above the overall annual budget sum agreed for the three years 2011-14. AC
- 90/13 **Accounts 2012-13  
WCEC & WC**  
The budget monitoring report had been circulated and was accepted. The underspend on Welsh Council 2013 was a combination of less delegates than budgeted for, especially those travelling from North Wales, and hence smaller hotel and conference facility charges.
- 91/13 **Areas and Groups**  
An updated spreadsheet showing all Areas and Groups with their budgets (request for, or actual, funding) for 2011/12 and 2012/13 had been circulated. These featured the reserves at the end of 2011/12 and the latest bank balances. Some Groups with high reserves were noted.  
The next WCEC meeting in July will include discussions and decisions on budgets for 2013-14. Areas and Groups budget proposals should be with JC in early July so dates need to be agreed with Central Office Finance staff to send out the packs in good time. JC
- 92/13 **Cardiff Office including staff**  
It was reported that these were on target – there were no exceptions to report.
- 93/13 **Legal Fund**  
There had been no further expenditure or expenditure committed from the Legal Fund since the last WCEC meeting.
- 94/13 **Director Wales update** – had been circulated  
Highlights reported and discussed were –  
**Lets Walk Cymru** has been secured by Ramblers Cymru with a one year grant of £300k which supports the Development Officer post, overheads, promotional event and grants which RC will administer to Local Authorities and others supporting the aims of the scheme.
- 95/13 **BIG Welsh Walk**  
This year's focus is on short walks suitable for families. Planning is underway for the May Day bank holiday weekend with over 30 walks on the map.
- 96/13 **Freedom of Information (Fol) & campaign**  
Returns on the Fol requests show some reduction in future funding by Local Authorities, but there is funding from Welsh Government of £1.15m per year for two years for the Welsh Coast Path. A request was made for details of these results. AC  
Staff with assistance from Central Office will be campaigning to encourage LAs to work effectively with Ramblers Cymru volunteer footpath maintenance groups.
- 97/13 **RoW and Access Group**  
The proposed technology for this group to improve communications has proved

difficult and is being reviewed

98/13 **Youth Development Work**

Three project activities for DofE scheme have been agreed and gone via Central Office to RHCT for funding. Other active projects include North Wales HF & Youth Cymru volunteer footpath training, Mission Explore in Kidwelly, Merthyr Youth pedometer challenge, and walking hub packs.

99/13 **Welsh Council 2013** was reviewed.

It was generally agreed that all feedback has been positive, such as good networking, but delegate numbers were disappointing. A one page report on WC 2013 had been circulated and was agreed for circulation to all Groups and Areas.

MG

100/13 **Welsh Council 2014**

It was agreed to keep to a two day WC in 2014. Guidance on motions from Groups and Areas would be circulated. Topics for discussions would be requested from members, such as training and off roading.

MG

101/13 **General Council 2013**

A brief report had been circulated on what was generally agreed was a very well run and useful GC with a good atmosphere. Congratulations were given to Richard from Tiger Bay Ramblers on his election to the Board of Trustees.

102/13 **Dates and venues for future meetings**

Monday	15.07.13	Shrewsbury
Saturday	14.09.13	Cardiff
Monday	25.11.13	Shrewsbury
Saturday	8.02.14	Cardiff

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