

**WELSH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2013**

Minutes of WCEC meeting held on Saturday 14th September
@ Ramblers Cymru Offices, Cardiff

	Actions
PRESENT	
144/13 Members - Gwyn Lewis (Chair), Alan Austin (Vice Chair), John Cook (Hon Treasurer), Max Grant (Hon Secretary), Diane Davies, Vernon Davies, Asta Smith, Alex Marshall Staff – Angela Charlton (Director Wales), Benedict Southworth (Chief Executive) Guest - Jonathan Kipling (Chairman Ramblers GB)	
145/13 Apologies – Kay Davies, Chris Hodgson, Ron Williams,	
146/13 Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
147/13 Announcements There were no announcements.	
148/13 Minutes of WCEC meeting held on 15th July 2013 – Were agreed and will go on the website.	MG
149/13 Matters arising from all previous minutes were listed on the action sheet. 108/13 Legal Fund procedures – It was unclear whether the final document is available in the members section of the website, as members present had been unable to locate it.	AC
150/13 110/13 The final brief for the Working Group to review Affiliated Clubs to Ramblers Cymru (RC) had been circulated to all members with a known email address. There had been a number of members who had responded with comments, but none wished to be on the working group. It was agreed that members of WCEC would participate. MG agreed to circulate with suggested actions. Area Chairs, Secretaries and Membership Secretaries would be requested to assist with matters relating to their Affiliated Groups.	MG
151/13 111/13 Glastir scheme – there is difficulty contacting the new WG officer for Glastir, but actions will be progressed.	AC MG
152/13 113/13 Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). AC reported that this will be progressed once NRW has completed their corporate plan.	AC
153/13 116/13 Renewable Energy Policy – AA explained the current position re the planning application in Powys and Alan Rugman's input. AC will liaise with Alan Rugman re best timing for a press release.	AC
154/13 119/13 Freedom of Information (Fol) & campaign Details of the results of the Fol requests are to be circulated. (<i>circulated post meeting</i>)	AC

- 155/13 **120/13 Motions for Welsh Council 2014**
Guidance on motions from Groups and Areas, based on those used at General Council, are to be circulated for comment, for use by Groups and Areas. MG
- 156/13 **122/13 Big Welsh Walk 2014** – this will be over the May bank holiday weekend 3-5 May and will be supported by WG Health Department.
- 157/13 **130/13 General Council motion 10** – concerning the Defra Rights of Way Circular 1/09 and its possible Welsh equivalent. AC is checking on current position, as WG are due to update their circulars and guidance as part of the Access and Outdoor Recreation Bill. AC
- 158/13 **Director Wales Report** – had been circulated, and some points were discussed at the meeting as follows.
- 159/13 **CADW** – a shared membership offer is being discussed. The possible merger with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments may affect this, with much of the PRow network being part of Wales' heritage.
- 160/13 **Membership** – the latest figures were distributed, showing a decline in Ramblers Cymru membership to 5,864.
- 161/13 **Promoted Routes** – the steering group meeting organised by NRW has been postponed until next week. NRW are putting in a bid for funding to promote these routes.
- 162/13 **Fracking** – a position statement has been drafted by staff in Central Office, and was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that this was suitable for Ramblers Wales.
- 163/13 **Active Travel Bill** – RC will be attending the key stakeholder conference on 16th September.
- 164/13 **Heritage Bill** – RC input into this will be through the Wales Environment Link (WEL).
- 165/13 **Youth Engagement Officer (YEO)** – Elly Popp will continue as YEO for another 12 months due to a grant from WG Health Department of £16k and matched funding from Ramblers. Work will include a pedometer challenge involving the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. YEO will issue a report in October of a review of educational requirements related to walking. AC
- 166/13 **Lets Walk Cymru (LWC)** – AC gave an update including potential walks with the Minister for Health Mark Drakeford, and with the Chief Medical Officer in north Wales.
There will be a meeting in November organised by Macmillan, for all health charities in Wales, to work better together.
Two new LWC large scale projects have started, one at Lymphodema clinic in North Wales, and the other in Dyfed Powys recovery centre. AC
The future proposals for 2014 onwards should be available during October, and will be circulated to WCEC when they become available.
A discussion was held on the possibility of publicity on health walks being distributed to GP's surgeries.
- 167/13 **One Voice Wales** – RC are attending a conference on 5th October which will look at engaging Community Councils.

- 168/13 **Director Wales report** – it was agreed that it would be useful if the expected outputs from actions and reports could be included in the DW report. AC
- 169/13 It was reported that Director Wales is now a member of the **Senior Management Team**, with the resultant better communications with Central Office.
- 170/13 **Accounts 2012-13**
WCEC & WC – these had been circulated up to August 2013. Expenditure was below budget. Costs of £3.6k per month for 6 months for the Senior Policy Officer to work on the Environment (now Access and Outdoor Recreation) Bill had not yet been invoiced. This had previously been agreed to be paid out of the WCEC reserves.
- 171/13 **Areas & Groups** – a summary of incomes, payments and reserves had been circulated. Some high quarterly bank balances were discussed, together with possible projects for Groups. It was suggested that Groups or Areas may like to join the Ramblers hosted website when this becomes available soon.
- 172/13 **Cardiff office** – there were no exceptions to report. It was agreed that the full figures should be reported every quarter at WCEC meetings, including reports on externally funded projects.
- 173/13 **Legal Fund**
 There had been no further expenditure or expenditure committed from the Legal Fund since the last WCEC meeting.
- 174/13 **Budgets 2013-14**
 Budgets as agreed at last WCEC meeting were due to be agreed at the next BoT meeting next weekend.
Areas & Groups – with only Pembrokeshire’s request outstanding, the bid is £30k which is lower than previous.
- 175/13 **Possible constitutional changes** – DD was thanked for drafting papers for both proposed changes.
Election of Vice Presidents – the proposals were agreed, and would go forward as a motion at WC 2014
- 176/13 **Delegates to WC** – the draft paper was discussed and comments made. Although other more far reaching changes to the constitution may affect the Area and Group structure, it was agreed that this paper should go forward with some minor changes. A motion would be raised at WC 2014 requesting WCEC to instigate a debate on the delegate structure, with a view to constitutional changes being made at WC 2015. DD
- 177/13 **Briefing Paper on Walking for Health** – it was agreed that DD would redraft the paper, with Lets Walk Cymru being noted, but not in detail. After circulation for agreement, the paper could go on the website. It was agreed that noting the WC or GC at which a motion had been passed was useful and should remain. DD
- 178/13 **Policy Paper on Access and Recreation** – comments were made, and DD agreed to incorporate these in a redraft. DD
- 179/13 **Ramblers Cymru 40th birthday** – ideas on ways to celebrate our 40th were raised and discussed, such as links to the Big Welsh Walk, 40 Groups in Wales, what have we achieved in 40 years. Possibly post memories of what has happened in the last 40 years and launch at WC 2014. All

- 180/13 **Access & Outdoor Recreation Bill** – a paper had been circulated. AC reported on progress to date including attendance at workshops in Llandudno and Powys to discuss rural access and PRoW, and water access. These had lead to an invite only meeting being called by the Countryside Alliance. RC were inputting into WEL to get wildlife bodies on board. A Q&A paper is being drafted. There was another workshop on 24th September concentrating on urban access. AC
There were some worrying suggestions regarding the PRoW network, but the Scottish model of access proposals looked interesting. A meeting with the Minister AC
has been arranged for the end of September.
It was agreed that an extra meeting of WCEC should be called if it was thought AC
necessary by DW.
- 181/13 **Area Chairs Forum** – AA reported on the previous day’s forum hosted at Wrexham by Jonathan and Benedict, which he had found very useful and illuminating.
- 182/13 **North Devon Offshore Windfarm** – Swansea Group had registered an interest in these proposals, and was reported by VD. He was advised to raise the matter at their Area meeting next week, although RC could provide advice.
- 183/13 **Will Renwick** – some details had been circulated about the youngest walker to complete the Wales Coast Path. He had volunteered to be Ramblers Cymru Young Walkers Champion, including acting as a media spokesperson. His offer was AC
accepted by the meeting.
- 184/13 **Members conduct on walks** – advice was given by the CEO on action to be taken when there was conduct outside the published values relating to members.
- 185/13 **Dates and venues for future meetings**
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| Monday | 25.11.13 | Shrewsbury |
| Saturday | 8.02.14 | Cardiff |
| Saturday | 13.04.14 | Newtown |
| Sunday | 14.04.14 | Newtown |

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