

Minutes of The Meeting of Ramblers Association Strathkelvin Group

held online using ZOOM at 7:00pm on Thursday 14th October 2021

Present: Jim Lawson - Chairperson and Footpaths; Neil Kitchener - Programme Co-ordinator; Robert Bain – Treasurer and Bus Convenor; Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor; Stuart Ferguson - Membership Secretary; Anne Wilkie – Independent Member; Ann Martin – Independent Member; Martha Thom – Independent Member.

1. Apologies:

Archie Leishman – Webmaster

Marjory Dunn – Independent Member

2. Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2021 were accepted. Proposed by Robert Bain and Seconded by Neil Kitchener.

3. Matters Arising

Covered under agenda items.

4. Correspondence Report – Ann Martin

Not received very much this time.

Just Lesley Queen said thank you for her Get Well card and much appreciated.

I have been asked by one or two folk if not having a Christmas lunch this year and felt this would bring the club together.

Christmas Lunch

- It was agreed Neil would email members to ascertain numbers interested.
- Glazert Hotel to be contacted to find out which days they have available for group bookings.

5. Programme Sub Committee – Neil Kitchener

Programme of Walks

Since we resumed our programme of walks, Jim's Thursday walks and the high walkers have always managed to walk every week. There have been no low walks this month and we are still struggling to encourage the low walkers to submit walks. I currently have offers of high walks for the next four weeks and one low walk.

In spite of recent easing of the restrictions, Ramblers have not updated their advice for walks and events since 18th August.

If you need to share a private vehicle or car with anyone from another household, please follow [Transport Scotland's advice](#) on how to do so safely. Public transport, taxis and private hire coaches are permitted, provided relevant guidance is followed.

- **Informal walks with family & friends** can take place in groups of any size.
- **Ramblers group walks** can take place in groups of any size – but check with your local group to find out if you need to book.
- **Path maintenance** can take place – please check with your local group.
- **Other Ramblers activities** can take place – please check with your local group. We recommend events, training and committee meetings should be held outdoors or online where possible.

Walk Leaders can decide on the size of the group and should keep a register of all attendees, retained for 3 weeks. They should also carry out a risk assessment for each walk and retain it for 3 years.

In England and Wales, coach trips and car sharing are now permitted. Although the rules in Scotland about car sharing were relaxed so that two walkers can share, provided they agree, they must wear masks and open the windows. This slight improvement does not seem to have encouraged the low walkers but has reduced the problems of finding adequate car parking at the start of each walk.

The programme will continue to be issued on a weekly basis until there has been a significant change in the rules and there are minimal restrictions.

6. Social Events – Neil Kitchener

No social events have been held since February last year.

Christine, the social secretary met with Hazel who provided the information about previous social events which were in the last programme but did not take place. The current guidance for events is that they should take place outdoors wherever possible so trips on the Duckling are not yet feasible. Unfortunately, we cannot start the new programme until things return to some semblance of normality. We have all missed the walks and talks, in the meantime, enjoy the sunshine.

7. Training Update – James Lawson

Ramblers Courses – book through Eventbrite

[Out There Award \(Edinburgh\)](#)

Wed, Nov 3, 10:00

Holyrood Park Education Centre • Edinburgh

Free

[Navigation \(Advanced\) 2 Days - 6 and 7 November - Muirshiel Visitor Centre](#)

Sun, Nov 6, 10:00

Muirshiel Visitor Centre • Lochwinnoch

Free

[Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Winter safety on the hills](#)

Thu, Nov 11, 19:00

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Winter safety on the hills to your collection.

[Navigation \(Advanced\) 2 Days - 13 and 14 November - Pentlands \(Carlops\)](#)

Sat, Nov 13, 10:00

Carlin's Loup Car Park (opposite the village hall) • Carlops

Free

Save Navigation (Advanced) 2 Days - 13 and 14 November - Pentlands (Carlops) to your collection.

[Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Mountain Rescue](#)

Mon, Nov 15, 19:00

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Mountain Rescue to your collection.

[Walk Leadership Next Steps - Perth](#)

Wed, Nov 17, 09:00

Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park, Jubilee Car Park • Perth

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Perth to your collection.

[Out There Award \(Aberdeen\)](#)

Wed, Nov 17, 10:00

Sport Aberdeen - Beach Leisure Centre • Aberdeen

Free

[Am I being a responsible walker? Learn about Scottish access rights.](#)

Wed, 17 Nov 2021 18:00 GMT

Free

[Walk Leadership Next Steps - Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire](#)

Thu, Nov 18, 09:45

Castle Sempie Visitor Centre - Car Park • Lochwinnoch

Free

[Walk Leadership Next Steps - Coatbridge](#)

Sat, Nov 20, 09:00

Drumpellier Country Park Visitors Centre • Gartcosh

Free

[Walk Leadership Next Steps - Huntly, Aberdeenshire](#)

Sat, Nov 20, 09:00

Greenmyres Eco Bothy (Huntly Development Trust) • Huntly

Free

[Walk Leadership Next Steps - Linlithgow](#)

Mon, Nov 22, 09:00

Muiravonside Contry Park • Linlithgow

Free

8. Treasurer's Report – Robert Bain

Treasurer's Report					
For the month ended	30 September 2021				
				Social	General
				Fund	Fund
Receipts				£	£
Area Funding Group				-	-
Recce monies				-	-
				-	-
Payments					
R Bain (one.com)	Website/email			-	-
N Kitchener	Postage/stationery			-	-
				-	-
Net receipts / (payments)				-	-
Balance brought forward				928	826
Balance carried forward				928	826
Outstanding items					
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-

Excess on General Fund

According to Ramblers Association Guidance groups should not have funds in excess £500 at the year-end – 30 September. Our group will exceed this amount this year and therefore our funding for next year will be adjusted to bring us into line with the guidance by 30 September 2022. All calculations have been based on a return to a normal level of activity for the 2021/22 year

Annual accounts for the year ended 30 Sep 2021

Copies of the signed annual accounts for both the Main Account and the Self-Funded account are attached as PDF files.

9. Membership Secretary's Report - October 2021 – Stuart Ferguson

One new member: Phil Severson of Chryston.

A welcome letter has been sent and Archie has been informed.

No other changes to report so membership is now at 150.

10. Website Report 14th October 2021– Archie Leishman

Activity from 2nd September to Date:

Changes to Email Contacts List

Additions –

Nick (Phil) Severson who joined the group on 24th September

The total number of entries on our email contacts list has therefore increased by one to 114.

11. Access Report – James Lawson

Restoration work is still ongoing at Dumbreck Marsh Kilsyth (4th November 2021)

“Work started here in September 2020 to re-naturalise the Garrell River, create new paths and conserve threatened habitats and species.

The £2 million project is being managed by us and [SEPA](#), through the Water Environment Fund, and is expected to be completed by October 2021.

As part of the path and habitat improvements at Dumbreck and along the Garrell Burn path closures will be required to ensure the safety of the public.

During the contractor off site period from February to April 2021 part of the site will still be cordoned off for public safety, there will be two open paths that allow circular routes around Dumbreck.”

For an update contact Greenspace on – (T) [01236 632838](tel:01236632838) or Email greenspace@northlan.gov.uk

Milton-of-Campsie Community Council

Neither Ann nor Neil have been able to get an update on footpath repairs at Redmoss from the Community Council.

12. Short Walks Report – James Lawson

Thu, 09 th Sep 2021	Circular Walk - Number on walk = Campsie Memorial Hall – Balglass Farm – Celtic Football Club Training centre – Lennox Castle Remains – Strathkelvin Railway Path – Campsie Memorial Hall. Number on walk = 8
Thu, 16 th Sep 2021	Circular Walk – St Mary's Church – Forth & Clyde Canal – through tunnel at Harestanes – back along canal – Hillhead Road – Luggie Park – canal – St Mary's Church. Number on walk = 16

Thu, 23 rd Sep 2021	Circular Walk – M&S Strathkelvin Retail Park – Cadder – South bank Forth and Clyde Canal to Leisure Dome – back along towpath to Torrance Road – cross Hungerford Bridge – South side of canal through field and woods back to Cadder and start of walk. Number on walk = 17
Thu, 30 th Sep 2021	Circular Walk – St Mary's Church – follow Luggie to Waterside – Merkland Nature Reserve – Hillhead – Luggie – Canal – St Mary's Church. Number on walk = 11
Thu 07 th Oct 2021	Circular Walk – St Mary's Church – High Street – Strathkelvin Railway Path – Birdston – loop around and through woods – Birdston – Strathkelvin Railway Path – St Mary's Church. Number on walk = 11
Thu, 14 th Oct 2021	Circular Walk – Lenzie Railway Station – Millersnuek – South Lenzie – Bothlin Burn – Garngaber – Millersnuek – Lenzie Railway Station. Number on walk = 12

13. Bus Convenors Report – 02 September 2021 - Robert Bain

Nothing to report.

14. Hall Convenors Report - Barbara Martin

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLER'S HALL BOOKINGS 2021

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2021

7p.m. - 9p.m.
KIRKINTILLOCH MINER'S
WELFARE CLUB
Committee Room

NIL - Jan
18th Feb - ZOOM
Mar - pending Gov. advice
1st Apr - ZOOM
13th May - ZOOM
3rd June - ZOOM
NIL - July
5th Aug - ZOOM
2nd Sept - ZOOM
14th Oct - ZOOM
4th Nov - ZOOM
2nd Dec

TBC

PROGRAMME MEETINGS

6.30p.m. - 9p.m.
KIRKINTILLOCH MWC
Function room

require use of kitchen
and hot water for making
tea/coffee

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS A.G.M.

7p.m. - 9p.m.

18th November 2021 - ZOOM

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

****th Dec 2021**

TBC

15. A.O.C.B.

AGM

- Need to spell out to members the problems the lack of volunteers is having on the Group.
- No Secretary since AGM held in December 2020. Very few walks lower level walk due to lack of leaders coming forward to lead Saturday Walks,
- Notification of AGM to be sent out to Members and to include a plea asking for volunteers to join the committee and someone to volunteer to fill the Secretary's post which has been vacant since December 2020 AGM.

Walk Leader Guidance

This was discussed at great length below are a few of the concerns:

- Walk Leader freedom of choice has been eliminated regarding recce's.
- It is a nonsense to keep walk risk assessments for three years yet the names of those on the walk are only retained for one month. It leaves Walk Leaders open to claims from anyone who claims to have been on their walk as after three years no one will remember who was on a particular walk.
- There has been no consultation with our Strathkelvin Ramblers Walk Leaders or Group Committee regarding those changes e.g., requirement for written risk assessments to be kept for three years, compulsory recce's.
- Up until the pandemic members were covered if they led a walk, a recce was desirable but you were still covered if you did not do a recce. Who changed this requirement? Yet again no consultation with those affected by the changes?
- Walk Leaders are now expected to put in more unpaid time producing assessments and doing unnecessary recce's.
- All the additional work adds to the stress /pressure on our Walk Leaders and the Group is now struggling to get members to lead walks.
- Members are now choosing to walk in little groups and to no longer lead walks for the Ramblers.
- Ramblers seem H??l B??t on forcing changes on members with no consultation with those affected or the duly elected Group officers.

Those points and others will be discussed at the Groups AGM on 18 November 2021.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

* Due to ZOOM time limits the meeting was in two parts 19.00 – 19.35 then 19.45 – 20.10

James Lawson (Jim)

Chairperson Strathkelvin Ramblers