

**Minutes of The Meeting of Ramblers Association Strathkelvin Group  
held online using ZOOM at 7:15pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Present:** Jim Lawson - Chairperson and Footpaths;  
Neil Kitchener - Programme Co-ordinator;  
Robert Bain – Treasurer and Bus Convenor;  
Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor;  
Pauline Anderson – Independent Member

- 1. Apologies:** Marjory Dunn – Independent Member;  
Anne Wilkie – Independent Member;  
Martha Thom – Secretary;  
Stuart Ferguson - Membership Secretary.

**2. Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting**

Minutes of meetings still to be issued will be sent out ASAP.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 were approved. Proposed by Neil Kitchener and seconded by Barbara Martin.

**3. Matters Arising**

- Jim - ZOOM Subscription – the discounted offer has been withdrawn so I will delay taking an Annual ZOOM Subscription until next discounted offer.
- Jim - A copy of the 'New Strategic Proposals' received from NS Area was copied to Committee Members.
- Jim has updated Area Secretary on Strathkelvin Ramblers AGM Election Results. Also, ensured Martha has been added to Area Committee Papers only Distribution List.
- **Strathkelvin Ramblers AGM** was well attended and the Minutes are being prepared. There was no change to Committee Membership and no motions.

**4. Secretary's Report – Martha Thom**

Emails received from North Strathclyde Area regarding

- **Leading Ramblers Walks Consultation** was discussed. Jim expressed his concern at all the extra actions, demands and conditions being placed on walk leaders plus increased bureaucracy. It was agreed that we would submit any comments as individuals.
- **Area AGM** – The North Strathclyde Area Annual General Meeting AGM will be held in the small hall at The Bridge (entry point), Helensburgh Parish Church on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 10 am for 10.30. The venue is not far from Helensburgh Central Station.

## **5. Programme Sub Committee – Neil Kitchener**

### **Programme of Walks**

As usual, the high walkers have been out every weekend although some walks were rescheduled because of forecasts of bad weather and two low walks were arranged for November. Two low walks are programmed for December.

The high walks programme is complete up to the end of February with two low walks planned for after Christmas. I will be chasing up leaders in February to submit walks for the summer and arranging a leaders meeting.

The current system of emails and use of the website/App seems to be working well. In the long term, the plan to issue the programme to those members who do not have access to the internet or are unable to use the new technology has still to be finalised.

### **Social Events**

The games evening was a great success and the 19 members who came along thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The only complaint was that it was not long enough so they could have played more games. If there is sufficient demand we may organise another one in February. Thanks to Christine for organising it and to Barbara and Hazel for helping with the food.

52 members attended the Christmas lunch at the Glazert Country House last Sunday and a good time was had by all. The food, the venue, the Christmas Santa gifts and the company were all good. Many thanks to Anne, Hazel, Barbara and Robert for making all the arrangements.

Any suggestions for other social events will be gratefully received.

**Note:** Pauline advised some members were having problems printing *out walk information* on Apple devices. Neil is aware of the issue and is addressing the problem.

## **6. Treasurer's Report – Robert Bain**

### **Christmas Lunch**

Total income amounted to £1,329 (53 x £25 + 2 beef supplements £2). The hotel charges for the meal was, as agreed at £1,166 and the staff gratuity was £100 giving an overall surplus for the event of £63.

### **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 exceeded this amount and therefore our funding for next year has been adjusted to bring us into line with the guidance by 30 September 2024. All calculations have been based on current activity for the 2022/23 year.

|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--------|---------|
| Treasurer's Report               |                           |  |  |        |         |
| For the month ended              | 30 November 2023          |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  | Social | General |
|                                  |                           |  |  | Fund   | Fund    |
| <b>Receipts</b>                  |                           |  |  | £      | £       |
| Area Funding Group               |                           |  |  | -      | 277     |
| Recce monies                     |                           |  |  | -      | -       |
| Social event                     | Christmas Lunch           |  |  | 925    | -       |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  | 925    | 277     |
| <b>Payments</b>                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
| Jim Lawson                       | AGM Printing & Stationery |  |  | -      | 64      |
| Kirkintilloch Miners             | AGM Room Hire             |  |  | -      | 30      |
| Kirkintilloch Miners             | Games night roomhire      |  |  | 30     | -       |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  | 30     | 94      |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b> |                           |  |  | 895    | 183     |
| Balance brought forward          |                           |  |  | 1,091  | 568     |
| <b>Balance carried forward</b>   |                           |  |  | 1,986  | 751     |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
| <b>Outstanding items</b>         |                           |  |  |        |         |
| Glazert Hotel                    | Christmas Lunch           |  |  | 1,166  |         |
| Satff gratuity                   | Christmas Lunch           |  |  | 100    |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  | 1,266  | -       |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
| Bank Account                     |                           |  |  | 1,661  | 751     |
| Cash on hand                     |                           |  |  | 300    |         |
| Undeposited funds                |                           |  |  | 25     |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  | 1,986  | 751     |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |
|                                  |                           |  |  |        |         |

## 7. Training – James Lawson

Message from John Nicholls

Some courses book up fast and sometimes people cannot find a course close to home. If you are struggling to find a course you can attend, drop me a line at [john.nicholls@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:john.nicholls@ramblers.org.uk) so I can plan more courses in the months ahead.

We have a pool of fabulous volunteer trainers across the country and can always find a way to get more courses in the diary.

**John Nicholls**

Project Officer – Walk Leadership (Scotland)

[www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland)

## 8. Membership Secretary's Report – 05/12/2023 – Stuart Ferguson

This report covers the period from the previous report on 01 November 2023, and includes all membership changes since that date.

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total Membership   | 127 |
| New Members        | 2   |
| Reinstated Members | 0   |
| Lapsed             | 0   |
| Resigned           | 2   |
| Deceased           | 1   |

Details:

|             |                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| New Members | Graham Wallington (moved to area)       |
|             | Linda Clarke (moved to area)            |
| Resigned:   | Angela Dougall                          |
|             | Gillian Bentley (error at Ramblers end) |
| Deceased    | Gordon Brown                            |

The overall membership now stands at 127, a decrease of 1 from the previous report, and the email contacts list has been amended as per the membership changes listed above.

**NOTE:** Gillian Bentley has not resigned. It would appear that Ramblers Membership made an error when she changed her Direct Debits to a new bank. (I have lodged a complaint)

The Walks Manager Contact Preferences system is continuing to be de-bugged, usually between myself and the affected leader, but on occasion, when necessary, by Ramblers Helpdesk staff.

## 9. Website

Looks like we will need to maintain a website as Ramblers are not allowing for what we want e.g. Walk Reports from Members, Publication of Minutes, Etc.

## 10. Access Report – James Lawson

The box below is the email received on 6 December 2023 from Ramblers Scotland regarding Coul Links planning application.

**Hello James**

- To our immense sadness and frustration, Highland Council today voted to allow internationally-protected dunes at Coul Links to become an 18-hole golf course.
- Councillors ignored their own experts, the evidence-based pleas of campaigners like you, national planning policy and the clear recommendations of national agencies.
- This latest bid was submitted just three years after a lengthy Public Inquiry blocked an extremely similar plan.

**The Scottish Government now has no option but to launch another Public Inquiry.** It must show that our finest beauty spots aren't simply up for sale to the highest bidder.

The course will permanently harm access, the landscape and the experience for walkers:

- Seven holes will cross the John o' Groats Trail core path
- Access will be limited by the creation of greens and fairways
- The pleasure of enjoying the natural dune landscape will be lost forever.

We'll take a moment to consider next steps, but our campaign is not over despite today's deeply disappointing news.

Alongside local and national campaigners, **we will keep fighting to save Coul Links.**

Thanks for your support,

**The Ramblers Scotland team**

## 11. Short Walks Report – James Lawson

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu, 09 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 | Kirkintilloch to Torrance – Start St Mary’s Church – Forth & Clyde Canal – Penny’s Path – track round Hayston Golf Club – old railway track - Torrance<br>Number on walk = 11                  Walk Leader James Lawson                                                                     |
| Thu, 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 | Kirkintilloch Birdston Circular – Start St Mary’s Church - Forth and Clyde Canal to Luggie Park – under canal at Unique Bridge – SRP – Birdston Railway Track – Birdston Woods – MoC Bowling Club – SRP – St Mary’s Church<br>Number on walk = 13                  Walk Leader James Lawson |
| Thu, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2023 | Cadder Heritage Trail (East Dunbartonshire Tales and Trails) Start at M&S SRP – Forth & Clyde Canal – skirt round Cawder Golf Club – round Old Mavis Valley – along canal – M&S<br>Number on walk = 06                  Walk Leader James Lawson                                            |
| Thu, 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 | Lennoxton to CoC Circ Walk – Campsie Memorial Hall – Dam – Capelston New Forest – One High Style -RoW to CoC (coffee) - SRP – Campsie Memorial Hall Lennoxton<br>Number on walk = 06                  Walk Leader James Lawson                                                              |
| Thu, 07 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 | Kilsyth to Kelvinhead – Start Kilsyth Swimming Pool – Burnside Park – Railway track to Banton Loch –round loch to Banton and down to Kelvinhead. Bus back to start Kilsyth Swimming Pool.<br>Number on Walk = 03                  Walk Leader James Lawson                                  |

## 12. Bus Convenor’s Report - Robert Bain

Nothing to report.

## 13. Hall Convenors Report - Barbara Martin

| COMMITTEE MEETINGS<br>2024 |  | PROGRAMME MEETINGS |  | STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS<br>A.G.M. |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|
|                            |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 7.00p.m. - 9p.m.           |  |                    |  |                                 |
| ZOOM MEETING               |  |                    |  |                                 |
|                            |  |                    |  |                                 |
| <b>NIL - Jan</b>           |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 1st Feb - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 7th Mar - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 4th Apr - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 2nd May - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 6th June - ZOOM            |  |                    |  | <b>GAMES NIGHT</b>              |
| <b>NIL - July</b>          |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 1st Aug - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 5th Sept - ZOOM            |  |                    |  |                                 |
| 3rd Oct - ZOOM             |  |                    |  |                                 |

|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 7th Nov - ZOOM |  |                         |                        |  |
| 5th Dec - ZOOM |  | <b>FIRST AID COURSE</b> |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  | <b>TBC</b>              |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  |                         | <b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b> |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |
|                |  |                         |                        |  |

#### 14. A.O.C.B

There being no more business the meeting closed at 20:00hrs.

\* Due to ZOOM time limits the meeting was in two parts 19.15 – 19:45 then 20:00 – 20.30.

James Lawson (Jim)

Chairperson Strathkelvin Ramblers