

Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers 26th AGM

Held in Helensburgh Parish Church on

18th November 2023 at 2pm

Present

25 members attended.

1. Apologies – Karen Hill, Wendy Jones, Trish Schooling, Lindsay Moffat

2. Minutes of the AGM held 27th November 2021.

No Comments on the minutes.

The minutes were proposed by Mike Carder and Seconded by Kevin Craddock.

3. Convener's Report

David talked about 4 main areas regarding the group – Walking, Events, Membership & Committee.

Thanks went to Idris & Mike McManus.

Walking

o Thanks to all walk leaders, Mike Carder, Mike McManus & Idris.

o Walk leader numbers stable – around 12.

o We had marginally more walks than last year – 55 (53).

o Number out on walks fell by 14% - 665 (775).

Mike Carder said that in 2020 we had 17 leaders and this year we only have 12.

Events

o Historical Monuments of Paisley.

o New Year meal in Balloch.

o Visit to the David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre.

o Conic Hill & Oak Tree Meal in Balmaha.

o Oban trip on West Highland line, Dunstaffnage Castle & fish supper.

o Patterdale Walking trip.

- o Riverhill coffee on Monday mornings.

Membership

- o Small fall from 110 to 105.

Committee

- o Could have 15 members. We had 11 members.
- o Tried to increase transparency – open to any member to attend & we publish the minutes on the web site.

Summary

- o Overall, a successful year.
- o Anyone who joined all 55 walks would have walked 698.7km, the equivalent of walking from Helensburgh to London. They would have climbed 25,898m, the equivalent of climbing Everest 3 times.

The Future - Walk leadership is at the heart of a successful walking group. We're always looking for volunteers to lead walks.

4. Treasurers Report

Ian ran through the following report with the group.

HWD RAMBLERS

TREASURERS REPORT 2022-2023

Having maintained a full program of walks in the last 12 months with no Group Funding we are in a stable financial situation but with reduced reserves from last year.

MAIN ACCOUNT.

The year finished with a balance of £745.43 in our Main Account against £986.43 in the previous year indicating a further reduction in our Reserves.

Expenditure of £241.00 was higher than last year's total of £121.65 almost all due to additional meetings and room charges.

Publicity and program printing costs were still low with email distribution of information.

In view of recent initiatives from the Ramblers relating to Safety on Walks and Duty of Care we have designated around £1000 for the coming year to cover potential training and associated costs.

This means that to continue to have adequate reserves we have requested Group Funding for the coming year.

The first of four instalments of £201 is already in our account.

SELF FUNDING ACCOUNT

We finished the year with a balance of £295.35 against £390.35 for last year, showing continued support of social events and day walks.

Ian McCall Oct 2023

Treasurer – Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire Ramblers.

The accounts were proposed by David Reid and seconded by Peter Knox.

David Reid thought that members should be encouraged to claim any recce or training expenses. Bernadette said that Ian has always made it clear to members that expenses were available and to send in the claim forms.

5. Ordinary Motions

There have been no submissions for these posts.

- a) Group business
- b) Motions to the Area Annual General Meeting
- c) Motions to the Scottish Council

6. Elections

The following committee members are all happy to continue in their posts:-

Honorary Officers

Convenor: David Clark

Vice Convenor and Treasurer: Ian McCall

Post holders and Committee Members

Membership Secretary: Mike McManus

Minute Secretary: Sheena Arendt

Publicity Officer and Web Administrator: Idris Scott

Walks Programme: Coordinator: Mike Carder

Committee Members: Bernadette Devine, Peter Knox

These were all proposed by John Herbert and seconded by Janet Sinclair.

This leaves 3 vacant posts, Secretary, Events Coordinator, Committee Member.

David will cover any secretarial issues for the time being.

Changes to the Committee

Access Officer: Pat Anguelov proposed by Ian McCall and seconded by Mike Carder.

Recruitment Officer: Michael Mason: Proposed by Idris Scott and seconded by David Clark

Mary has resigned as Secretary and was presented with a gift card and a flowers in appreciation for all her hard work over the years.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner(s)

Suzanne Caldwell is still happy to continue as independent examiner for the group.
Proposed by Alan Dow, Seconded by Christine Clark.

8. Election of Representatives to:

- a) Area Council: - 2 positions. Mike McManus will continue with one of the posts.
Proposed by David Clark, Seconded by Idris Scott. There were no submissions for the second position.
- b) Scottish Council: - 1 position. David Clark will take up this position. Proposed by Ian McCall, Seconded by Elizabeth Henderson.

9. AOB

David Reid queried if anyone still received a paper programme. Mike McM said that it was all electronic copies now apart from the very occasional paper copy being sent when email was not available.

Alan Dow raised the point that some walkers felt that the pace of the C grade walks was too fast. There was a bit of discussion on how this could be resolved. Should the leader wait with the members at a slower pace? Can faster walkers go on and wait at a named point? This seems to have happened since there is now only one walk per week and there are no specific C grade leaders.

David gave thanks to Joyce for all her input to the Ramblers. She has taken on many roles, Walk Leader (leading many walks), Publicity Officer, Recruitment Officer and Events Coordinator. Joyce also received a gift card and some flowers from the group.

Everyone was invited to have a cup of tea or coffee and a cake while Idris delivered a presentation taking us through all the information available on our Website.

Meeting closed at 4.10pm.