

Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers 27th AGM

Held in Helensburgh Parish Church on

9th November 2024 at 2pm

Minutes.

Present

25 members attended.

1. Apologies – Richard Schooling, Frederico Bernuzzi, Catherine Duda, David Reid, Fiona McPherson, Elizabeth Henderson, Wendy Jones, Peter Knox.

2. Minutes of the AGM held 27th November 2023.

One comment was made on section 9 of the minutes namely that Joyce had also undertaken the role of Publicity Officer in addition to the other roles recorded in the minutes

The minutes were proposed by Jack Tarr and Seconded by Mike Carder

3. Convenor's Report

David welcomed and thanked everyone for coming along to the AGM. David pointed out that tea, coffee, biscuits and cake were available and to help yourself. David then reported using a power point presentation looking back at how we had done over the year and how to go forward into the coming year.

The first few slides showed photos of past walks with members remembering where the walk took place.

The presentation then covered 5 areas: -

Walking

- Thanks to all walk leaders, Mike Carder, Mike McManus & Idris.
- We had marginally fewer walks than last year – 50 (55) ((53)).
- Total number out on walks fell by 6% - 627 (665) ((775)).
- Average number of walkers on walks is 13 (12).
- Walk leader numbers have fallen – currently about 10 (12).
- But nearly half the walks (48%) have been led by 3 walk leaders – particular credit to Idris – 11 walks.

Anyone who joined all 50 walks would have walked 634km, the equivalent of walking from Helensburgh to Bristol. They would have climbed 23,000m, the

equivalent of climbing Everest 2½ times or 25 Munros. Those are impressive statistics.

We managed to offer walks on virtually all weekends – one weekend in September was missed.

The number of members joining each walk has been good.

Overall, a good record considering the challenges on walk leadership imposed by the Ramblers.

Events

- Riverhill coffee on Monday mornings.
- Winter Solstice meal at Slanj attended by 18.
- Pickering Walking trip – 13 walkers and 4 spouses.

The Slanj Winter Solstice meal and the Walking trip to Pickering were both well attended and successful.

Group Membership

- Another small fall from 105 to 97.

Committee Membership

- Could have 15 members. Started the year with 10 members. Dropped to 8 members through the year.

Disappointments and challenges for the Future

- Declining membership (105 last year, now 97).
- Limited social events
- The number of people who only come on 1 walk (35 in total but 20 for no obvious reason).
- Continuity and long-term sustainability of the group is very fragile.

- Relies too much on too few people with no obvious successors.
- Most critical area is walk leadership.
- Walks Programme Coordinator role is vital.
- Other vital duties – Treasurer, Convenor / Secretary.
- Rambler's bureaucracy.

Moving on to the treasurer's report David thanked Ian for his work as treasurer over the past year.

4. Treasurers Report

Ian quickly explained the two accounts for the benefit of our new members. He then gave his report as follows: -

HWD RAMBLERS TREASURERS REPORT 2023-2024.

We completed the year in a stable financial position with adequate reserves for the year ahead.

MAIN ACCOUNT.

The year finished with a balance of £912.73 in our Main Account against £745.43 in the previous year, reflecting Area Group Funding we have received over the last 12 months.

Expenditure of £636.70 was significantly higher than last year's total of £241.00 due to two main factors - A large increase in claimed recce expenses and more meetings with increased room hire costs.

This year we need to designate sufficient funds for Training, Room Hire and Recce Expenses and have again requested Group Funding to make sure we maintain sufficient reserves.

The first of four instalments of £220 is already in our account.

SELF FUNDING ACCOUNT

We finished the year with a balance of £435.35 against £295.35 for last year, reflecting several bonus payments from RWH holiday bookings by members.

Ian McCall-Treasurer Oct 2024.

The accounts were Proposed by Gerry Marshall and Seconded by Trish Schooling.

5. Ordinary Motions

a) Group business – no submissions

b) Motions to the Area Annual General Meeting – no submissions

c) Motions to the Scottish Council

One member asked if a motion should be put forward to the council to clear up the uncertainty regarding walk leaders i.e. insurance, liability and responsibility expected from walk leaders. Should the motion go through the Area council first? It was decided that this would be discussed further and a letter possibly drawn up.

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

Access Officer: Pat Anguelov

Committee Members: Bernadette Devine

These were all proposed by Lesley Williams and seconded by Bronach Hughes

Changes to the Committee

Social Media Administrator: Catherine Duda proposed by Mike Carder and seconded by Mike McManus.

Committee Member: Jack Tarr proposed by Idris Scott and seconded by Ian McCall.

David Clark said that he will step down from the Convenors role at the next AGM in November 2025.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner(s)

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

8. Election of Representatives to:

- a) Area Council: - No submissions
 - b) Scottish Council: - 1 position. David Clark will continue in this position.
- Proposed by Idris Scott, Seconded by Ian McCall.

9. AOB

A Facebook page has been set up for our group. Some members were concerned about being identified on the page. A bit of discussion followed and leaders at the start of a walk will inform, particularly new walkers of this, and anyone not wishing to be identified in the photographs can step aside.

A member asked, "should we consult members on what kind of walk they prefer" Possibly allowing more walkers to attend. Should a questionnaire be sent out? Some members wondered if this would help, but a lack of leaders might make it difficult. This will be taken forward to a committee meeting for further discussion.

Meeting closed at 3.45pm.

