

Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers 24th AGM

Held in Helensburgh Parish Church on

27th November 2021 at 2pm

Present

19 members attended plus 1 member from another group.

Trish welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies – Mike McManus, Christine Clark, Ian McCall, Pat Anguelov, Janet Sinclair

2. Minutes of the AGM held 25th November 2020.

No Comments on the minutes.

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

3. Convener's Report

Trish gave her report as follows: -

It gives me great pleasure this year to present our 2021 AGM in person rather than on Zoom as it was last year. It signals a movement forward in Covid restrictions, which although small, is at least moving in the right direction towards normality.

We continued using the Zoom platform for our committee meetings and to have our Monday coffee morning where we enjoyed each others' company as well as using the "Over the Hill" Group to publicise and take part in midweek walks. Travel restrictions were defined by area as different zones had different infection levels and this meant our group was split. However, this did not deter the adventurous and many new routes were found in both local areas, and they were shared with everyone.

In early March our dear friend Michael Arrowsmith passed away. He was the group Treasurer for many years as well as our website manager, and we are very grateful to him for all his help. The family have donated his notes on routes for walks, and his books, which can be viewed today and borrowed.

As the daylight hours got longer, bigger hills were posted on "Over the Hill", and with great relief, in April travel restrictions were eased allowing for moving outwith one's own zone. This prompted the committee to decide to restart official

Ramblers Walks. There were restrictions on this restart which are still adhered to today, and we decided to allow 20 maximum participants. Choice of walks was also determined by the size of car parks, as car sharing restrictions meant many cars. Before Covid we had 16 leaders, but now, as we have only 10, the decision was made to create a monthly programme of walks rather than four-monthly, and this is working well. Thanks to Mike C for getting organising this. New leaders will of course always be welcome, and there is lots of help for volunteers, from within the group as well as from Ramblers Scotland, who provide many courses. Every member receives a Newsletter so check these for up to date information on what is happening. Check out their mapping Scotland's paths, and contribute if you wish.

In August the group decided to restart meeting in person for coffee and chats on a Monday, and many thanks to Idris for organising this. Come along even if you are not walking, and have a chat. All are welcome.

In October, we hosted a day of walks for a visiting group from Dungannon in Ireland whose visit had been postponed due to Covid. The weather was not very favourable for their weekend in Arrochar but they were a very cheerful bunch and a very generous one too, as they donated £100 to our group. Perhaps we will organise a visit to their area in the future.

In the New Year the Ramblers will unveil their new logo for their rebrand so look out for this.

In the Spring the Committee is thinking of holding an event to hopefully recruit new members. Look out for a "Come and Meet Us" series of walks at different grades to entice new walkers to try us and see if they would like to join. Keep an eye open for more information. Before this, on 11 December, our group is having a walk (two grades) and a Christmas meal afterwards at Slanj, so please come and join in the fun. There is still time to book your place and make your choice from the menu.

My thanks go to Idris for setting up the new website and getting the information out so quickly and all Committee members, for all their hard work and support. I could not ask for a more willing group of volunteers, and long may it continue.

4. Treasurers Report

Ian was not able to attend our meeting so sent his report which Trish read out.

A copy of the accounts was also sent out to members before the AGM.

HWD RAMBLERS

TREASURERS REPORT 2020-2021

After restarting walks from May 2021, expenditure has been minimal except for some minor Recce expenses, and our reserves are high.

MAIN ACCOUNT.

The year finished with a balance of £1108.08 in our Main Account against £721.03 in the previous year which reflects high reserves. We have therefore elected not to receive Group Funding from the Ramblers for this year.

Expenditure of £62.95 was much lower than last year's total of £419.92. All meetings were held on Zoom so Room Hire cost was zero. Programmes from May 2021 were distributed by email so Production Costs were negligible.

SELF FUNDING ACCOUNT

We finished the year with a balance of £540.45 against £653.45 for last year. There was only minor activity on this account except for a donation to Helensburgh Access Trust.

Ian McCall Oct 2021

Treasurer – Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire Ramblers.

The accounts were proposed by Idris Scott and seconded by David Clark

5. Ordinary Motions

Mary reported that there had 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

Honorary Officers, Post holders and committee members were all willing to stand again and were proposed by Alan Dow and seconded by Catherine Duda.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner(s)

Suzanne Caldwell is still happy to continue as independent examiner for the group.

8. Election of Representatives to:

- a) Area Council: - There were two vacancies for this post. Mike McManus was unable to attend our AGM but has agreed to continue with one post. There were no submissions for the second.
- b) Scottish Council: - No nominees for this post.

The Area AGM will be on 20th January 2022 and will be via Zoom. Papers for this will be distributed shortly.

9. Membership

Mike McM sent the membership numbers for the year.

Membership for October 2020 was 104 and for this year is 109.

The Strathclyde Area membership last year was 1276 and this year is 1234.

10. AOB

David Reid printed copies of the group walk statistics from 2009 to 2021 which were available for members. The statistics show that the Saturday walks are more popular than the Sunday ones. There have also been higher numbers on the walks since covid restrictions have been lifted but this could be due to the fact that there is only one walk per weekend when many members attend and not split between two weekend walks.

Trish thanked the committee again and closed the meeting. Everyone was invited to have a cup of tea or coffee and a cake.

