

**Minutes from
Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers Group Committee Meeting held in
Helensburgh Parish Church, 8th June 2023 at 7pm.**

Present

Sheena Arendt, Mike McManus, David Clark, Mike Carder, Mary McLachlan, Peter Knox, Idris Scott

1 – Apologies

Pat Anguelov, Bernadette Devine, Ian McCall

David thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

2 – Minutes

No comments.

Minutes were proposed by Peter Knox and seconded by Mary McLachlan

3 – Matters Arising

Idris advised Mike C on the advertising of walks should it be necessary for him to take on the role temporarily.

The committee agreed that regarding the constitution nothing need to be upgraded.

David wrote to Jeannie Cranfield regarding training. Her reply was that there was nothing in place regarding the First Aid training but we could organise our own using the Ramblers Budget. She is also aware of the interest in navigation courses.

4 – Officers Reports

4a – Treasurer

Ian was unable to attend the meeting and has sent the account information.

MAIN ACCOUNT: £888-93 (£1018-28 last yr). No activity except for Room hire charges.

SOCIAL ACCOUNT: £328-35 (£390-65). £30 received from RWH Holidays.

Ian also sent an email to David saying that we should claim the quarterly budget from Ramblers this time.

It was agreed that the entrance fee into the castle on the Oban walk will be paid by our group.

4b – Access Officer

Nothing much to report here.

Mike McM sent an email from Area asking if our group would be taking on any maintenance projects e.g. working on styles, gates or vegetation patches as there were funds available for this. It was felt that this was a bit too late in the year and too large a project for us.

4c – Membership Secretary

At the end of May we have 104 members.

3 did not renew membership but we have 6 new members.

4d – Secretary

Mary forwarded an email regarding road changes at the Rest and Be Thankful as some members had not received it.

David will be attending a shared learning meeting and will try to find out who should receive emails from Ramblers.
Barry Pottle is now the New Area Secretary.

4e – Group Chair

David attended the Shared Learning meeting in March but has not been sent any minutes.

5 – Publicity

The community magazine continues to do well advertising our walks keeping up with some recent changes to our programme.

The changeover from GWEM to Walks Manager has gone smoothly. Leaders can now put their own walk photos onto the site but it was felt that it would be more consistent if one person did this.

Idris gave us the web address for our group <https://www.hwdramblers.org.uk> and for Head Office <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/helensburgh-west-dunbartonshire-group>

6- Events

The Oban walk is now organised.

Pat has a walk/meal The Knock in July.

Several members have booked for the Away trip to Patterdale in September. A reminder email for this will be sent out.

7- Walks programme

The walk programmes are going well. There was a mention of having a walk leaders' meeting again but this is not necessary with the monthly programmes. There are unofficial Over the Hill walks mid-week which will remain the same and can be organised by an individual which will possibly be weather dependant.

There was some concern over groups registering for a walk but this does not happen very often and does not pose a problem.

There was a discussion on members breaking away from the group and leader on some walks sometimes taking a different route. This would mean that they are no longer on a Ramblers walk and would not be covered by the insurance. It was decided that at the start of the walk leaders would explain this to walkers and if anyone wanted to go on ahead they should wait at a designated point arranged by the leader until everyone catches up. This also ensures the leader knows everyone is there.

A risk assessment email has been sent from Richard Sharp at Ramblers which caused some concern among leaders and the committee. It raised points about "Duty of Care" "Competency of Leaders" and "Safety and Risk assessments". David is going to send a reply to Richard. Pat is willing to help out with this matter.

8 – AOB

The Area AGM was brought up and the question was asked "should we offer to host this?". This is held in January and would involve hiring the hall, providing refreshments and a walk afterwards. It was agreed that we would put ourselves forward for this. Mike McM will email to let them know.

9 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 31st August 2023 at 7pm in Helensburgh Parish Church.