

**Minutes from
Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers Group Committee meeting
held in Helensburgh Parish Church, 2nd April 2026 at 7pm.**

Present

Sheena Arendt, Mike McManus, David Clark, Idris Scott, Pat Anguelov, Gerry Marshall, Ian McCall, Miles Walsh, Jack Tarr, John Gildea, Fiona McPherson.

1 – Apologies

Catherine Duda, Bernadette Devine.

2 – Minutes

No comments.

Minutes were proposed by Jack Tarr and seconded by John Gildea.

3 – Matters Arising

The Recce expenses were covered. It was asked if a record of this should be kept. Jack said that he would do this. The cost of the recce expenses will possibly rise as leaders can now claim for 2 recces per walk so it may be necessary to have the budget increased.

Gerry requested that it be noted that timeous reimbursement of recce expenses is particularly important for those leaders of limited income.

Other items actioned are -

The navigation course was completed.

Standard information for new walkers has been passed on to leaders.

The Annual trip notice has gone out.

AOB inclusion on the agenda has been arranged.

4a – Treasurer

Jack is now the treasurer. The bank and Suzanne (the independent examiner) are aware of this and Ramblers will be notified.

Jack reported that the accounts were as expected having £1500 over the two accounts.

4b – Access Officer

Pat is not aware of any current issues with the paths. She suggested Ramblers Scotland having a data base giving information on the condition of paths. Pat will suggest this to Ramblers.

4c – Membership Secretary

We have at present 110 members.

4d – Secretary and

4e – Group Chair

Pat and David attended the Scottish Council.

5 – Publicity

All is going well with this. Idris WhatsApped the leaders to say that there was an unofficial word count limit on Community Advertiser “What’s On” entries and he may have to edit some of their walking programme entries to ensure the Community Advertiser editor didn’t edit them himself.

6- Events

The walking trip to the Yorkshire Dales is organised with 31 attending including walkers and some partners. There will be another meeting in September to discuss the possible walks.

Jack suggested a Solstice walk in June. This will be dependent on interest and weather.

7- Walks programme

The May programme is ready but will be finalised after the discussion tonight on the grading of walks.

8 – AOB

Gerry thought that the chair should include the following discussion points as substantive items for the agenda rather than those which fall under AOB.

1. Should we have a WhatsApp group for the committee?

There was a majority vote that we should have a WhatsApp group for the committee. David will set this up.

2. In the light of excessive numbers of walkers joining our walks, should we continue to advertise our walking programme in the Community Advertiser?

It was agreed to continue advertising in the Community Advertiser even with the walk numbers sometimes being quite high. We do not want to discourage new walkers.

3. Should public transport options be included on Walks Manager for walks which start near railway stations?

If the start of the walk is close to public transport links the options will be put into the programme.

4. Walk Grading - Should we consider changing our local grading system?

Our grades are slightly different to the national grading, which for some new walkers was a bit confusing.

There was quite a bit of discussion as to whether we should change the grading system. Should we change the colour? Should we change the C+ etc to wording?

It was stated that the walk leaders usually put the walk conditions into the programme.

The decision was that it would be better to move the grading so that it is more in line with the national grading. Jack will draft out some new gradings and circulate for comments.

Making C+ walks relevant and enjoyable

Gerry asked what could be done to make C+ walks more enjoyable. It seems that these walks are fewer and have not been as well attended as expected. There are not enough walk leaders at the moment to put on more C – C+ walks.

5. Recruitment of Volunteers

David had been looking into the Insight Hub Data Base and it shows that we are short of leaders and the leaders we have are maybe not leading as many walks as before. At the moment we only have 1 possible new leader.

Some committee members are resigning at the end of the year, so we also need volunteers for this as well.

We should try and encourage members to take on some of these roles.

9 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting 27th August 2026.

The date for the Walk Leaders meeting to discuss Walking Trip Walks is 3rd September 2026 at 7pm in Helensburgh Parish Church.