

**St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers**

**Committee Meeting held in Cupar Fire Station Community Room at 7:00pm on Monday 7th October 2019**

**Notes of Meeting chaired by Convenor Jim C**

**Attendees**: JC, IMcK,JH,DC,JF,SC,CA,MH & 1 member who thought it was the AGM

**Apologies**: WA & DC

**Matters Arising**

* Cupar Walk 3signposting to be checked WA
* Excess £290 from leaflet funding rounded up and to £300 and donated to Forth & Tay Disabled Ramblers CLOSED
* Fife Pilgrim Way Official Launch set for July, not yet registered to monitor our agreed section WA
* Clearer Leader Policy to be enclosed in Walk Leader Pack CLOSED
* Marketing Statement to be added to future Newsletters to avoid debate over whether we are marketing with our newsletters CLOSED
* Ramblers have challenged the Constitution Amendment on Data Protection JC

**Convenor Report-JC**

On the whole the weather has been kind to us and I am not aware of any Walks having to be cancelled. Walks have generally been well received although the numbers have been dropping off slightly. Wednesday Walks have continued to be attractive and a few of the older members who can’t manage longer walks have come along with us.

The problems that we have had with Ramblers HQ relating to the Constitution will be resolved at the next AGM when the amendment that we made can be rescinded. This amendment has been replaced by a number of Policy Documents that have been received from Ramblers HQ.

**Treasurer’s Report-IMcK**

Bank Balance now stands at £884.00 £600.00 quarterly payment has been received from Rambler’s HQ along with a payment of £100 for participation Rambler’s Holiday contributions Balance of £290 over from payments for Walk Leaflets has been increased to £300.00 and paid as agreed to Fife Disabled Ramblers, and the excess from previous Holiday Fund will be used to offset Bank Charges incurred in future.

**Secretary Report.-WA**

* Membership up from 94 to 96 for the Group.
* Non e-mail members e-mail Buddy system hardly being used so non e-mail members continue to be poor relations as regards communications.
* Future of Walk Registers remains unresolved although few leaders using them.
* Ramblers concern over our Data Protection Policy and changes to the Constitution were reviewed in Emergency Meeting in July and have been dealt with by Convenor.
* No other major issues raised by members or Ramblers HQ.

Will not seek re-election as Secretary at AGM but would like to thank Committee for support through last 12 months and in past. I will arrange necessary Handover after AGM.

**Data Protection and Walk Registers.**

Convener covered latest position in that now following directives from HQ and their policy as it changes over the period.

There followed a detailed discussion relating to Data Protection and Walk Registers, and election of new Chairman after AGM.

* The AGM will see the constitution amendment rescinded which will bring us back into line with HQ policy..The Convener however thanked everybody for their input, and noted that we had taken the matter seriously, and at least created a policy, using the information provided in the short period of notice that we had received.
* The Committee requested MH to set up a new website on NE Fife Ramblers @gmail .com for the future use of the Secretary to receive communications from Ramblers HQ. This would be password protected. This would mean that in future any information from HQ would separate from personal e-mails, and a new Secretary would only need to change the password for those on the Committee needing access to the site.
* At the AGM the present policy that the minimum requirement for a Walk Leader is to complete the Walk book with the numbers of members present and any guests will be restated, This information is required to judge the type of walk most popular for record purposes.
* If the leader wishes to take a register or use the App that would be in addition to the basic requirement. The register would be shredded after the walk to comply with Data Protection.
* Walk Leaders however must request members to carry ICE cards and provide them to any visitor.
* Any special need of a walker should be advised to the Leader ie use of an Epi Pen or other special need before the walk commences.
* Convener asked for any possible nominations for new Secretary at AGM but none were forthcoming. He then offered to take position himself if someone could fill his post as Convenor: a name was put forward and he will approach that person .

**Walk Coordinator Report--WA**

* Cupar Walk 3 signposting requests to Countryside Trust but never had any response or Commitment from them.
* Thanks to all Leaders for Winter Walks.
* Fife Pilgrim Way not yet requested to monitor our agreed section of oversight.
* No concerns raised by members or HQ.
* Thanks to Jane for latest newsletter and continuing reports to Citizen .
* Walks Leaflets continue to be distributed albeit at a slower rate from last year.
* Falloff of walk numbers continues but no clear reason.
* Access issues raised with Access Officer not yet fully resolved.
  + Gate problems near Cameron Loch have been investigated by Access Officer but not felt to be a serious problem.
  + Path across Dumbarnie Links not yet re-opened despite promises made during planning and advised to Walks Coordinator 3 months ago
* Christmas Lunch with Monturpie. Bookings now can be taken.
* Agreed with Colin Brown that he will take over as walks Coordinator if elected at AGM.
* Area coordinator of Walks Program has been advised of possible change and I will arrange training and Handover after AGM.

**Press Correspondent Report-JH**

Newsletter had been prepared to go out with new Walks Program. Walk Leaders had sent in details of Walks and these had been submitted to the Citizen. It would be beneficial if more photographs could be included for the newsletter.

Thanks to all walk Leaders.

**Webmaster’ s Report-MH**

MH reported now able to get photo content better, Group Photos best showing people enjoying themselves, but remember permission required .

Stats and reports on website now more widely read that in past. 166 hits in last 4 months which is encouraging.

**Area Council Report-JF**

Area member raised concern over choice made in new route of Fife Pilgrims Way beside a busy road, when safer alternate core path way alongside could have been used.

McClure House pathway has received objections from Local Resident.

McClure Links coastal path has not yet been reinstated.

**Group Holiday Report-JC**

At present all 25 places offered had been filled but 1 participant had subsequently pulled out due to other commitments, JC has approached a member who expressed interest earlier but was put on waiting list. If not taken up will offer back to group. Hotel had advised that additional places may be available if anyone else became interested.

Deposits are due shortly and a reminder will be issued if necessary as Deposits need to be paid to Hotel by end month.

**AOB**

There was no other business and the Convener thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35.

**NEXT MEETING**

* AGM is on Monday 4th November, 2019
* Next Committee Meeting is due on first Monday in April 2020

**Secretary Note**: Thanks to JC for taking notes for this minute