# **St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers**

**Committee Meeting by Zoom on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00 pm**

**Members Present:** J Houston (Convenor & Press Correspondent, JH), Kasturi Dasgupta (Area Secretary), W Aitken (Treasurer, WA), J Forret (Deputy Treasurer, JF), M Hammond (Webmaster, MH), Christine Arnold (CA), C Brown (Walks Coordinator & Secretary, CB)

**Welcome:** The Convenor (JH) welcomed all to the meeting.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Carol Philip & Sandy Pearson

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**Convenor’s Report:** JH attended a recent meeting organized by St Andrews University to celebrate local projects funded by the University Community Fund. We obtained a CF grant towards the cost of reprinting our St Andrews Walks Leaflet. We have been asked by a contact from the Dalgety Bay Group to organize a walk for young people (the newly established Fife Young Walkers) and have set aside Sunday 19th May to go to Lucklaw Hill, although we do not yet know how many are likely to turn up. This event has been advertised by ‘Meet-Up’ to attract interest. Vicki Blair from Fife Council Community Education is keen to start walks and she is trying to initiate meetings/outings for isolated people. JH has been in touch with her to see if we can assist, JH is waiting for further contact.

**Treasurer’s Report:** WA informed us that the group now has a ‘deputy’ treasurer, Jim Forret, and now has access to the bank account.

* Although concerns continue on long-term funding of Groups by Ramblers UK, for 2024-25, our budget for 2023-24 was approved and stabilizes our funds for this financial year.
* As previously agreed, a “deputy” treasurer has been established and has full access to the Group’s bank account.
* Full funding for reprinting the St Andrews leaflets was procured from University of St Andrews Community Fund, Kinburn (St Andrews) Charitable Trust and Kilrymont St Andrews Rotary Club. Very nice to report that funding was “local” but we were again offered support from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust
	+ Thanks to Carol and Christine, 20,000 leaflets now printed and paid for within budget. Allocation of stock around members to be arranged.
	+ One concern is over future distribution of our leaflets with closure planned for Tourist Offices on Market St and has asked the local MSP to raise questions.
	+ Current leaflet stock sufficient for 3 years for Cupar, 7 years for St Andrews.

**Current Financial Status**

* From summary below, can report that we remain on budget for the year
* Recce expenses are well below budget for year due to number of local walks in the program
* The small surplus on the walk leaflets project remains to be disbursed until project reviews completed with sponsors

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year to Date** | **Budget** **2023-24** |  |
| **Opening Balance** | **678** | **678** | **Designated Funds for Reprinting St Andrews Walks Leaflets****Budget £2500****Expenditure £2448****Surplus £52** |
| **Area Payments** | 202 | 405 |
| **Ramblers Holidays** | 50 | 60 |
| **Donations** | 50 | 0 |
| **Surplus on Designated Funds** | 52 | 0 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **1032** | **1143** |
|  |  |  |
| **Website Fees** | 78 | 110 |
| **Meeting Room Fees** | 26 | 70 |
| **Postage/Secretarial** | 25 | 50 |
| **Recce Expenses** | 69 | 240 |
| **Scottish Council** | 0 | 0 |
| **Misc** | 15 | 140 |
| **Bank Charges** | 0 | 15 |
| **Walk Leader Training** | 0 | 40 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **213** | **665** |
| **Balance** | **819** | **478** |

The surplus £52 is being returned to the Rotary Club.

**Secretary’ Report:** CB stated that the Group membership has been relatively stable over the last year. As at 8th April 2024, the membership stands at 104 full members, including all the recent changes. These changes are that there have been 4 new members and 7 leavers, (these were 2 lapsed and 5 resignations).

Although a healthy number for our Group, we continue to rely on a core number of regular walkers and walk leaders.

JH gave thanks to CB for attending the Scottish Council meeting recently on behalf of the group.

**Walks Coordinator’s Report:** CB informed the meeting that we have managed to create a full walks programme for the Summer season 2024. Thanks must go to all the walk leaders who have put forward these walks.

The walking over the winter period has seen a significant rise in numbers, except for two walks, strangely enough, both CB’s... all walk numbers have been in double figures, we must hope this continues to be the trend for our summer programme and that we will be lucky with the weather…

Let’s hope we can continue to fill our walks calendar for the forthcoming seasons.

**Press Correspondent’s Report**: JH stated that she had submitted an annual report for the Summer AJP but for some reason it has not been included. She continues to send reports of walks to the local press.

**Webmaster’s Report**: MH has amended some details for our group on the Ramblers web site as it either wasn’t up-to-date or incorrect. MH reported that he was wondering whether the group should have a Facebook page to highlight walks etc, which MH would then administer. Any changes to walks etc would have to be notified to MH by CB. KD also said that she would be willing to assist with content etc. MH would define the rules for its use & content eg prevent adverts etc and is going to explore the possibilities.

**Area Council Report:** KD has now taken over as Area Secretary from JF although, due to unforeseen circumstances, JF had to stand-in at short notice.

**Any Other Business**:

JH is to attend a reception held by the University for Voluntary Organisations, KD intimated that she would also be willing to attend.

KD has been trying to set up an Area e-mail but is being hindered by Google at the moment. She is also keen to lend support with internet matters etc.

JF stated that he had met 2 ladies during the week who said they would think about walking with the group and it was questioned whether it would be feasible/possible to change the midweek walk to another day every now and then. There then followed a discussion and it was decided that this would be looked at during the Winter Walks programme meeting in July.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:00.

**Date of next Meeting**: The next meeting will be on Monday 7th October 2024 via Zoom.