

**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE POWYS AREA OF RAMBLERS CYMRU
DOLFORWYN HALL HOTEL, 27 NOVEMBER 2010
(SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)**

Chairman's introduction

Harry Chandler welcomed those attending in poor weather, and thanked Welshpool Group for arranging the morning walk. He invited Helen Lloyd Jones, Welsh Executive, to set the Welsh scene. HLJ thanked Powys Area for organising Welsh Council in Llandrindod Wells this year. She also thanked outgoing officers of Powys Area for their services: Harry Chandler (Chairman), Kevin Jones (Secretary), Bob Seabrook (Footpath Secretary) and Clive Payne (Treasurer). Her further points were:

- Offa's Dyke Association would have its 40th anniversary in 2011, and Ramblers were invited to join an event on 10 July 2011 with East Radnor Group providing support;
- the Senedd promotional event on 16 November 2010 had been very successful, with 24 out of 60 AMs attending;
- membership in Wales was rising, reversing a decrease after the CROW Act and increasing Ramblers' lobbying strength;
- Ramblers Cymru were seeking more autonomy rather than the full separation agreed by RA Scotland; and
- walking makes a major contribution to the Welsh economy, and Ramblers Cymru have commissioned new research to quantify the amount.

Attendance

The attendance list recorded that 15 members were present. Marion Law (Secretary, Shropshire Area and Rail Rambles) attended as a visitor.

Apologies

Apologies were received from seven members.

Matters arising

Alan Austin reported that, following earlier defects, the CRM membership system was now working properly.

Annual Reports

Chairman: written report attached.

Treasurer: accounts attached. Clive Payne presented the audited accounts, which were unanimously approved. Powys Area and the three Groups had helped to overcome Ramblers' financial crisis by drawing on reserves and not claiming their entitlement from central funds. A contribution of £2000 had also been offered to the Ramblers Cymru office, with the result that the Area currently had remaining funds for only one year if Ramblers Cymru take up the offer. Only one Powys Group – East Radnor – will draw from central funds in the current financial year (2010-11); the others will use their reserves. CP also suggested that remaining copies of the East Radnor walks publication should be written off from the accounts. There were no objections to this proposal.

Footpath Secretary: written report attached. Bob Seabrook doubted the veracity of the latest path condition survey for WAG, which showed that 60% of Powys paths were 'easy to use' in 2009/10 compared with 45% the year before. Two public inquiries were in the offing, at Harley Valley and Dingle Nurseries. The long-running path problems at Llanfechain had been satisfactorily resolved.

Membership Secretary: Alan Austin reported a slight fall in membership in Powys.

Election of Honorary Officers and Representatives

No prior nominations were received.

The following were proposed, seconded and unanimously elected:

President	David Bellamy
Chairman	Alan Austin
Vice Chairman	Harry Chandler
Secretary	Alan Rugman
Treasurer	Derek Cosslett
Footpath Secretary	Clive Payne
Countryside Officer	Left open
Access Officer	Left open
Membership Secretary	Alan Austin (temporary, until replacement found)
Communications Officer	Derek Cosslett
Auditor	Current auditor to be reappointed
Four Wells representative	Chris Jones
Welshpool representative	Matthew Prosser
East Radnor representative	Emlyn Williams

Motions to Welsh Council

No motions were proposed.

Any other business

Bob Seabrook stressed the importance of the County Council's rights of way enforcement officer, whose appointment was largely due to pressure from the Area Council. The successful outcome at Llanfechain was an example.

Marion Law (Secretary, Shropshire Area and Rail Rambles) explained that Wales Council Executive Committee had agreed to provide £200 to support Rail Rambles*. Earlier funding by RA had ended in 2009 because of the financial crisis. Alan Austin had suggested at WCEC that Rail Rambles could be a 'virtual group' in Powys Area, with the money channelled through the Area Council. ML said that Rail Rambles could be treated as a Ramblers project. She emphasised that Rail Rambles was aimed at encouraging use of public transport by the public at large, and participation was not limited to RA members. These arrangements were agreed; Clive Payne would investigate whether the RA Central Office would consider a bid for funding in advance of the normal budgeting exercise next summer

Date and venue of next AGM

To be decided by Area Council.

* Note by Secretary: it is now understood that WCEC agreed to provide £400 in 2010/11.