

Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850



MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Zoom videoconference

29th OCTOBER 2020

Present

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)
Bill Sadler (Hon Secretary)
Steve Connelly (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
James Kennedy (Trustee)
Don Martin (Trustee)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Annie Tindley (Trustee)

Caroline Boswell
James Brown
Graham Clark
Linda Clark
Ian Copland
Maggie Cranshaw
Ann Doubal
Jennifer Giles
Andrew D. Jones
Eleni Koumpouzi
Niall Logan
Jim McCormack
Carol Primrose
Sandra Purves
Linda Riddell
Robin Sharp
Ian Shearer
Nora Solesbury
Jamie Sutherland
Doris Williamson

SLHF AGM Min. 2020

Apologies: Douglas Lockhart, Jackie Marsh

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (available on the Forum's website, www.slhf.org) were adopted without amendment

Proposed James Kennedy, seconded Graham Clark.

Annual Report – Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)

Paul Bishop referred members to the Annual Report, which is available on the Forum's website. He advised an amendment on page 2 - Niall Logan represents the Milngavie Heritage Centre on the Advisory Committee. He noted that three colour issues of *Scottish Local History* and six e-newsletters had been produced during the year. The Annual Conference 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' was held on 31 October 2019 and the annual talk in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland (on the inventor Alexander Bain) on 12 March. The latter was the Library's last public event before the lockdown caused by Covid 19. The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the Linlithgow Walk and Talk event on 27 June and the October 2020 Conference. Paul highlighted the efforts made to maintain and in some respects expand the Forum's activities during the pandemic. He thanked the editorial team (Don Martin and Douglas Lockhart with the help of Jan Bateman), who have produced three issues of *Scottish local History* on time and have a bank of papers in hand. He thanked the social media team, led by Jan Bateman and including Jamie Sutherland (participating in this meeting), especially for the introduction of the timely Facebook page. Diana Webster has retired as the editor of the e-newsletter *Clish-Clash* and was thanked for launching it almost seven years ago and so successfully developing it. Paul thanked James Kennedy for taking over the editorship and others in the team. Online resources have been specially featured in *Clish-Clash* to keep members researching while archives are closed.

Accounts for the Year 2019-2020 and subscription rates 2021-2022– Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)

Jan Bateman gave an analysis of the Annual Accounts (available as part of the Annual Report). She explained that there had been a small overall loss due to events cancellation. Because of the Forum's substantial reserves, it had been decided not to apply for a Covid hardship grant. Last year's AGM had resolved to increase subscriptions in 2020-21, but the Trustees had decided not to implement this because

of the effects of the pandemic. Jan proposed that, in view of the continuing uncertainty on when we could organize physical events, subscriptions for 2021-2 should be retained at the current level, viz. £23 for individual, £29 for organisations (with one copy of each journal) and corresponding rates for other categories. This was seconded by Paul Bishop and approved nem con by electronic voting. The External Examiner for the accounts 2019-20 was Mark Gallagher, CA, EQ Accountants. Jan Bateman proposed that he be again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2020-21, seconded by Paul Bishop and approved nem con.

Changes to the Constitution

Finlay McKichan explained that the proposed constitutional amendments (revised version and explanatory notice on the Forum's website) were mainly a tidying up exercise to remove gender specific references, standardise terms, modernise and simplify language and consolidate in one place provisions previously in both the Constitution and Standing Orders. He highlighted a few more material changes, notably the removal of the office of Vice Chair and of the clause setting the maximum term of office of Advisory Committee members to be consistent with the arrangements for Trustees. An additional proposed amendment, not posted on the website, was that clause 12 should state that the Forum's aims are listed in clause 2. Paul Bishop proposed, seconded by Annie Tindley, approval of the SLHF Constitution as modified on the Forum website and the amendment to clause 12. This was approved nem con.

Election of Honorary President, Officers and Trustees

Paul Bishop advised that Professor Chris Whatley's term as Honorary President ended at this AGM. The Trustees recommended his re-election for a further five years if he agrees. This was proposed by Paul, seconded by Steve Connelly and approved nem con.

Paul paid tribute to the two trustees who have not sought re-election. John Irvine became chairman in 2010 at a challenging time for the Forum and presided over its affairs during a period when its services were considerably developed. A full tribute had been published in *Scottish Local History* issue 102. Dr Douglas Lockhart has been, over a period of ten years a real stalwart of the Forum – as an author (28 articles since 2010), as a member of the editorial team and latterly deputy editor, and in journal sales (estimated to have totalled around £14,000). He has also been a member of the *Clish-Clash* editorial team. Both of these Trustees were thanked for their service to the

Forum.

Paul sought nominees from the floor to act as Trustees and appealed to members to give very serious consideration to joining the Board. He proposed the re-election of the following Trustees and Office Bearers, seconded by Finlay McKichan:-

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)
Bill Sadler (Hon Secretary)
Steve Connelly (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
James Kennedy (Trustee)
Don Martin (Trustee)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Annie Tindley (Trustee)

These were re-elected nem con.

Election of Advisory Committee

Finlay McKichan advised that under the new constitution clause 7.2 members of the Advisory Committee are elected annually at the AGM. One member, David Smith, was not seeking re-election. He had been an original member of the Committee and was thanked very much for his service. Finlay proposed the election of:-

Linda Clark, North Kessock and District Local History Society
Eleni Koumpouzi, East Dunbartonshire Heritage and History Forum
Jennifer Giles, National Library of Scotland
Nicola Small, Culture Perth and Kinross
Niall Logan, Milngavie Heritage Centre
Catherine Gillies, Ergadia Museums and Heritage
Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist
Eve Boyle, Historic Environment Scotland,
David Oswald, LOCSCOT.

Election of these representatives to the Advisory Committee was proposed by Don Martin, seconded by Carol Primrose and carried nem con.

Paul thanked the members of the Advisory Committee, pointed out that there were

three vacancies and appealed to member societies and organisations to nominate representatives to the Committee.

Any Other Business

Paul Bishop announced the first two winners of the Birlinn Prize for the best article of the year in *Scottish Local History*, the judging panel having been unable to separate the two which most fully met the criteria. Each of the winners would be awarded a prize of £100, one of these to be funded by the Forum. Birlinn had agreed to this arrangement and would soon be issuing a press release announcing the winners. They were John Harrison for 'The Drifty Days: A Climate Crisis of 1673-4' and Dr Allan Kennedy for 'Cromwell's Highland Stronghold: The Sconce of Inverness'.

Jan Bateman appealed for online events to be notified in the Events section of the Forum's website.

Paul expressed his thanks for such a good turnout of members for this online event.

Next AGM – To be announced.