



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SC015850

MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 28 October 2024

by Zoom video-conference

Sederunt

Present:

Steve Connelly (SLHF Hon Chair), Jan Bateman (SLHF Hon Treasurer), Andrew Jones (SLHF Hon Secretary), Phil Back, Valentina Bold, Graham Clark, Linda Clark, Andrew Eadie, Derrick Johnstone, James Kennedy, Don Martin, Chris Moore, Moira McCord, Finlay McKichan, Carol Primrose, Sandra Purves, Linda Riddell, Alison Rosie [18]

Apologies:

Douglas Lockhart, Elizabeth Pitts, Iona Roberts, Ian Shearer, Valerie Weighill

Minute of last meeting

The Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th October 2023 (published on the Forum's website) were adopted without amendment. Proposed James Kennedy, seconded Finlay McKichan, carried *nem con*.

Annual Report

Steve referred members to the Trustees' Annual Report document for details of the Forum's activities and achievements during the year.

Various points in the Report were highlighted and expanded upon:

- Although there had been slightly fewer Trustee Meetings during the year, the Forum Review exercise generated a deal of additional activity for all concerned.
- Appreciation for James Kennedy and Linda Clark's continued support and work in preparing the e-newsletter *Clish-Clash* was recorded. Members were requested to submit relevant material for inclusion.
- Thanks were similarly recorded to Don Martin for his work as journal editor and the production of the three *Scottish Local History* issues during the year. Don added his thanks to Douglas Lockhart and James Brown who have continued to provide invaluable support since stepping down as Trustees, and welcomed Rosemary Morrison as a recent addition to the Journal team.
- Membership numbers have continued to fall slightly since the pandemic. The Forum Review identified a marketing push for new members as one of the key activities required, and the Trustees will attempt to address this in the coming year.

- Jamie Sutherland's work with social media on the Forum's behalf and his great help during the Forum Review, analysing the members' survey results, was acknowledged. Jamie is stepping down as Forum trustee at this meeting in order to concentrate on his studies for church ministry.
- The passing of Niall Logan, a previous Advisory Committee member, was noted. An appreciation of his life will appear in *Scottish Local History* in the near future.
- The 2024 Paul Bishop Prize (supported by Birlinn) has been awarded to David M Smale for his article *The Incidence of Escapes from Stobs Prisoner of War Camp, 1915-1918* in *Scottish Local History* issue 118 (Summer 2024)

Forum Review: Survey Feedback

Details of the Forum Review Survey's results will appear in the next (January 2025) issue of *Scottish Local History*. Steve expressed the Trustees' thanks to those who took the time to respond.

Accounts for the year 1st August 2023-31st July 2024 – Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)

Jan referred members to the Financial Review and accounts presented in the Annual Report document. The increased deficit – £3,981 compared to £1,743 in 2023 – can be largely attributed to the absence of any conference receipts and the one-off costs for the Forum Review session. In addition, no Gift Aid reclaim has been made since 2021-22, one will be made in this financial year, which should result in a surplus being recorded for the year. Jan reiterated that, notwithstanding recent deficits, the Forum's finances remain healthy.

Subscription for the year 1st October 2025-30th September 2026 – Jan Bateman

Jan formally proposed **no** change from the current subscription rates for the membership year 2025-26, noting that the the Forum's finances remain sound and of the need to encourage new members to join, which might be hampered by an increase. The motion was seconded by Steve and carried *nem con*.

Appointment of External Examiner – Jan Bateman

Jan formally proposed that Eric Brown be asked to continue to act as independent external examiner of the Forum's accounts. The motion was seconded by Steve and carried *nem con*.

Election of Officers and Trustees

Andrew continued to take the meeting through the election of Forum Officers and Trustees, first pointing out that, in an update to the list included in the AGM Notice, Jamie Sutherland

was no longer standing for re-election. With that amendment, and no nominations from the floor, there were eight Trustees/Office Bearers standing for re-election, proposed and seconded as follows:

	Proposed	Seconded
Steve Connelly, Hon Chair	Andrew Jones	Jan Bateman
Jan Bateman, Hon Treasurer	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly
Andrew Jones, Hon Secretary	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Don Martin	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly
Linda Riddell	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly
Alison Rosie	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly
Bill Diack	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly
Phil Back	Andrew Jones	Steve Connelly

The motion to re-elect the existing Trustees and Office Bearers en bloc was carried *nem con*.

Election of Advisory Committee – Andrew Jones (Hon Secretary)

Andrew started by advising that he had been unable to make contact with Eve Boyle (Historic Environment Scotland) to confirm her willingness to continue on the Advisory Committee and, consequently, she now would not be included in the nomination. The nine other existing Advisory Committee members:

Murray Cook	Stirling Council's Archaeologist
Ian Shearer	Friends of Kinneil
Ian Copland	Cupar Heritage
Sandra Purves	Broughton History Society
Iain Duffus	Edinburgh Libraries
Patrick Hart	National Libraries of Scotland
Derrick Johnstone	The Old Edinburgh Club
Scott Broadfoot	LOCSCOT
Lucy Dean	The Centre for History, University of Highlands and Islands

– had been proposed (Andrew Jones) and seconded (Steve Connelly) for re-election.

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The motion to re-elect the nine existing AC members en bloc was carried *nem con*.

Any other business

Andrew Jones advised the meeting on plans for a Walk & Talk in Linlithgow. This will take place on Thursday, 22nd May 2025 and will involve a short walk along the east end of the High Street stopping to examine evidence of the town's history from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the afternoon, we hope to explore the interior of St Michael's Church before taking a walk around The Peel, the Royal Park that surrounds Linlithgow Palace, to explore the history evident from this vantage point. Full details and booking will appear on the website shortly and advertised through *Clish-Clash* and the Journal.

Steve intimated the intention to hold an in-person conference on ‘**Popular Protests** in a Scottish local history context’ in 2025. It is hoped that this will take place in either September or October 2025, possibly in Paisley. Full details will be advised via *Clish-Clash*, the Journal and online in good time.

Date of 2025 AGM

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was provisionally set for Monday 27th October 2025. It will be formalised by the Trustees in due course and communicated to all members in good time.

There being no further business Steve closed the meeting, thanking all those attending.