



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SC015850

MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 27 October 2025

by Zoom video-conference

Sederunt

Present:

Phil Back, Jan Bateman, Graham Clark, Linda Clark, Steve Connelly, Eric Graham, Andrew Jones, James Kennedy, Don Martin, Chris Moore, David Oswald (for LOCSCOT and Aberdeen City Libraries [2]), Sandra Purves, Alison Rosie, Claire Taylor. [15]

Apologies:

Ian Copland, Murray Cook, Lucy Dean, Jan Polley, Linda Riddell, Ian Shearer

Minute of previous meeting

The Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th October 2024 (published on the Forum's website) was adopted without amendment. Proposed Phil Back, seconded James Kennedy, 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:

- The *Paul Bishop Prize* for the best article to appear in *Scottish Local History* had been awarded to David Smale for 'The Incidence of Escapes from Stobs Prisoner of War Camp, 1915-1918' in issue 118.
- Thanks were expressed to the team supporting production of *Clish-Clash* – Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones – and to Don Martin for his editing and production of the 3 issues of *Scottish Local History* during the year.
- Special thanks were made to Phil Back, who has taken on leading the Forum's marketing initiative work, and Andrew Jones for leading the Linlithgow Walk & Talk in May.
- Andrew Jones is stepping down from being a Trustee and Hon Secretary at this meeting; Linda Riddell has volunteered to take over as Hon Sec for the coming year. Steve expressed appreciation of Andrew's work for the Forum over the last 4-5 years.
- There has been a good response to the adverts placed in the Edinburgh Volunteers Centre seeking volunteers to assist with various aspects of the Forum's work and administration. In addition to the new trustees being proposed at this meeting, other

individuals have come forward offering to assist in various ways. Carol Ettershank has taken over as Membership Secretary already.

Accounts for the year 1st August 2024-31st July 2025

Jan referred members to the Financial Review and Accounts presented in the Annual Report document. The £5,163 surplus compares favourably to the £3,981 deficit reported last year. However, most of the surplus (£5,070) is the result of an error by HMRC who paid the Gift Aid claim twice! HMRC's procedures have prevented the additional money from being returned, instead they have advised that the Forum should retain the funds to be offset against future Gift Aid claims. This could take up to four years, but HMRC have confirmed that we will not be charged interest whilst the funds remain with us.

Revenue is up at £23,677 compared to £12,820 last year; this is largely due to the Gift Aid claim, which covered the last four years (and was duplicated as aforesaid). There has also been a slight increase in memberships and, consequently, subscription receipts.

Expenses have also risen from £16,801 last year to £18,514 this. Last year's figure included exceptional expense for the Forum Strategy Review workshop, this year's contains £2,300 for an advertisement in the National Trust for Scotland magazine as part of our new marketing strategy. (The magazine goes to 166,000 recipients and will have a much greater overall readership; we don't yet know how effective the advertisement has been in attracting new members.) Journal production costs have increased slightly, postage costs substantially. There was a balance of £31,348 at the end of the year (£5,070 of which relates to the HMRC overpayment), which represents a very healthy level of reserves.

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

Jan formally proposed **no** change from the current subscription rates for the membership year 2026-27, noting that 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 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 took the meeting through the election of Forum Trustees and Officers. With Andrew stepping down from being a trustee and Hon Secretary there are 8 standing for re-election (4 having been co-opted during the year) and 4 new nominations. With no further nominations from the floor these 12 (the maximum number permitted by the Forum's Constitution) were duly proposed and seconded as follows:

	Proposer	Second
Steve Connelly, Hon Chair	Jan	Phil
Jan Bateman, Hon Treasurer	Steve Connelly	Phil Back
Linda Riddell, Hon Secretary	Jan Bateman	Phil Back
Don Martin	Jan Bateman	Phil Back
Alison Rosie	Jan Bateman	Phil Back
Bill Diack	Jan Bateman	Phil Back
Phil Back	Jan Bateman	Steve Connelly
Claire Taylor	Jan Bateman	Phil Back
Julia MacDonald	Don Martin	Steve Connelly
Craig Statham	Steve Connelly	Phil Back
Caitlin Cameron-Ramsay	Jan Bateman	Steve Connelly
Jan Polley	Jan Bateman	Phil Back

The motion to elect these as Trustees and Office Bearers was carried *nem con*.

Election of Advisory Committee

Andrew advised that Patrick Hart from the National Library of Scotland was not standing for re-election but had suggested his colleague Suzanna Beaupre as an appropriate replacement. Suzanna had accepted the nomination; all the other existing AC members, including two co-opted during the year, had expressed their willingness to continue and be re-elected. With no additional nominations from the floor there were 10 proposed and seconded as follows:

		Proposer	Second
Murray Cook	Stirling Council's Archaeologist	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Ian Shearer	Friends of Kinneil	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Ian Copland	Cupar Heritage	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Sandra Purves	Broughton History Society	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Iain Duffus	Edinburgh Libraries	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Derrick Johnstone	The Old Edinburgh Club	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Lucy Dean	The Centre for History, University of Highlands and Islands	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
David Oswald	LOCSCOT	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Eleni Koumpouzi	SCHA	Steve Connelly	Jan Bateman
Suzanna Beaupre	National Library of Scotland	Phil Back	Jan Bateman

The motion to elect these as AC members was carried *nem con*.

Election of Honorary President

Andrew advised that, in accordance with the Forum's constitution the post of Honorary President falls to be re-elected at this year's AGM. **Prof Chris Whatley** has consented to continue in this role for a further period and has been formally proposed by Steve Connelly and seconded by Phil Back. The motion to re-elect was carried *nem con*.

Any other business

- James Kennedy proposed a vote of thanks to Steve Connelly for chairing this meeting and leading the Forum during the year, which was applauded by the attendees in the usual manner.

Date of 2026 AGM

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was provisionally set for Monday 19 October 2026