



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Clydebank Town Hall

30th OCTOBER 2019

Present

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)
Douglas Lockhart (Hon Vice Chair)
Bill Sadler (Hon Secretary)
Steve Connelly (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
James Kennedy (Trustee)
Don Martin (Trustee)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Diana Webster (Trustee)

Paul Carter
Graham Clark
Linda Clark
Thomas Davidson
Andrew Eadie
Catherine Gillies
Jennifer Giles
Jacqueline Hunter
Mr J A R Kerby
Eleni Koumpouzi
Niall Logan
Agnes McPhillimy
Moirra McCord
Peter Pearson
Rosalind Pearson
Carol Primrose
Sandra Purves
Marjorie Robertson
Nicola Small

Apologies

Chris Whatley (Hon. President)
Annie Tindley (Trustee)
SLHF AGM Minutes 2019

Eric Graham
David Selkirk

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (copies available on the website and issued at this AGM) were adopted with one amendment – p.2, organiser of 2018 conference was Graham Clark.

Proposed: James Kennedy

Seconded: Steve Connelly

Annual Report – Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)

Paul Bishop referred members to the Annual Report, which was included in the conference package. He particularly highlighted the issue of declining membership and efforts being made to alleviate this. It is hoped to develop the Forum's social media profile and by this and other means to engage students with the work of the Forum. He announced that Birlinn Publishers have agreed to fund an annual prize for the best article in *Scottish Local History*, the winner to be chosen by a sub committee of the trustees. It is hoped that the profile of the journal will thereby be raised.

Accounts for the Year 2017-2018 and subscription rates 2020-2021– Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)

Jan Bateman proposed adoption of the Annual Accounts (appended to the Annual Report), which was seconded by Steve Connelly and unanimously agreed. She pointed out that the financial year had ended with a small surplus of £85, but that this would not have occurred without a payment from the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society of several years' royalties derived from *Scottish Local History*. So although there was a small surplus this year and our reserves are very healthy (and we are due to claim for several years' worth of Gift Aid), in the face of inevitable increases in costs (journal production and especially postage), she invited members to decide whether a subscription increase should be delayed until 2021-2022 or made in 2020-2021 and, if the latter, by how much. She made the point that there had been no increase for about 6 years and that any increase should be significant enough to avoid the need for further increases in the near future (ideally 5 years) because of the cost of changing our membership leaflets and the administration overhead of organizing changes to standing orders etc. The timing of an increase (just before a marketing push for new members) was discussed. It was pointed out that subscription fees do not now cover the production costs of *SLH* and we rely on other sources of income to break even. It was noted, conversely, that subscription income versus cost of producing and posting the journal is not the only way to think of the Form's finances, which consist of total income vs total expenditure. In a vote by show of hands, 18 members voted for an increase in 2020-2021, and 6 for 2021-2022. Different views were advanced on what should be the amount of the increase, one suggestion being £5 increase for all categories and another for an increase of 20% across the board. It was agreed by a show of hands that an increase of around this amount was acceptable and James Kennedy proposed that the exact amount should be remitted for decision to the Trustees, seconded by Thomas Davidson, carried unanimously.

The External Examiner for the accounts 2018-19 was Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA. Jan Bateman proposed that he be again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2019-2020, seconded by Paul Bishop and agreed unanimously.

Changes to the Constitution

Finlay McKichan proposed, seconded by Niall Logan and carried unanimously that 'prizes and awards' be added to the list in clause 2 of the constitution of methods by which the Forum aims to stimulate interest in local history and encourage high standards in education. He pointed out that this change recognises the addition to our activities of the Birlinn Prize announced earlier and the hoped-for prize for undergraduates.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The following were unanimously re-elected as officers and Trustees of the Scottish Local History Forum:

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)
Douglas Lockhart (Hon Vice Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)
Bill Sadler (Hon Secretary)
Steve Connelly (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
John Irvine (Trustee)
James Kennedy (Trustee)
Don Martin (Trustee)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)

Annie Tindley, having been co-opted during the year, was formally elected a Trustee

There was one vacancy for Trustee but no nominations from the floor. The chair requested members to give thought to proposing a female candidate to improve the gender balance.

The following new members of the Advisory Committee, having been co-opted during the year, were elected:-

Murray Cook
Catherine Gillies
Niall Logan

Any Other Business

On behalf of the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance, Catherine Gillies thanked the SLHF for its support of the heritage workshops which had taken place across Scotland. She recognised that SLHF was the overarching body for promoting Scottish local history and looked forward to working with the Forum.