



# Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SC015850

## MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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**Monday 30 October 2023**

**by Zoom video-conference**

### Apologies

#### Present:

Steve Connelly (SLHF Hon Chair), Jan Bateman (SLHF Hon Treasurer), Andrew Jones (SLHF Hon Secretary), Margaret Bird, Scott Broadfoot, Graham Clark, Linda Clark, Mike Harrison, James Kennedy, Don Martin, Chris Moore, Moira McCord, Finlay McKichan, Sandra Purves, Linda Riddell, Ian Shearer, Nora Solesbury, Jamie Sutherland [18]

#### Apologies:

Ian Copland, Lucy Dean, Iona Roberts, Nicola Small, Flora Wallace, Fiona Watson

### Minute of last meeting

The Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (published on the Forum's website) were adopted without amendment. Proposed James Kennedy, seconded Finlay McKichan, carried *nem con*.

### Annual Report

Steve apologised that attendees had not had the opportunity to see the Annual Report. There had been a delay completing the independent examination of the accounts caused by the transition from the previous examiner (who had retired) to another in the firm. The full Report, including signed-off accounts, will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Steve went on to report on the Forum's activities as they will appear in the Annual Report:

- The Paul Bishop Prize for the best article to appear in the Journal was awarded to Douglas G Lockart for 'The Queen of all Bazaars: Beatrice Clugston (1827-1888)' in issue 111.
- Six e-newsletters were issued during the year. James Kennedy was thanked for his work editing the newsletters – he is stepping down from this task after producing over 20 editions. Thanks were also extended to Linda Clark and Andrew Jones for their assistance in producing and proof-reading the newsletters.
- Don Martin edited and oversaw production of three issues of *Scottish Local History* during the year, and his efforts were duly acknowledged along with those of James Brown who has continued to assist with proof-reading and other tasks.
- In April the Forum held its first in-person Conference since the pandemic, at the Black Watch Museum, Perth on the theme 'Engineering, Science & Technology'. The event was not as well attended as had been hoped.

- A ‘Walk and Talk’ was held in Dundee. Led by Steve, attendees visited Discovery Point and the Verdant Works there, with various points of interest highlighted on the walk between the two sites.

Jan continued by reporting on Forum membership during the year:

- At the end of the membership year (31<sup>st</sup> July) the Forum had 2 honorary, 5 complimentary, 265 individual, 9 student and 122 organisational members. With the exception of honorary, all had decreased since last year.
- We continue to offer a service to member societies of promoting, taking orders and online payments for their publications on our website. There are currently 68 publications and/or books on offer.
- The Forum continues to host the online Directory for Scottish Local History Resources on the website and now has 262 organisations listed.
- The Facebook page has 4.9k followers, has had 4.6k likes, and reached c.1,500 people in the last month.

Jan expressed her thanks to Linda Riddell for taking on the Membership Secretary role that Jan had temporarily covered following the retirement of Doris Williamson in 2022.

## Accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022-31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 – Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)

As the independent examination of the Forum’s accounts has still to be completed Jan advised the meeting of key **DRAFT** figures for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Income is down compared to last year mainly due to a large Gift Aid claim having been made in the previous year and none in the current; also a reduction in membership numbers. Expenditure has inevitably gone up mainly due to increased costs of producing the Journal but also because the Trustees had agreed to run the 2023 Conference (our first face to face since Covid) at a slight deficit to keep the registration fee down. A small deficit is anticipated but the Trustees do not consider this to be of concern. The Forum continues to enjoy very healthy reserves.

The full accounts will be included in the Annual Report document (which was ready on schedule) and published on the Forum’s website, hopefully in the next few weeks. They will also be submitted to OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

In reply to a question from the floor, Jan confirmed that the delay is due to the transition to a different examiner within EQ Accountants LLP, Dundee on the retirement of our previous Examiner, Mark Gallacher there and that there were a few queries on some items still to be resolved.

## Subscription for the year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024-30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Jan Bateman

Jan formally proposed **no** change from the current subscription rates for the membership year 2024-25, noting that the rates had been raised 2 years ago and that the Forum’s finances remain sound. The motion was seconded by Steve and carried *nem con*.

## Appointment of External Examiner – Jan Bateman

Jan formally proposed that EQ Accountants LLP in Dundee 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

Steve started by thanking Colin Brown, Linda Clark, James Kennedy, Nicola Small, and Nora Solesbury who have decided not to stand for re-election at this AGM. He thanked them for their years of service, input and work to the work of the Forum.

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, Linda Clark and Nicola Small were no longer standing for re-election and Dr Lucy Dean now would be standing as a member of the Advisory Committee and not as a Trustee. With those amendments, and no nominations from the floor, there were six Trustees/Office Bearers standing for re-election, proposed and seconded as follows:

	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Steve Connelly, Hon Chair	James Kennedy	Nicola Small
Jan Bateman, Hon Treasurer	Steve Connelly	James Kennedy
Andrew Jones, Hon Secretary	Steve Connelly	James Kennedy
Don Martin	Steve Connelly	James Kennedy
Jamie Sutherland	Steve Connelly	James Kennedy
Linda Riddell	Steve Connelly	James Kennedy

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

It was noted that, with only six Trustees remaining, we are perilously close to the minimum number (five) constitutionally required to keep the Forum functioning.

## Election of Advisory Committee – Andrew Jones (Hon Secretary)

Andrew started by advising that, Niall Logan of Milngavie Heritage Centre and David Oswald of LOCSCOT had intimated they would not be standing for re-election and thanked both for their useful input into the work of the Forum over the years. The eight other existing Advisory Committee members:

Murray Cook	Stirling Council’s Archaeologist
Eve Boyle	Historic Environment Scotland
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

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

In addition: Scott Broadfoot had been nominated to represent LOCSCOT in place of David Oswald, proposed by Andrew Jones and seconded by Steve Connelly; and Dr Lucy Dean had

been nominated to represent the Centre for History, University of Highlands and Islands, proposed by Steve Connelly and seconded by James Kennedy.

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The motions to re-elect the eight existing and two new AC members en bloc was carried *nem con*.

### Any other business

Steve Connelly advised the meeting that the Trustees are discussing undertaking a review of the Forum's activities – where we are, where we are/should be going, and what we need and can do to get there – something that Prof Paul Bishop had in mind to do for some time before his untimely death. We have been put in touch with an external facilitator to help get the most from such an exercise and hope to progress in the early part of 2024. There has been no commitment on expenditure at this stage.

### Date of 2024 AGM

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was provisionally set for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. 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.