



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Soutar Theatre, A K Bell Library, York Place, Perth

25TH OCTOBER – 2012

Present

John Irvine (Hon Chair)
Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)
Jan Bateman (Acting Hon Secretary)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair & Publications Board Chair)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee: Governance)
Diana Webster (Trustee: Events Secretary)

John Anderson
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Trustee)
Anne Carroll
Lynn Corrigan
Richard Cullen
Pamela Draper
Joan Dunnett
Andrew Eadie
Janet Eadie
Liz Farquhar
Iain Flett
Peter Hoad
Bill Inglis
Helena Koumbouzis
Edward Stewart
Joy Maygothling
Fiona Musk
Joan Pilling
George Proudfoot
Alison Ramsay
Anne Robertsson
George Robertson
Joanne Wishart

Apologies

Nanette Anderson
David Affleck
Susan Beckley (Trustee)
June Brebner
James Coleman
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)
Iona Roberts

Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed: Edward Stewart
Seconded: George Robertson

Annual Report – John Irvine (Hon Chair)

I must begin by extending my thanks to the Publications Board for their splendid efforts with the Forum's Journal – its new format and use of colour has been complimented by many of our members. In 2012 we have returned to 3 issues per year. This has been possible due to the stabilisation of finances through increased membership and taking in advertising revenue for the journal.

I must also thank Diana Webster for her skills in arranging the Forum's conferences during 2012 and for her efforts in producing the artwork for the conference leaflets and other items during the year.

Eric Graham & Jan Bateman are doing an excellent job as treasurer and secretary respectively and I will be proposing that Jan steps into the secretary's position officially at this year's AGM.

Douglas Lockhart has been a great asset helping recruit new members and selling back numbers of our journal. We are keen to attend some new venues during 2013 to promote the Forum.

The 2011 Conference was held in Glasgow, in the Renfield Centre. The subject being Travellers, Turnpikes and Tar – 1000 years of Scotland's Roads. This was an outstanding success with in excess of 130 attendees. The Spring workshop and talks held in the Maryhill Burgh Halls was something of an experiment. Feedback was positive, particularly about the contributions from member societies and although only 40 attended (it was cup final day), it gave those who did attend the opportunity to circulate and interact with fellow members. We need to build on this.

As we are well aware the finances for such a small organisation as ourselves are fairly limited but we closed the year in a healthy position, due to a number of initiatives in developing new revenue streams and promoting the Forum in order to stimulate membership.

During 2012 we sold 2 ½ pages of full colour advertising for each journal to organisations which are compatible with our values and objectives. We aim to continue this in 2013. We are also now going out and actively recruiting new members. To do this we have attended fairs of sister associations. Journals have been on sale in previous years at various events and back issues have been sold at our conferences. We have now taken the step of retailing our journal through the National Library of Scotland, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Records of Scotland on a trial basis. This is an excellent way of promoting the Forum to new audiences and gaining new members. Follow-up orders have been received from all three organisations. We are also placing articles which promote the Forum in other publications and websites to make interested parties aware of our existence. These include: The 'Burns Chronicle' (which has a worldwide Scots circulation), the 'Scots in London' website, the FHS, and the Carnegie Trust's journal. We also now have developed a standard power-point presentation which can be used whenever the opportunity arises. In the coming year we wish to resurrect our links with all Scottish Universities and Colleges and develop links with government agencies. We have also applied for a lottery grant for a special project to host a database of suffragists on a re-vamped website (the public face of the Forum) so that local societies can access them to conduct their own further research.

We welcome participation in the management of the Forum from both individual members and members from societies and other affiliated organisations. To this end we are proposing a change in the Constitution to create an Advisory Committee made up of members from affiliated organisations. We also seek volunteers from the membership to help with various projects and ventures.

Accounts for the Year 2011–2012 – Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)

There was a surplus of £769 for the year (compared to a surplus of £1999 last year), but giftaid has not yet been claimed (this accounted for over £500 of revenue last year). However we have produced 3 journals this year (compared to two last year) and significantly improved the quality of the journals (including colour etc). In general we have significantly expanded our activities – our turnover (and operations) has increased by a third compared to last year: from just over £8000 to over £12000. Particularly pleasing is our increase in revenues, both by increasing membership, by sale of journals, and through appropriate advertising in the journal (the revenue for which is reinvested in the Journal). Also we have managed two conferences this year – which overall have been profitable. Our reserves have increased, we had over £8000 in the bank at the end of the financial year and are in a healthy position going forward.

A draft set of accounts were distributed to those present. See Appendix A.

Subscriptions for 2012 – 2013

It was proposed by the Hon Treasurer Eric Graham (and unanimously agreed by those present) that the annual subscription fees remain unchanged from 2011 – 2012 for the forthcoming year (2012–2013) and are as follows:

Individual member: £20
Organisational member: £26
Organisational member (2 copies): £30
Student member: £10

Amendments to the Constitution

The amendments to the Constitution (outlined below) to bring an Advisory Committee into existence were proposed by Finlay McKichan and approved unanimously at the AGM.

Deletions Additions

5. Membership

5.1 Individuals

Membership shall be open to all persons aged sixteen and over *and also, on an affiliated basis, to organisations and institutions concerned with Scottish local history, such as libraries, museums, archive centres, historical societies, local authorities and voluntary associations.*

5.2 Affiliated Associations.

Any association, society or club or organisation which applies to become an Affiliated Association shall be admitted as such subject to:

5.2.1. it being an association, society or club which supports the Aims and Objectives of the Forum as in Para 2 of this constitution.

5.2.2. it agreeing to pay the membership subscription set for Affiliated Associations at the AGM of The Forum

5.2.3. Representatives of Affiliated Associations shall be eligible for membership by election to the Advisory Committee of The Forum.

6. Advisory Committee. [New paragraph]

6.1 The Advisory Committee shall be a Sub-Committee of the Forum and shall discharge such duties and responsibilities as may be prescribed by the Trustees from time to time, with particular responsibility for representing the views and opinions of members of the Affiliated Associations.

6.2 The Advisory Committee shall consist of all the members of the Trustees Committee and such other members as may be elected from time to time from among the members of Affiliated Associations.

6.3 Unless otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of elected members of the Advisory Committee shall not exceed 15.

6.4 Each member of the Advisory Committee who is not a Trustee shall be elected to serve for an initial term of three years at the end of which he may be re-elected for a further period of three years and shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year after his term in office.

6.5 The Trustees shall be empowered to co-opt members to the Advisory Committee, the co-option to expire at the following AGM.

[Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered]

Election of Advisory Committee

The following were unanimously elected to the Advisory Committee:

Linda Ann Clark, North Kessock and District Local History Society
Proposed John McDonald, seconded Catherine Cumming

Seamus Coleman, Croy Historical Society
Proposed Don Martin, seconded Ron Morecroft

Helena Koumbouzis, Milngavie and Bearsden Historical Society
Proposed Hamish McDougall, seconded Joyce Avery

Alan Provan, Elie and Earlsferry History Society
Proposed Seamus Meacher MBE, seconded Albert Lawrie

George Robertson, Dunfermline Historical Society
Proposed Elaine Campbell, seconded John Barclay.

Election of Officers and Trustees

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

John Irvine (Hon Chair)
Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair)

Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Diana Webster (Trustee)
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)
Susan Beckley (Trustee)
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Trustee)
Ken Bogle (Trustee).

Appointment of External Examiner

The External Examiner for the accounts 2011-2012 was Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA. Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer) proposed that Mark Gallagher was again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2012-1013. It was seconded by Ian Flett and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business

The date for the next AGM will be advised and advertised on the website. There being no other business raised, the AGM was declared closed by the Honorary Chair, John Irvine.