



# Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

## MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Zoom video conference

25th OCTOBER 2021

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### Present

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)  
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)  
Andrew Jones (Hon Secretary)  
James Kennedy (Trustee)  
Don Martin (Trustee)  
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)  
Jamie Sutherland (Trustee)  
James Brown (Trustee)  
Nicola Small (Trustee)  
Nora Solesbury (Trustee)  
Linda Clark (Trustee)  
Bill Sadler (Trustee)

William Johnstone  
Anne Doubal  
Catherine Chorley  
Graham Clark  
Alison Diamond  
Sandra Purves  
James McCormack  
Doris Williamson  
Niall Logan  
Ian Copeland  
Colin Brown  
Anne Bulman  
Mike Harrison  
Linda Riddell  
Una MacFadyen

**Apologies:** Elena Koumbouzi, Steve Connelly.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 29 October 2020 (available on the Forum's website) were adopted without amendment. Proposed James Kennedy, seconded Graham Clark, carried *nem con*.

### **Annual Report – Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)**

Paul highlighted a number of points in the Annual Report. He thanked Jan Bateman for managing the Forum's finances well and for the considerable effort of processing our Gift Aid claim. He thanked the editor Don Martin, all the authors and MDPD for enabling our journal *Scottish Local History* to go from strength to strength. Don has now edited 30 issues, a very considerable achievement. Paul thanked James Kennedy for so successfully completing his first full year in charge of our online newsletter *Clish-Clash*. He thanked Steve Connelly for all his work in rearranging the conference *Taking Part: Aspects of Scottish Sports and Pastimes*, postponed from 2020 because of the Pandemic and to be delivered by Zoom on the evenings of 10 and 11 November. He thanked the speakers who had contributed to the Zoom mini-conference *Scotland's Involvement in Slavery: The Local View* in April. It was well attended and had increased the Forum's public profile. He thanked Jan Bateman, Jamie Sutherland and James Brown for their social media work, notably on Facebook, which is believed to have played a part in increasing the Forum's individual membership from around 250 to around 300. Dealing with plans for the future Paul emphasised that the 2020 Conference had been postponed, not cancelled as indicated in the draft Annual Report, and advised that another Zoom mini-conference, *Scotland's Opposition to Slavery: The Local View*, would be held on 26 and 27 January 2022. In conclusion, he was sure the Forum had enjoyed a successful year and had coped well with the demands of Covid 19.

### **Accounts for the Year 2020-2021 and subscription rates 2022-2023– Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)**

Jan noted that, as shown in the Annual Accounts, income was slightly down for the year to 31 July 2021 and website costs greatly increased because two invoices for website maintenance were paid in the same financial year. In consequence there was a deficit of £2286. However, revenue from online licensing had increased and next year's income should be bolstered by around £5000 of Gift Aid, derived from

subscriptions for four years. Thanks to the substantial Bainbridge Legacy, reserves on 31 July were £26,827.

Jan explained that a subscription increase had been authorised by the 2019 AGM, but not implemented due to the Pandemic. The Trustees had agreed to propose for year 2022-23 the increase in subscription that had been approved at the 2019 AGM. The intended new subscription rates for October 2022 are: Individual £28; Organisation with one Journal copy £35; Organisation with two Journal copies £44; Overseas £50; and Student £14. This would be the first increase for about 7 years. These rates were proposed by Paul Bishop, seconded by James Kennedy and approved *nem con*.

The External Examiner for the accounts 2020-21 was Mark Gallagher, CA, EQ Accountants, who performs the work *pro bono*. Jan proposed that he be again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2021-22, seconded by Andrew Jones and approved *nem con*.

### **Changes to the Constitution**

Finlay McKichan explained that the purpose of the proposed amendments, which had been intimated to attending members, was to authorise the Trustees to co-opt to fill any vacancy among the office bearers and Trustees, such co-option to last until the next AGM. The proposed amendments were to two clauses of the Constitution:-

Clause 11.4 to read 'In the event of the resignation or death of an Officer, the Trustees shall elect from among their number a replacement, who shall stand down or seek re-election at the next AGM'.

Clause 15 last sentence to read 'On the death or resignation of a Trustee, the Trustees shall have power to co-opt a replacement Trustee, who shall stand down or seek re-election at the next AGM'.

Approval of these amendments was proposed by James Kennedy, seconded by Don Martin and carried *nem con*.

### **Election of Honorary President, Officers and Trustees**

Andrew Jones advised that, as Professor Chris Whatley had been elected as Honorary President at the 2020 AGM for a five-year term, there was no requirement for an election for the position this year.

Finlay McKichan proposed the election of the following Trustees and Office Bearers who had been already in office or co-opted during the year, seconded by Sandra Purves:-

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)  
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)  
Andrew Jones (Hon Secretary)  
James Brown (Trustee)  
Linda Clark (Trustee)  
Steve Connelly (Trustee)  
James Kennedy (Trustee)  
Don Martin (Trustee)  
Nora Solesbury (Trustee)  
Nicola Small (Trustee)  
Jamie Sutherland (Trustee)

Andrew Jones proposed, seconded by Paul Bishop, that Colin Brown, a nomination from the floor, should be elected to fill the final vacancy.

As there were no further nominations, these members were elected *nem con*.

### **Election of Advisory Committee**

Andrew Jones proposed the election of the following to the Advisory Committee, seconded by Paul Bishop:-

Elena Koumpouzi, East Dunbartonshire Heritage and History Forum  
Niall Logan, Milngavie Heritage Centre  
Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist  
Eve Boyle, Historic Environment Scotland  
David Oswald, LOCSCOT  
Ian Shearer, Friends of Kinneil  
Ian Copland, Cupar Heritage Society  
Sandra Purves, Broughton History Society  
Ian Duffus, Edinburgh Libraries)  
Annie Tindley, Affiliated Association to be clarified  
Patrick Hart, National Library of Scotland

These nominations were carried *nem con*.

Finlay McKichan, in thanking committee members as retiring AC Chair, noted that Linda Clark and Elena Koumpouzi had been members since the AC was established in 2012. He suggested that the AC had been of particular value during the Pandemic in keeping Trustees in touch with strategies being adopted by other organisations.

### **Any Other Business**

Paul Bishop thanked for their services to the Forum various members who have demitted office:-

Jennifer Giles, an AC member, who played an important part in setting up the online Local History Directory and was a valuable liaison with the National Library of Scotland.

Catherine Gillies, an AC member, for maintaining contact with the heritage sector.

Linda Clark, an AC member, for ably representing the North of Scotland on the Advisory Committee and agreeing now to become a Trustee.

Graeme Cruickshank for his services as a Trustee at various times in the Forum's history and his especial contribution in its early years.

Bill Sadler for his services as Honorary Secretary and a voice for the North of Scotland in Trustee meetings.

Annie Tindley for her conference papers and valuable links with *History Scotland* magazine.

Finlay McKichan for his services as Minute Secretary, on governance and support for Paul when he became a Trustee and subsequently Hon. Chair.

Paul also announced that the winner of the annual prize for the best paper in *Scottish Local History* in 2021, sponsored by Birlinn Limited, is Dr Graham M. Clark for his article 'A Survey of Corrugated-iron Churches in Scotland' in Issue 108.

A question was raised from the floor about whether our constitution should be amended to permit Zoom meetings. Jan Batemen suggested this was not necessary as the constitution does not specify the medium of meetings and the Annual Report makes clear that meetings have been held by Zoom during the Pandemic.

James Kennedy noted Paul's impressive leadership and development of the Forum.

**Next meeting** – To be announced.