**Scottish Place-Name Society**

**Comann Ainmean Àite na h-Alba**

**AGM minutes**

*Saturday 5th May 2018 at Perth Museum and Art Gallery*

Committee members present: Thomas Clancy, Liz Curtis, Peter Drummond, Carole Hough (chair), Kelly Kilpatrick, Alan Macniven, Bill Patterson. 29 ordinary members present.

1. Welcome and apologies: Ellen Bramwell, Alice Crook, Alison Grant, Margaret MacKay and Guy Puzey.

2. The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted subject to a revision of 'a trustee's savings account' to 'a Trustee Savings Bank account' in item 5.

3. Matters arising:

Carole Hough reported in relation to Item 7 that conference details are now appearing on the website in plenty of time, but that setting up an email list has proved more difficult. Peter Drummond reported that Item 5 line 3 should read 'a Trustee Savings Bank account' not 'a trustee's savings account' (see Item 2 above).

4. Convenor's report:

Carole highlighted some of the main activities of the year, including the two day conferences in Galashiels (6 May 2017) and Glasgow (4 November 2017). The latter was held jointly with the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, which had also come to Scotland for its annual weekend conference (Arran, 6-9 April 2018). The reach of place-name studies in Scotland had been extended by the continuing popularity of a weekly ‘Name the Place’ quiz on Radio Scotland’s Kaye Adams programme, and by the success of our revamped website, which was attracting increasing numbers of visitors across the world. Many thanks to Simeon Krastov not only for taking charge of the website but for monitoring the traffic figures.

The Survey of Scottish Place-Names was making excellent progress, with *The Place-Names of Kinross-shire* having been launched at the November conference, and *The Place-Names of Clackmannanshire* at an advanced stage of preparation. Both were outputs of the AHRC-funded project “Scottish Place-Names in Transition” led by Thomas Clancy. *The Place-Names of Berwickshire* vol. 1 would soon go to press, and SNSBI had kindly agreed to contribute £1,000 towards publication costs. This and an online resource for Berwickshire place-names were outputs of a current project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, “Recovering the Earliest English Language in Scotland: evidence from place-names”. The resource would be launched at the autumn conference on 17 November at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh, to be held jointly with the Scottish Records Association.

The Society has a robust membership, who underpin all its achievements. Carole concluded by paying tribute to two recently deceased members, Bob Henery and Iseabail Macleod, both of whom were strong supporters of SPNS. Those present stood in their memory.

5. Treasurer's report:

Peter Drummond reported that the membership is the main source of income. There are now 65 life members. The bookshop has been closed so the cost of conferences has been slightly raised, to compensate for the loss of income. An extra conference was held last year, which raised the overall cost of that year's conferences. There is no figure given for value from books since any figure would be largely notional - they are not really an asset because there are stocks which are unlikely to sell. With £15,945 in the Nationwide account, the Society's financial position is healthy and it can afford to subsidise *The Place- Names of Berwickshire* vol. 1.

John Baldwin asked if the Society had thought of using eBay to sell books. This was passed to the Committee for discussion.

6. Newsletter Editor's report:

Bill Patterson referred to the good work being done by Simeon on the website, and said he had been discussing with Simeon what could be done to put SPNS higher on the list when searches are made. One way of doing this is to make more mutual links with other organisations. He is grateful for the articles submitted to the Newsletter and is always happy to have offerings of short articles or attractive photographs, especially of the north and the islands (as he does not often get to those areas), and of facetious items. If anyone would like to 'have a go' at newsletter editing, he would be glad to introduce them.

7. Constitution amendment:

The present constitution gives no flexibility in relation to numbers on the committee. This could be addressed by changing Item 6 of the Society's Constitution to read, 'The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of five office-bearers, between five and seven ordinary members, and the power to co-opt two other members.' Proposed by John Baldwin, seconded by Morag Redford.

8. Elections for Committee posts:

Leonie Dunlop (now called Leonie Mhari) is stepping down as secretary: Liz Curtis has agreed to take on the role. Leslie Fraser was nominated to the Committee by Liz Curtis, seconded by Carole Hough. Simon Taylor was nominated to the Committee by Thomas Clancy, seconded by Kelly Kilpatrick. The remaining committee members would be re-elected *en bloc*. Proposed by David Munro, seconded by Eilidh Sgaimeal.

9. AOCB:

Eilidh Sgaimeal reported that Ainmean Àite na h-Alba has produced new leaflets to go with its new website, www.gaelicplacenames.org.