



scottish place-name society comann ainmean-àite na h-alba

Minutes of the AGM held online from 9.00am on Saturday 2 May 2020

Committee members participating: Carole Hough (convener), Ellen Bramwell, Liz Curtis, Peter Drummond, Alison Grant, Alan Macniven, Leonie Mhari, Bill Patterson, Guy Puzey, Simon Taylor.

Ordinary members participating: Ian Bramwell, Alice Crook, Jane Drummond, Sofia Evemalm, Jim Gillies, Alison Halley, Keith Halley, Alan James, Simeon Krastev, Shawn Ledingham, Iain MacIlleChiar, Peadar Morgan, Diana Whaley, Alasdair Whyte, John Garth Wilkinson, Eila Williamson.

1. Preliminaries

Members were thanked for participating in the AGM, held online due to the Covid-19 crisis. All associated documentation was available on the SPNS website, and queries or comments could be submitted through the Contact form on the website.

2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted as a correct record. Proposed: Iain MacIlleChiar. Seconded: Alan James.

3. Convener's report

Carole Hough presented the following report:

The main activities of the year included the two day conferences in Dundee (11 May 2019) and Arrochar (2 November 2019). Both were well attended, and summaries of most papers have been published in the Society's two annual newsletters. Many newsletter articles are also now available online, as the Society's website continues to add an increasing range of resources. This is of course all the more important at the present time, when the coronavirus lockdown has forced the cancellation of our planned spring conference at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye. We hope to be able to hold it there in May 2021 instead, and are very grateful to the staff at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for their flexibility.

Progress continues to be made on the core work of research into place-name origins, with two volumes of the Survey of Scottish Place-Names nearing completion. If all goes according to schedule, both *The Place-Names of Clackmannanshire* and *The Place-Names of Berwickshire Volume 1* will be published within the next year.

Ongoing outreach activities over the last year include talks to local groups and societies by members of the committee and others, and the weekly “Name The Place” quiz on Radio Scotland’s Kaye Adams Programme. In addition, the SPNS newsletter featured in an episode of “Have I Got News For You” on BBC1 on 10 April 2020.

As I reach the end of my three-year term as Convener at this AGM, it is my pleasure to thank all the committee for their hard work, together with Simeon Krastev as webmaster, and to wish my successor Alan Macniven every success in this interesting and enjoyable role.

4. Treasurer’s report

Peter Drummond presented the accounts, and reported on them as follows:

In the course of the year, we made a surplus of over £700, largely due to a very successful pair of conferences, at Dundee and Arrochar. (Comparison with the previous year’s conferences finances is not strictly comparable since the finances for the November 2018 conference, jointly with NRS, were handled on both parties’ behalf by NRS).

Membership fee income is down by c.£400 compared to the previous year, largely due a fall in the numbers taking out life membership, which is inevitable going forward. We now have 79 life members, 73 members who pay by standing order and a further 127 members who pay as and when due, total 279.

We end the financial year in a strong situation, and I would like to thank all the members for their support.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted. Proposed: Liz Curtis. Seconded: Bill Patterson

5. Newsletter Editor’s report

Bill Patterson reported as follows:

As ever I thank contributors to the two Newsletter issues published during the year, for providing such interesting and readable material. I am also very grateful to Simeon Krastev for ably adapting newsletter content for use on the website, and share the gratitude of other committee members for his advice and guidance to the committee on IT matters.

The Autumn 2020 Newsletter will inevitably be an unusual one. Its main content would normally be based on talks given to the Spring Conference on Skye, which for reasons only too well known has had to be postponed till May 2021. The issue will therefore depend on articles and smaller items of general interest unrelated to the intended programme for the conference. Members are therefore encouraged to get in touch with me (at pn.patterson3dr@btinternet.com) to discuss proposed articles or shorter items (humorous stories most welcome!) for the next Newsletter, due out in September. They would be needed by the end of August, but preferably sooner.

Looking back through old issues I note that I first edited the Newsletter when my eldest granddaughter had just learned to walk. She is due to start at University this autumn, which is a reminder that it would be no bad thing for the Society if someone else were, perhaps gradually, to take over the work of compiling the Newsletter. For an informal discussion, anyone interested is warmly invited to contact me; for the time being that would have to be by e-mail.

6. Future conferences

No arrangements had yet been made for the autumn 2020 conference, due to the uncertainty as to the situation regarding Covid-19. The spring 2021 conference will be held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, Isle of Skye. The provisional date is Saturday 22 May 2021, but this is yet to be confirmed.

7. Elections for committee posts

Ellen Bramwell and Kelly Kilpatrick were stepping down from the SPNS committee, and were thanked for their contributions over the years. Two new nominations (Sofia Evemalm and Alasdair Whyte) had been received. Carole Hough had come to the end of her three-year term as Convener but was happy to stay on as a committee member. Alan Macniven, the current Vice-Convener, had agreed to take on the role of Convener, and Simon Taylor, a current committee member, had agreed to take on the role of Vice-Convener. The rest of the committee were happy to stay on in their current roles: Liz Curtis (Secretary), Peter Drummond (Treasurer), Bill Patterson (Newsletter Editor), Leslie Fraser, Alison Grant, Leonie Mhari, Guy Puzey (ordinary committee members), Thomas Clancy (*ex officio*, Director of Survey of Scottish Place-Names).

Alan Macniven was elected as Convener. Proposed: Bill Patterson. Seconded: Carole Hough.

Simon Taylor was elected as Vice-Convener. Proposed: Peter Drummond. Seconded: Liz Curtis.

Sofia Evemalm was elected as a committee member. Proposed: Carole Hough. Seconded: Guy Puzey.

Alasdair Whyte was elected as a committee member. Proposed Simon Taylor. Seconded: Liz Curtis.

The rest of the committee were re-elected. Proposed: John Garth Wilkinson. Seconded: Simeon Krastev.

8. AOB

Excellent news from Alan James was that a 2020 edition of BLITON is now available on the website.

The online meeting closed at 4.00pm.