

Scottish Place-Name Society : Comann Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba
Annual General Meeting 9am
Spring Conference 21st May 2022 Skye

In Attendance: Alan Macniven (Convener, chairing) [**AMacn**]; Pete Drummond (Treasurer) [**PD**]; Bill Patterson (Newsletter) [**BP**]; Sofia Evemalm-Graham (Social Media) [**SEG**]; Simon Taylor (Vice-Convener) [**ST**], Eilidh Scammel (committee member) [**ES**] Alasdair Whyte (committee member) [**AW**], Thomas Clancy (Survey of Scottish Place-Names) [**TC**]

Plus c.18 Ordinary Members.

Apologies: Liz Curtis, Alison Grant, Carole Hough, Simeon Krastev, John Baldwin, Sìne Gillesbuig, Guy Puzey.

Minutes taken by TC

1. Welcome and Apologies

AMacn welcomed everyone and passed on apologies.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Minutes of previous AGM were reviewed and accepted [ST proposing; ES seconding].

3. Convener's Report

AMacn reviewed the year's activities:

- two online conferences, with up to 100 people each conference
- expanding contacts and promotion of the society
- work on finding new ways of working / doing things, including growing social media presence.
- Website: have greatly increased the resources available (esp. thanks to Liz Curtis).
- Thoughts about SPNS merchandise?

- AMacn thanked various people for service on the committee, and especially Liz Curtis and Carole Hough who are stepping down from committee (and LC from role as Secretary)

- AMacn expressed the positive aspects of the past couple of years' experience, and especially the links established through online conferences. In future, it is proposed, we should look to potentially having hybrid events; and perhaps to alternating live v online conferences (one in person, the next online): something committee will take forward.

4. Treasurer's report

PD had circulated a paper representing the Treasurer's Report.

He noted the following points:

- Impact of online conferences: turnover had halved.

- Noted surpluses in accounts, but this was largely owing to a number of new life memberships, so not something which will be replicated.
- Noted increasing prices, and the modestly increased membership fee.

5. Newsletter editor report

BP reported on the current situation:

- Printing issues: up until now overseas members etc were getting paper copies but that will change.
- BP expressed gratitude to the contributors who fill pages of the newsletter
- Noted the need for supply of good front page photos.
- Would welcome submissions from speakers at Skye conference
- And would very much welcome a successor [discussions below under item 9]

ST thanked BP and noted that finding his successor should be a priority for the Society

6. Social Media Officer report

SEG gave an update on developments in SPNS social media, noting:

- The Instagram account. Various content has been posted; contributors so far limited to committee members.
- SEG has been publicising the SPNS on twitter, and will be trialling live-tweeting from conference at Skye conference. (@scotplacenames)

7. Webmaster's report

AMacn summarised Simeon Krastev's report (posted to AGM); welcomed comments.

8. Elections etc.

AMacn noted that there were 2 positions open on the Committee, including a vacancy for **Secretary**. AMacn outlined the position of Secretary and asked for volunteers/ ideas. (No immediate volunteers—TC clarified that his minuting this AGM was not him volunteering.) Iain MacIllechiar suggested that one could fill post of “minute secretary”, and upscale the role from there if individual would be interested in starting smaller. AMacn will send an email out to Society noting this vacancy.

9. Editing of Newsletter

AMacn noted also the need for successor in role of **Newsletter editor**, leading to discussion:

- ES noted support for idea of tapering someone in to role
- JK suggested that perhaps this could be done by a group of people who did it on a collaborative basis
- TC asked about balance between getting articles from contributors and pagesetting; BP noted that if newsletter went entirely online the pagesetting would be streamlined
- Jake King questioned the need for paper copies; Iain MacIllechiar noted that many members appreciated paper copies
- TC noted the “lift” the Newsletter received from its format, and worried this would be lost if entirely online.
- ST supported idea of trying to find someone in first instance who wanted to help with pagesetting

- Iain MacIllechiar asked whether there might be grants to support this work; TC worried that grants of this sort more likely for one-off jobs than something perennial like this.
- AMacn agreed the issue would go to the Committee

A Macn noted that we were 2 Committee members down, and said we could co-opt members between this AGM and next, and get confirmation at next AGM.

- Jane Drummond expressed interest.
- Discussion about role of virtual meetings in allowing a geographically wider membership: confirmation of virtual meetings for foreseeable future
- Iain MacIllechiar noted he was interested in committee membership if virtual meetings

AMacn noted from online contributions that Alan James had urged more cross-promotion of SPNS within other societies.

10. Formalities

Online: reports accepted. In hall: ES proposed, Jake King seconded:

- **Reports accepted**

Committee proposed for re-election: Iain MacIllechiar proposed; Alison Halley seconded:

- **Committee re-elected**

AMacn had thanked everyone for attendance

ST thanked AMacn for his hard work as Convener [applause].

Meeting declared ended, and conference begun.