

West of Scotland
Dry Stone Walling Association
Scottish Charity No SCO 39439

Annual General Meeting
McLintock Memorial Hall, Balfron
Sunday 1st November 2015

Meeting

Sederunt: Iain Couttie, John Hendry, Colin Goodchild, Derek Winter, Gordon Millar, Ronnie Reid, Jim McLachlan, Dave Barber, Alan Patrick, Sam Gibson, Archie McKechnie, Alistair Eadie, Russ Liddell, Daniel McNaughton, Richard Fedorko, Gordon Grey, Dave Lutwyche, Norman Muir, John New, Paul Webb, Alistair McGeogh, Neil Barlow.

Apologies: Adrian Whitaker, Sarah Jones, Isabel Ewing, Ian Jeffcoate, Dougie/Margaret Neilson.

Agenda Item 1 - Minutes of the AGM 2014

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 2nd November 2014 were proposed by John Hendry, seconded by Jim McLachlan and passed as a true record of the proceedings.

Agenda Item 2 - Finance Report

The Treasurer submitted the annual accounts as per the Annual Submission to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015.

An exceptional item – the purchase of a ‘new’ van – was more than offset by increased training course fees and a substantial jump in donations. Funds in the bank now stand at over £7000.

Recommendation of the balance sheet as a true record of the accounts was proposed by Alan Patrick, seconded by Iain Couttie and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report

This was given by the Chairman (copy attached) as per the Annual Submission to OSCR for the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015.

This was a season of straightforward walling – build and repair – and made a change from our usual community projects.

Gardening Scotland saw us build a ‘Time Garden’ with a sundial set against a dry stone wall. An added feature saw a laminar flow of water passing through the wall on to the sundial at hourly intervals. All very scientific but well received by everyone who visited our display.

We also paid visits to the Kilmacolm Show and Auchindrain Museum where our endeavours excited the interest of the resident archaeologists when we unearthed a fire place built into the wall line.

Our test site at Kilsyth continues to be used by wallers from across Scotland and will be maintained and improved in the years ahead.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Office Bearers

At this point the committee demitted office and the election for 2015/16 office bearers took place. As previously intimated 3 committee members, including chairman Norman Muir, were not standing for re-election this year.

Chairman: The vacant post of chairman was filled by John New after accepting nomination by Iain Couttie and Derek Winter (proposer/seconded) and being approved unanimously by the meeting. His one proviso was that a deputy chairman also be elected to share his work load. This was agreed.

Deputy Chairman: Alan Patrick was elected to this new post after being proposed by Jim McLachlan, seconded by John Hendry and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Treasurer: Jim McLachlan accepted an invitation to become the new Treasurer after being proposed by John New and seconded by Iain Couttie. His appointment was also approved unanimously by the meeting.

Secretary: Paul Webb agreed to stand for re-election and with no other nominations was elected to post for next season after being proposed by Norman Muir and seconded by Alistair Eadie.

Committee Members: As previously indicated Iain Couttie and Ronnie Reid were standing down from the committee and both were thanked for their past contribution. Gordon Grey and Dave Barber were put forward as replacements and along with the rest of the committee – John Hendry, Colin Goodchild and Derek Winter – agreed to stand for election for next season. The new committee was proposed by Norman Muir, seconded by Iain Couttie and approved unanimously.

New chairman John New gave an acceptance speech in which he thanked members for placing their trust in him and also praised outgoing chairman Norman Muir for his 12 years in post which had resulted in West of Scotland becoming one of the strongest and most successful branches in the country.

Agenda Item 5 – 2016 Programme

A draft programme of events has yet to be compiled but active consideration is being given for the branch to get involved in the Horatio's Garden project planned for the National Spinal Injuries unit at the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

Erskine Hospital celebrate their centenary next year and we would hope to continue our close relationship with them and mark the milestone with a permanent feature which would preview at Gardening Scotland first.

Agenda Item 6 – Any other business

It was decided to approach Historic Scotland regarding the Engine Shed, Stirling. This building is currently under restoration to be used as Scotland's Building Conservation Centre and members felt it would be a good opportunity to promote our craft to the wider public.

Thanks to all who donated cakes and refreshments for the AGM.

Finally the committee would like to wish the entire branch a happy Xmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to meeting up again when the walling season resumes in the Spring.