

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

Annual General Meeting
McLintock Memorial Hall, Balfron
Sunday 3rd November 2019

Meeting

Sederunt: Alistair Eadie, John Hendry, Ronnie Reid, Gordon Gray, Russ Liddell, Jeff Hattie, Hayley Macmillan, Fred Reilly, Richard Donald, Brenda Nicholson, Colin Nicholson, John New, David Mackie, Derek Winter, Dave Lutwyche, Daniel McNaughton, Alan Patrick, Gordon Millar, Norman Muir, Crawford Andrew, Paul Webb, Alistair McGeoch, Dave Barber, Mike Thornley, Judy McMeekin.

Apologies: John Anderson, Ian Marshall, Jane Shields, John Rankin, Evelyn McCubbin.

Prior to the start of the formal proceedings, Dave Barber gave a presentation on the proposed new website. The current website will be replaced over the following months with a new modernised/updated version with many new features added including an online shop.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the AGM 2018

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 4th November 2018 were proposed by Crawford Andrew, seconded by Dave Barber and passed as a true record of the proceedings.

Agenda Item 2 – Annual Report

This was given by the chairman (copy attached) as per the Annual Submission to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for the period 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019.

Another busy season followed up on many projects carried over from 2018 – Greenock Bumble Bee Corridor, Hermitage Park, Helensburgh to name a few. The Arrochar Alps was the fantastic setting for a project which entailed the construction of a boat seat and wall at a local viewing point. Getting the stone on site was certainly worth the effort!

As usual we ran three beginners' training courses over the season. They proved very successful with six new members joining the branch.

The annual branch dinner was replaced this year with a summer barbecue which was held at Blackmill, Kilsyth courtesy of Alan and Alison Patrick. It turned out a great day and the branch would like to thank the hosts for their kind hospitality. Another barbecue is planned for next year at the same venue.

Congratulations to Crawford Andrew on passing his Level 1 walling test this year.

Agenda Item 3 – Finance Report

Chairman John New submitted the annual accounts as per the Annual Submission to OSCR for the period 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019.

Capital expenditure was high this year - £4000 – due to the necessary purchase of a ‘new’ van which came about due to the “spectacular” failure of the old one at the annual MOT. Despite this setback, funds in the bank are still healthy at just over £5000.

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

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Office Bearers

At this point the committee demitted office and the election of 2019/20 office bearers took place. Paul Webb intimated that he was not seeking re-election as secretary. Dan Beaman had already indicated that he would not be seeking re-election as treasurer.

Chairman: John New was re-elected to post after being proposed by Richard Donald, seconded by Alan Patrick and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Deputy Chairman: Gordon Gray was re-elected to post after being unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

Treasurer: Chairman John New was appointed acting treasurer after being proposed by Derek Winter, seconded by Alan Patrick and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Secretary: Dave Barber was appointed new secretary after being proposed by Alan Patrick, seconded by Alistair McGeoch and approved unanimously by the meeting. Dave will combine the secretarial role with his IT commitments.

Committee Members: Derek Winter intimated that he was standing down from the committee. The branch would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his past contribution and input.

All other existing members, including Paul Webb who stood down as secretary, agreed to stand for re-election. Jeff Hattie and Crawford Andrew also put their names forward to fill two vacancies. All nominations were proposed by Richard Donald, seconded by Derek Winter and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – 2020 Programme

To be advised.

Agenda Item 6 – Any other business

To help with the compilation of the annual programme and to understand what members want from the WSDSWA going forward, it was agreed that an online questionnaire be circulated seeking ideas and opinions.

Gordon Gray and Norman Muir both advised that, for the branch to continue being successful, more new members needed to sit the walling tests. This was essential for accreditation and insurance purposes.

It was pointed out that in other parts of the country, some branches have the ‘luxury’ of using professional wallers to mentor members before putting them forward to sit a test.

WSDSWA members will continue to mentor other members but “we need members on the ground regularly” confirmed the chairman.

Chairman John New thanked members for the good turnout and the meeting closed at 3.50pm.