

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

Annual General Meeting
McLintock Memorial Hall, Balforn
Sunday 4th November 2018, 2:00pm.

Meeting

Sederunt: Crawford Andrew, Alistair McGeoch, John New, Paul Webb, Alan Patrick, Gordon Gray, John Hendry, Russ Liddell, Daniel McNaughton, Dan Beaman, Gordon Millar, Ronnie Reid, Derek Winter, Ann Winter, Dave Barber, Alistair Eadie, John Campbell, Richard Donald, Sam Gibson, Judy McMeekin.

Apologies: Iain Couttie, Eric Smith, Neil Paterson, Jeff Hattie, Andy Whyte, Colin McKellar, Norman Muir, Isabel Ewing, Jane Shields, Morag Pollock, Kyle Arnot, Mike Thornley, John Crozier, John McCarron.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the AGM 2017

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 5th November 2017 were proposed by Alistair McGeoch, seconded by Gordon Millar 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 2017 to 31st August 2018.

2018 got off to an inauspicious start with the cancellation of the annual dinner due to the heavy snow in late February.

The first training course in March got the season underway with an excellent turnout of 18 attendees on the day. The other two courses in July and September were also very successful with the final tally for the season of over 40 trainees taking part. It was also encouraging to see many new members from the training courses turning up on branch projects to further their skills.

It was decided that WSDSWA would not participate at Gardening Scotland this year due to escalating costs and time constraints with other projects. Branch projects this season included a return to Glenarn Gardens, Clyde Muirshiel Country Park, Girl-Guides centre at Quarriers, Greenock Bee Society and Hermitage Park, Helensburgh. We also featured at the Kilmacolm Show and continued the on-going restoration at our blacksmiths.

The National Test Day held at Kilsyth on Sunday 24th June produced mixed results with two passes and two fails. Feedback indicated a shortage of suitable stone for cheekends and this will be rectified for the coming season. In-house training for new members wishing to attain test standard is also planned and this will mean more test site development days being organised.

Agenda Item 3 – Finance Report

Acting Treasurer John New submitted the annual accounts as per the Annual Submission to OSCR for the period 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018. Funds in the bank currently stand at over £6000 which is a healthy figure despite a reduction in donations received and one-off costs related to the purchase and haulage of stone to the test site at Kilsyth for a new retaining wall.

Recommendation of the balance sheet as a true record of the accounts was proposed by Derek Winter, seconded by Alistair McGeoch and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Office Bearers

At this point the committee demitted office and the election of 2018/19 office bearers took place. Alan Patrick intimated that he was not seeking re-election as deputy chairman but was willing to remain on the committee if proposed.

Chairman: John New was re-elected to post after being proposed by Alistair McGeoch, seconded by Derek Winter and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Deputy Chairman: Gordon Gray agreed to become the new deputy chairman after being nominated by Alistair Eadie and Russ Liddell and elected unanimously by the meeting.

Treasurer: A new treasurer was elected at the AGM. Dan Beaman accepted the nomination after being proposed by Alistair McGeoch, seconded by Alan Patrick and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Secretary: Paul Webb was re-elected to post after being proposed by Alan Patrick, seconded by Gordon Millar and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Committee Members: All existing members, including Alan Patrick who stood down as deputy chairman, agreed to stand for re-election. Alistair McGeoch also put his name forward to fill a vacancy. All nominations were proposed by Russ Liddell, seconded by Dave Barber and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – 2019 Programme

A draft programme of potential projects included Arrochar (boat seat), Johnstone (hospice entrance wall) and Greenock (curved wall). For reasons previously stated Gardening Scotland will again not be included this year.

Agenda Item 6 – Any other business

John New and Dave Barber attended the annual Scottish Liaison Group meeting at Biggar where ‘feelers’ were put out inviting WSDSWA to return ‘to the fold’. After a short discussion, members were happy that the branch should retain its independent status.

The annual branch dinner was cancelled this year due to the bad weather but attendance in recent years has been dwindling. The meeting was asked if it should continue in its present form or be replaced with a summer bbq (possibly at Kilsyth). Or both? Further consultation will take place in an attempt to come to a consensus on the matter.

Chairman John New closed the meeting by thanking the membership for their attendance and also for their enthusiasm at the various events held during the year. He also thanked Alan Patrick for his work as deputy chairman now that he was standing down from the post.

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