



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
held at the Clan Centre, Bruar
on Friday 21st August 2020 at 11.30 a.m.

NOTE: The meeting took place in accordance with advice from the relevant Authorities in respect of current Health and Safety requirements and restrictions. Surfaces and door handles were disinfected, hand sanitising and social distancing maintained, and face coverings worn by all attendees.

Welcome: The Chair Gillespie Robertson welcomed the other 5 members of the Society who attended in person.

Lynda Robertson, administrative volunteer acting in the absence of a Clan Secretary, confirmed that a total of 27 signed proxies in favour of the Chairman and 3 in favour of Alasdair Robertson of Drumachuine had been sent in by other members and are on the Society's files. The Chairman confirmed that the required quorum of a minimum of 15 members in terms of voting was thus present.

The Chair also reported that a large number of apologies for absence and/or messages of support had been received including from members sending in proxies. He added that in the circumstances of the current global pandemic it was thanks which were owed to those who were attending despite any potential risks to themselves, rather than any apologies being due from those who had stayed away as requested/expected.

Approval of the 2019 AGM minutes: proposed by Stuart Robertson, seconded by Brenda Reid and agreed. Minutes to be signed by the Chair for the record. For matters arising, see below under **Fixing of annual subscriptions**.

Report by the Chairman on the activities of the Society: the first of the written reports attached, his own, was read out by the Chairman. This was followed by a second written report, also attached, from International Vice Chair Jonn Duncan, which was read out by Vice Chair Iain Reid.

Also attached are copies of the still provisional formal report on our activities in 2019 on behalf of the Society's Council/Directors/Trustees, including financial summaries. This documentation will not be submitted to the relevant regulatory Authorities for Calendar

2019 until our Accounts for the year are finalised. The Chairman stated that the overall financial picture presented in this summary documentation is expected to remain unchanged. However, a combination of (i) late, incomplete and unsatisfactory data provided to our accountants by our resigned Clan Secretary before her resignation, and (ii) the impact of COVID19 restrictions on subsequent access by volunteers to the Clan Centre, has meant that detailed 2019 accounts are not expected to be finalised until later in 2020. This is expected to be after a new Clan Secretary has been appointed and all necessary detailed data inputs can be completed.

The Chairman also reported the following in addition to his written submission:

- The EGM immediately preceding the AGM had unanimously approved our proposed new Articles of Association. These will replace the previous Articles and will as before be available on the Clan website.
- Of two candidates for the Clan Secretary role interviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair the previous day, one appeared exceptionally promising, very well qualified, of entirely suitable character, and actively interested. We are hopeful of agreeing a trial period of employment with this candidate in the near future, possibly beginning in October. Heartiest thanks are due in the meantime to Kathy Duncan in USA and Lynda Robertson in the U.K. for their unstinting and continuing work and help given to Council with administrative matters since the Clan Secretary's resignation.
- Kathy Duncan of Gulf Coast Branch, spouse of our IVC Jonn, and Stephanie Robertson (after a year's absence from Council and well known to most of us for her previous long and devoted service both on Council and otherwise) have both been co-opted as Council members. This will impact positively on what is nevertheless still a marked gender imbalance.
- Council members Suzi McNutt and Billy Duncan are retiring at this AGM under the "nine-year rule" in our Articles. Both had given long, faithful and productive service to the Clan and are owed our sincerest gratitude for their contribution.
- David Duncan, elected a year ago, had for unanticipated personal reasons resigned from Council, to our great regret, not long after his election.
- Members should please recall that the provision in our Articles concerning nominations of candidates for Council by the membership remains unchanged. It is desirable if not essential that any nominations are always of people who clearly both have specific and relevant skills and experience to contribute and who have the ability, time and means to attend regular Council meetings.
- Last but far from least, our Chief had accepted the wisdom of his son Alasdair representing him at the AGM in the current circumstances, but through Alasdair had asked to express his heartfelt appreciation of our going ahead with the AGM and of the week's very hard work at the Clan Centre by those attending.

Election of the Office-Bearer Trustees and Elected Trustees: Election for the coming year of the current office-bearers, Chairman Gillespie Robertson, Vice Chair Iain Reid and International Vice Chair Jonn Duncan, and of Elected Trustees Donald Reid, Stuart Robertson, Alasdair Robertson of Drumachuine and Eddie Stewart, was proposed by Reverend Matthew Robertson, seconded by Brenda Reid and agreed.

Appointment of the Editor of the Clan Annual: Re-appointment for 2021 of James Irvine Robertson as editor, following another year's splendid Annual in 2020, was proposed by Alasdair Robertson, seconded by Donald Reid and agreed with acclaim and gratitude.

Fixing of annual subscriptions: It was noted that the increases in member subscription rates agreed in principle at last year's AGM had, after mature consideration by Council, **not** after all been applied. The meeting agreed to maintain subscriptions at current levels. Alasdair Robertson advised that he is working on making new proposals to Council and to the

membership in due course which will be designed to increase member numbers significantly by lowering cost for some, with potentially varying levels of membership benefits.

Report of the Independent Financial Examiner (IFA): The Chairman explained that this will not be forthcoming until the 2019 Accounts are finalised (see above.)

Appointment of the IFA: Re-appointment of Walton Kilgour was proposed by Gillespie Robertson, seconded by Iain Reid and approved.

Any Other Business: none was raised.

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: tentatively (in view of unknown COVID19 factors and developments) fixed for 20TH AUGUST 2021
