



Clan Donnachaidh

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
held at The Tryst, Pitlochry
On Friday 20th August 2021 at 2.00 pm

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Gillespie Robertson, extended warm greetings to all in attendance and confirmed that a Covid Risk Assessment had been duly carried out by the Clan Secretary prior to the AGM. He reminded members also to sign the Track and Trace Register located on the table at the entry to the building.

A warm welcome was further extended to the Chief and Bridget, his wife. Both had been sadly missed at last year's AGM due to the Chief's ill-health, and compounded by the challenges of, and restrictions imposed by, the Covid pandemic. The Chair intimated that the Chief had been an inspiring leader for a very long time and wished, on behalf of all Clan Donnachaidh members, that his leadership would continue for many more years to come.

2 Apologies

Apologies were recorded from the Honorary President, Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, who had sent his warm wishes to all; from Honorary Vice-Presidents Jean Munro, Christy Duncan Lange and Andrew Duncan; International Vice-Chair, Jonn Duncan; Council Members Kathy Duncan and Eddie Stewart; Editor of the Clan Annual James Irvine Robertson; DNA Administrator Tim Duncan and Faith Robertson.

Apologies had been received from several other members along with proxies provided in favour of the Chairman, should they be required for the purposes of voting. Together with the list of those members present (as recorded on the attached Track and Trace Register) the Chairman confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 21st August 2020

Approval of the Minutes, which had been previously available to read and download from the website, was proposed by Brenda Reid, seconded by Lynda Robertson and a copy signed by the Chairman for the records.

4 Council Report by Chair

Gillespie Robertson tabled his report – a copy of which is attached and forms part of this minute – and read it aloud to those present. In concluding, the Chairman reminded members that his nine-year tenure on Council will come to a close in March 2022. He took the opportunity to announce that Iain Reid would be his successor, following the unanimous approval of Council, and would take over the Chair after the meeting of Council in March 2022.

5 Heartland Radio

As earlier intimated in his report, discussions are ongoing with local Heartland Multimedia, and Gillespie Robertson took the opportunity to invite Alasdair Robertson to speak further on the potential for initiatives and collaborative projects with this organisation in the coming months.

Alasdair reported that he and other members of Council had been in discussions for some time now with Heartland Multimedia, a community-oriented media platform based in Pitlochry, which shares similar values and interests as Clan Donnachaidh in terms of promoting the heritage of Highland

Perthshire. Their media platforms Heartland FM - <https://www.heartland.scot/heartland-fm/>, IRIS magazine - <https://www.heartland.scot/iris-magazine/> and website - <https://www.heartland.scot/> are available for all to access globally. Two articles relating to the Clan Donnachaidh Society have already appeared in the IRIS magazine, the most recent being "A Beginner's Guide to Clan Donnachaidh" which provides a good starting point for anyone with an interest in learning about our history, kinship, membership and fundraising activities. Access to IRIS magazine is FREE to all (simply click on the link <https://www.heartland.scot/iris-magazine/> and subscribe. Additional discussions are underway on possible initiatives involving podcasts and linking up with other clans in the area to jointly promote wider initiatives including the Jacobite Trail - <https://www.jacobitetrail.co.uk/>. Council will continue to engage with Heartland Multimedia over the coming months and are encouraged by the enthusiasm of the team at Heartland to engage and work with our Society.

6 Financial Report and Acceptance of 2020 Accounts

Copies of the Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) and Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2020 had been previously circulated. The Chairman highlighted several points: the difference in total income during 2020 versus that of 2019, reminding members that the latter (2019) accounts had included significant funds received to support the Struan Kirk Trust by way of acquisition and repair of Struan Kirk; there had been no income received during 2020 from the Clan Gathering which had, of course, been cancelled due to the Covid pandemic; the net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds figures for both 2019 and 2020 include unrealised losses/gains on our stock market investments, ie. are a year-end snapshot only, and these do not of course affect our actual positive or negative cash flow; the valuation of stocks at year end 2020 was down on 2019, however, has now recovered to pre pandemic figures. He concluded that Council is satisfied that the Society's financial position at the end of 2020 was stable, particularly in light of the challenges of the unprecedented year.

Bridget Robertson proposed the accounts be accepted by the membership. Matthew Robertson seconded the motion and the accounts were duly accepted..

7 Election of Office Bearers/Nominations to Council

The Chairman confirmed, as earlier intimated, that he would step down from the Chair in March 2022. Iain Reid, would remain in post as Vice-Chair until March 2022 at which time he will take over the Chair. The vacancy for Vice-Chair will be considered during the coming months. The International Vice-Chair, Jonn Duncan, had intimated his willingness to remain in post for the coming year.

The two Council members due to retire, by rotation – Stuart Robertson and Donald Reid - had both expressed a willingness to continue in post. As valued members of Council, the Chairman commended both to the membership for re-election.

Emma Reid had been formally co-opted to the Council following nomination by Alasdair Robertson and approval by Council via e-mail exchange, on 9 August 2021. No other nominations had been tabled for additional new members to Council.

The re-election of the Chair (Gillespie Robertson), Vice-Chair (Iain Reid), International Vice-Chair (Jonn Duncan), Stuart Robertson and Donald Reid, along with the election of Emma Reid was proposed by Billy Duncan; seconded by Alasdair Robertson and approved by the membership.

8 International Vice-Chair's Report

A report from the International Vice-Chair had been received (a copy of which is attached and forms part of this minute). The Secretary read it aloud to the membership.

9 Affiliated Branches

By previous agreement, no reports from branches had been requested for presentation to the AGM in light of the unprecedented circumstances of 2020 and lack of activity globally in terms of Clan events.

10 DNA Project

Stephanie Robertson regretted that Tim Duncan the other DNA project administrator was unable to be

present. She reported there were now 1985 people signed up. There had been steady progress over the past year. One example was a recent discovery that one of the US groups was related to people of Scottish origin with ancestry in Ireland. The administrators were now waiting for the results of a further test to confirm an earlier place of origin in Lanarkshire, Scotland. Anyone who had specific questions or an interest in more detailed aspects of the project was invited to speak to Stephanie after the meeting.

11 Clan Secretary's Report

Irene Cameron spoke to her report – a copy of which is attached and forms part of this minute.

12 Review of Subscriptions

The Chairman referred to Brian Donaghy's suggestion at the 2019 AGM that an increase in annual membership dues would be appropriate and should not be a problem financially for most members. The Chairman advised the meeting that Council's position remains that, with the largest (and growing) share of our membership being overseas, and with many overseas Clan members already being reluctant to pay **any** parent Society dues in addition to their local branch membership dues, an increase in the parent Society dues would be likely to be counter-productive. While covering our running costs for the Clan Centre and Museum continues to be a challenge, separate fund-raising to support specific projects remains the preferred option.

13 Appointment of Auditors

Walton Kilgour, Chartered Accountants, had expressed a willingness to continue to offer audit services. Duncan Huie proposed the re-appointment of Walton Kilgour as Auditors for the financial year to 31 December 2021. Billy Duncan seconded the proposal and it was duly approved by the membership.

14 Appointment of Clan Annual Editor

James Irvine Robertson had offered to edit the 2022 Clan Annual. Ideas and articles for inclusion in the annual are welcomed. Billy Duncan proposed the re-appointment of James Irvine Robertson as Clan Annual Editor. Duncan Huie seconded the proposal and it was duly approved by the membership.

15 Any Other Business

Clan Centre and Reading Room

A question was asked relating to the re-opening of the Clan Centre at Bruar – for the purposes of welcoming and signing up members and undertaking any Clan business. It was noted that for much of lockdown 2020 and Q1 2021, the Clan Museum, along with most departments at the House of Bruar, was closed due to Scottish Government regulations and travel restrictions. The Clan Secretary was able to undertake most of the role from home, including signing up new members, responding to enquiries and membership engagement activities. Since April 2021, the Clan Museum has been open to the public seven days per week. The Clan Centre (Office and Reading Room) has not been deliberately closed, but has been open on a part-time basis to align with the part-time working hours of the new Clan Secretary, albeit Scottish Government regulations maintain the work from home protocol remains the default position for the time being.

Usage of Struan Kirk

A question was raised on the future use of Struan Kirk. The Chairman confirmed that he and the Chief would be attending the Annual General Meeting of the Struan Kirk Trustees on Saturday 21st August. He noted that parking at Struan Kirk remains one of the biggest challenges in terms of advertising and promoting its use for wider activities such as weddings, baptisms, etc. Requests to use the building have been minimal in recent months, although there have more recently been one or two enquiries regarding weddings. The Chairman concluded, however, that the challenges of access to and parking at the site may ultimately result in limited use by the wider population. The trustees, along with Clan Donnachaidh Society Council members remain open to ideas and thoughts on initiatives going forward.

Clan Annual

A suggestion was tabled by Rev Matthew Robertson to include a copy of the Minister's sermon from the Struan Kirk Service on Sunday 22nd August in the 2022 Clan Annual. The Chairman undertook to discuss this possibility with James Irvine Robertson. (James has subsequently advised that Jim Reid has said that

his sermons are at least partly extempore and that a written version is not available.)

16 Date of Next AGM

The Chairman reported Council had held discussions regarding rotating the date of the AGM/Gathering between August and September. With the Pitlochry Highland Games scheduled for Saturday 10 September 2022, it had been agreed within Council, to hold the Annual Gathering on the week leading up to these Games in an effort to have a strong presence attending from Clan Donnachaidh Society. It was thus agreed to hold the 2022 AGM on Friday 9 September 2022.

Before bringing the meeting to a close, the Chief recorded his thanks and gratitude to all for travelling from near and far to participate in this small gathering of the Clan and for their attendance and participation at the AGM. He also extended his personal thanks to Gillespie Robertson for his strong leadership and guidance as Chairman of the Society for the last nine years and for his energy and enthusiasm over the last two years in setting up the Struan Kirk Trust and the renovation of the building. He closed by endorsing the appointment of Iain Reid as successor to Gillespie Robertson and extending his best wishes and support to him in his future role.