



Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting

held at 12.00noon on Saturday 7 May 2016
at the McWilliam Room, Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6NX

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman, Judy Riley, welcomed the participants:

Christopher Dingwall
Robert Luther
Vanessa Stephen
Hannah Tweedie
Peter Burman
John West
Gill West
Sue Hewer
Marion Shawcross

Morna Knottenbelt
Janet Clarke
Matthew Benians
Jean Harthill
Anne King
Shiona Mackie
Iain Jolliffe
Patricia Andrew

Chloe Bennett
Nick Bennett
Lesley Cumming
Janet McCarthy
Georgina Clayton
Matthew Benians
David Simpson
Katie Livingstone (guest)

Olivia Lelong, Northlight Heritage, joined the meeting later as a guest and speaker.

Apologies had been received from:

Sarah Barron
Jim Bartos
Alison Allighan
Fiona MacKelvie
Niall Manning
Carol Jefferson-Davies

Simon Blackett
Ronald Duff
Beatrice Dower
Peter Dudney
Grace Ellis
Susan Bennett

Peter Fitch
Ben Tindall
Johanna Lausen-Higgins
Marilyn Brown
Beatrice Dower
Colin Ellis

Participants were informed that the minutes of the last AGM were available in the room for consultation.

Judy Riley then recommended that the trustees elect someone other than herself as Chairman of the AGM and suggested that this might be Hannah Tweedie who was standing for election to the

Board. The recommendation was approved by the meeting. It was consequently necessary to bring forward Item 6 of the Agenda, Election of Trustees. As Judy Riley was herself retiring and standing for re-election to the Board, she handed over this item to Mark Gibson, Honorary Secretary.

Election of Trustees

Mark Gibson announced that Judy Riley, Robert Luther and Barbara Morris were retiring from the Board in line with the requirements of the Constitution and that Judy Riley and Robert Luther were standing for re-election. He reminded the meeting that Hannah Tweedie was also standing for election and invited any other nominations. None were forthcoming.

Judy Riley, Robert Luther and Hannah Tweedie were elected by unanimous acclamation, with Mark Gibson proposing and Peter Burman seconding.

Election of a Chairman for the Meeting

The trustees elected Hannah Tweedie to chair the AGM, giving members the chance to get to recognise her.

Chairman's Report

Judy Riley then presented her Chairman's Report (a written Chairman's Report having been circulated before the meeting). She noted that SGLH membership currently stood at 88, including 15 life and 11 joint members. She warmly thanked all those who had contributed in various ways to the successes achieved by SGLH in its first year. As well as the trustees, these included Alison Allighan, Sue Hewer, Olivia Lelong of Northlight Heritage and all the volunteers who had taken part in recording projects. She had calculated that trustees, members and volunteers had contributed some 550 days during SGLH's first year of operation.

In answer to a question from John West as to whether the Glorious Gardens project had had the effect of recruiting new members, Judy Riley confirmed that it had not had that effect and that this had not been an objective of the project. Sue Hewer added that the focus had been on recording gardens and designed landscapes (G&DL) and on equipping the volunteers with the skills needed to do the job. Judy, John West and Sue Hewer agreed that the project also had the important effect of engaging local people, exciting them about their environment, and spreading the message about the importance of recording and conserving Scotland's G&DL.

Judy also announced that the latest special issue of *The Pleasaunce* had just been published and would be available at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report for 2015

The Treasurer then presented the:

- GHSSCT main accounts
- GHSSCT CAV/Falkirk accounts
- SGLH main accounts
- SGLH CAV/Falkirk accounts.

These accounts had been circulated before the meeting. On behalf of SGLH, the Treasurer specifically thanked two of the trustees for donating, between them, £6,000 to SGLH, and the

Binks Trust for its donation of £6,000 to be used for conservation purposes. He noted that current reserves (as at 7 May 2016) stood at approximately £12,400.

The Treasurer noted that SGLH no longer accepts payments via Paypal on account of the cost of so doing, and encourages payments via BACS rather than by cheque. He also noted that SGLH is still awaiting approval by HMRC of the setup of a Gift Aid facility

The Treasurer then sought the approval of the meeting for the trustees to set a Corporate Membership subscription rate. The motion was proposed by John West, seconded by Shiona Mackie and passed unanimously.

Report on Glorious Gardens Project

Olivia Lelong of Northlight Heritage joined the meeting at this point to present her report on the progress of the Glorious Gardens project. In her presentation she noted that:

- Many G&DL have significant heritage value even if they are not on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.
- To establish such value it is necessary to investigate the sites. This involves training volunteers to research and record what is there. This has the additional and equally important benefit of generating enthusiasm and achieving knowledge and skills transfer. *Inter alia*, volunteers have been trained in applying the methodology and uploading the results and have been given support and mentoring along the way.
- The recording model has been developed from the models used by earlier GHSS recording groups and has been formalised and made consistent, robust and achievable. This has involved judging what level of detail could reasonably be recorded.
- This is a pilot project and has focused on 20 sites in Falkirk and 20 in South Lanarkshire. The ultimate aim is to roll out the recoding of G&DL across Scotland.
- The project is publicly funded and has been designed to meet the specific outcomes required by the various funders for the environment, the volunteers and the community.

Olivia Lelong also presented a range of examples of sites that had now been recorded by the project. She concluded that this two-year initiative had been a very valuable learning process and had been followed by an evaluation that measured the outcomes against the agreed objectives as well as clarifying what approaches do and do not work.

Any Other Competent Business

John West noted that some of the recording groups from GHSS days continue to function.

Sue Hewer noted that SGLH is in negotiations to direct a G&DL recording project in Aberdeenshire.

Morna Knottenbelt suggested that Northlight Heritage might like to involve SGLH in its work.

Matthew Benians asked in what format the special issue of *The Pleasaunce* was available and whether there would be a cost to members in obtaining a copy. Mark Gibson explained that the special issue was available in hard copy in return for a donation to SGLH. It might be made available in soft copy at some later date to be agreed by the trustees.

This concluded the meeting.