

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

Annual General Meeting  
McLintock Memorial Hall, Balfron  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## **Meeting**

**Sederunt:** Colin Goodchild, Daniel McNaughton, Ronnie Reid, Gordon Millar, Iain Couttie, Paul Webb, John New, Adrian Whitaker, Dave Barber, Russ Liddell, Eric Calderwood, Gordon Gray, Alistair Eadie, Jim McLachlan, Norman Muir, John Hendry.

**Apologies:** Derek Winter, Dave Lutwyche, Alan Patrick, Mair Harvey, Billy Nicoll.

### **Agenda Item 1 - Minutes of the AGM 2015**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 were proposed by John Hendry, seconded by Norman Muir and passed as a true record of the proceedings.

### **Agenda Item 2 - Annual Report**

Chairman John New gave his inaugural report (included in these minutes) as per the Annual Submission to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

2016 kicked off with the annual dinner at The Wheelhouse, Langbank where outgoing chairman Norman Muir was presented with a photo album and special hammer in grateful thanks for his tenure of more than a decade.

A busy and enjoyable season followed with visits to venues old and new.

At Mugdock we built a red sandstone feature incorporating stone icons retrieved from a derelict building. The Kilmacolm show turned out to be a beautiful day – a rarity for this event – and the spectacular setting of Clyde Muirshiel regional park was the location for a steep wall rebuild.

Two major projects that took up a lot of our time were Gardening Scotland where we celebrated the centenary of Erskine Hospital with a commemorative wall featuring slate willow trees (Willow trees were used to make artificial limbs for incoming patients when the hospital first opened) and a cave grotto with corbelled roof at St. Vincent de Paul's RC church in East Kilbride. This latter construction – all 32 tons of it – received much praise from parishioners and locals alike.

The continuing popularity of our training courses was evident when all 3 were over subscribed and one was held at Kilsyth for the first time.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Finance Report**

The Treasurer submitted the annual accounts as per the Annual Submission to OSCR for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. Jim McLachlan reported that membership dues had declined and repairs to the van plus annual running costs had been high. However successful fundraising and increased training course fees had more than compensated and funds available now amounted to £10,000.

The balance sheet was approved unanimously as a true record of the accounts.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Election of Office Bearers**

At this point the committee demitted office and the election for 2016/17 office bearers took place. Gordon Gray also intimated that he was not putting himself forward for re-election due to work commitments.

**Chairman:** John New was re-elected to post after being proposed by Daniel McNaughton, seconded by Iain Couttie and approved unanimously by the meeting.

**Deputy Chairman:** In his absence, Alan Patrick was re-elected to post after being proposed by John Hendry, seconded by Iain Couttie and approved unanimously by the meeting.

**Treasurer:** Jim McLachlan was re-elected to post after being proposed by John Hendry, seconded by Gordon Millar and approved unanimously by the meeting.

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

**Committee Members:** All existing members with the exception of Gordon Gray agreed to stand for re-election after being proposed by Norman Muir, seconded by Alistair Eadie and approved unanimously by the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 5 – 2017 Programme**

A draft programme of events has yet to be compiled but it was proposed to restrict future projects because of continual overruns. To make the programme more manageable/sustainable and to provide for more in-house training, it was agreed to undertake one project per season plus Gardening Scotland and the Kilmacolm show.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Any other business**

It was agreed that a continuing surplus of funds would allow the branch to invest in our training/test site at Kilsyth. New stone will be sourced and the site developed for steep slope and retaining wall training. £200 (approx.) will be invested in good quality tools.

The Engine Shed, Stirling – Scotland’s Building Conservation Centre – restoration is way behind schedule but the branch are still keen to be involved and will maintain contact with Historic Scotland.

Appreciation is due to Adrian Whitaker for providing an audio-visual show of the historical progress of AV shows (including past projects) prior to the formal part of the AGM - and finally the committee would like to wish everyone a happy Xmas and healthy New Year.

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