

MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC HELD IN THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, INVERNESS ON 15TH MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT Moira Leslie, Convener, welcomed 16 other members and there were 3 proxy votes.

APOLOGIES: Coll Findlay, Marion Stewart, Gordon Fleetwood, Margot Tuley, John and Brenda Green, Emma and Andrew Green and WAE Fraser.

1 THE CONVENER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Moira Leslie circulated a written report and spoke to it. She noted that while our 3 sets of bagpipes are not on hire at present, two of the recent hirers had stopped because they had acquired their own set and were now members of a pipe band thus fulfilling our aim of assisting youngsters make the difficult and sometimes expensive journey from beginner to band member.

Since the last AGM we had awarded 3 Ad Hoc grants and it was particularly gratifying to have such an excellent report on the superb Donegal trip by Clava and Càirdean. We had also supported Charlie Grey and Joseph Peach to produce their first CD and they - like Graham Mackenzie last year - are receiving widespread accolade.

Moira thanked Dave Greer for taking over our website - encouraging members to send him any items of interest - and thanked Rhona Macdonald for setting up and managing our new Facebook Page. She thanked former treasurer Alan Findlay and secretary Jim Leslie, who are both stepping down from Committee after many years of service, our Patrons, Eric and Helen Allan, for their continued support and the Committee for all their hard work. Finally, she gave thanks to Ken Houston, Independent Examiner of the Accounts for again preparing them to the standard required by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator. Ken has indicated that he no longer wishes to continue as examiner of our accounts and members were asked to think about anyone else who might be in a position to take on this task.

2 RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Ken Houston had Independently Examined the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2016 which were tabled. Alison Mackenzie, Treasurer, noted that the accounts were largely self-explanatory and were similar to previous years. The cash balance at 31st December 2016 was £22,277 compared with £24,864 in December 2015. She noted that funds were being transferred from Scottish Widows to the Bank of Scotland which had more favorable interest rates. She also noted that membership was presently at 64 but it fluctuated between 65 and 80. Helen Allan asked for details on the *Payments* of £1082 listed as *Admin* and the Treasurer replied that this included printing cost for new banners, postage and stationary, website and room hire. The Convener thanked the Treasurer for all her work in preparing the accounts. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Alison MacKinnon and seconded by Eric Allan.

3 RESOLUTIONS None had been received.

4 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Dave Greer suggested that, given our present falling membership, now was not the time to be raising subscriptions and proposed that the present rates of £10 for a Family and £5 for Individual Membership, be retained. It was seconded by Alison Mackinnon. There was no counter proposal and the motion was carried.

5 COMMITTEE

Under the Constitution, the total number of elected members of committee is seven. Current committee members are Moira Leslie (Convener), Alison Mackenzie (Treasurer), Jim Leslie (Secretary), Dave Greer, Alan Findlay, Jean Fleetwood and Rhona Macdonald. Alan Findlay and Jim Leslie are resigning from committee. Members are appointed for two years and Rhona Macdonald and Moira Leslie continue for a second year. The following nominations were made. Dave Greer, Alison Mackenzie and Jean Fleetwood were proposed en bloc by Alison Mackinnon and seconded by Eric Allan. Oona Sim was proposed by Jean Fleetwood and seconded by Dave Greer. Kathreen Hunter was proposed by Helen Allan and seconded by Jim Leslie.

No nominations had been received prior to the meeting and there were no other nominations from the floor. There was, therefore, no election and the above five nominations were carried.

There was then an interval for refreshment during which the new Committee met briefly to appoint office bearers and the following were appointed -

Convener	Moira Leslie
Vice Convener	Dave Greer
Secretary	Jean Fleetwood
Treasurer	Alison Mackenzie

Jim Leslie will continue to manage instrument hire and, as noted above, Dave Greer will manage the FoHM website. Both these functions had in the past been managed by the secretary.

6 FUTURE ACTIVITIES

During the refreshment break, attendees had been asked to discuss possible future activities. The following suggestions were made and discussed at a plenary session.

- Run a promotion at Culloden Visitor Centre – sometimes fiddlers practise there and a stall with promotional material and donation / application forms could be set up.
- Consider using the MacAulay Room in Balnain House as an AGM venue in future.
- Have a ceilidh at the Waterside as we used to have at Raigmore Recreation Hall. Invite young groups, bands and performers.
- Have a concert by Plockton High School - National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music.
- Keep in touch with children who win our trophies at the Inverness Music Festival.
- Consider a grant scheme for a Highland Council pipe band which has lost its funding.
- Get in touch with Conservatoire students from Highland to see if they have suggestions on what we should do (similar to the current survey of pupils of Plockton High School - National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music).

These suggestions will provide the new committee with agenda items for discussion.

The Convener thanked all those present for attending the meeting which closed at 8.15pm. There followed some excellent music and song from Astar a young band of fiddles, whistle accordion and guitars led by fiddler Rachel Campbell. Rhona Macdonald gave the votes of thanks.