

**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF SCOTLAND'S TOWNS LTD HELD AT THE SCOTTISH
STORYTELLING CENTRE, EDINBURGH ON 13 MAY 2015**

PRESENT:

Craig Allan, Swipii Card
Jamie Baker, East Lothian Council
Elaine Bone, STP
Leigh Brown, Perth and Kinross Council
Malcolm Brown, Scotmid
David Cowan, Scottish Government
Tom Craig, Scottish Government
Ian Davison Porter, BIDs Scotland
Anita Desi, East Renfrewshire BIDs
Julian Dobson, Urban Pollinators Ltd
Mhairi Donaghy, EKOS
Anne Findlay, University of Stirling
Sandra Goldin, Land Engineering
Elaine Gorman, Scottish Business in the Community
Frank Gunning, Lanark Development Trust
Graeme Hadden, Land Engineering
Cliff Hague, BEFS
Derek Halden, Loop Connections
Derek Harper, Brechin Community Council
Leigh Johnston, Historic Scotland
Tom Johnston, Consultant
Justyna Krupinska, East Renfrewshire BIDs
Tony L'Anson, Stirling BID
Edward Linton-Smith, Penicuik BID
Rebecca Mather, STP
Geoff McCartney, Miconex
Pamela McCready, East Dunbartonshire Council
Barry McCulloch, FSB Scotland
Margaret McCulloch, MSP
Laura McKelvie, FSB Scotland
Daniel McKendry, Daniel McKendry Consulting
Julie McLachlan, SCDI
Craig McLaren, RTPI
Peter McLean, Inverness Civic Trust
Audrey Michie, Aberdeenshire Council
Nikola Miller, RTPI
Alistair Mitchell, Falkirk Delivers
Nicos Paganopoulos, STP

Yvonne Prager, STP
Phil Prentice, STP
Roy Provan, RCP Legal
Marnie Ritchie, West Dunbartonshire Council
Ewan Robertson, CSPP
Matt Ronan, SBRC
Peter Saajad, East Renfrewshire BIDs
Kevin Sayer, Fife Council
Ursula Service, William Hill
Chitresh Sharma, Swipii Card
Tom Sneddon, DTAS
Leigh Sparks, Univeristy of Stirling
Sunil Varu, Paisley First
Ralitsa Vasilovska, William Hill
Andrew Walker, Fife Council

APOLOGIES:

Vic Collie, St Andrews BID
Felix Gibson, 802 Works

LS welcomed all to the second AGM of Scotland's Towns Ltd.

AGM BUSINESS

1. To consider and approve Financial Accounts for Year to end 31 March 2014

As required by the Companies Act 2006, a copy of accounts has been made available on our website and offered to members on request.

Statement based on information from Accountants, Soroban:

“Income for the year to 31 March 2014 of £39,448 includes Conference Income of £28,098 and Membership Fees of £9,400. The company showed a small loss for the year of £3,514. However, in October 2014 STP was awarded a grant from Scottish Government of £186,000, payable over two years, to deliver a range of activities in support of town centre regeneration and wider delivery of the Town Centre Action Plan.”

There were no questions and the accounts were approved.

2. To consider and appoint accountants – Soroban – for the next year.

The members present agreed that Soroban Accountants be appointed for the next year.

3. Election of Directors

During the year, the following have been appointed to the Board by the Directors of the Company:

Annique Armstrong, Visit Scotland
Robert Crawford, EDAS
Daisy Narayan, Sustrans
Sunil Varu, ATCM

We also recognised the appointment of Mhairi Donaghy as Vice Chair.

Resigned from the Board is Iain Cavanagh, Alliance Boots.

All present accepted the proposals for election of new Board members.

4. To review the Company's progress and discuss future plans

Chair's Statement

Despite challenging conditions, I feel that the last year has been a resounding success for Scotland's Towns Partnership.

The achievements in such a short timeframe have been impressive, however the key ones to note are as follows:

- We managed to secure funding from the Scottish Government to develop the organisation into the national "go to" collaborative for towns.
- We now have STP on a financially sustainable path and are well on course for prudent end year results.
- We appointed Phil Prentice as our Chief Officer, strengthened the support team and board and spent the last 6 months building partnerships and new innovative products as well as delivering projects to support Scotland's Towns.
- Our partnerships, key sponsors and core membership all continue to grow at a pace. We will soon have over 100 core members - the towns community is coming together.
- We have now launched the national web portal for towns..www.scotlandstowns.org and this incorporates tools such as Understanding Scottish Places, Funding Finder, Towns Toolkit, Towns Library, New and Resources and Forum.
- Our reach and influence is spreading, we are now helping SLAED deliver the Place agenda on behalf of the local authority sector, working more closely with DTAS and the 3rd Sector and supporting the Small and Rural Towns Group as well as towns within the emerging City Regions
- Let's continue to capitalise on all of the energy and resources available to make Scotland's towns successful in 2015.

This concluded the formal AGM business. LS introduced guest speaker, Julian Dobson of Urban Pollinators, who discussed his new book 'How to Save our Town Centres' This was followed by a discussion session with the audience.

For details of Julian's talk and discussion session, please see the STP Towns Storify here <https://storify.com/ScotlandsTowns/a-day-for-towns>