

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF SCOTLAND'S TOWNS LTD HELD AT A+DS EDINBURGH ON 17 MAY 2016

PRESENT:

Eleanor Alexander, William Lippe Architects
Kristen Anderson, Scottish Government
Chris Bell, WSP Group
Ian Davison Porter, BIDs Scotland
Mhairi Donaghy, EKOS
Malcom Fraser, Halliday Fraser Munro
Stephen Gemmell, Currie Brown
Gregor Graham, East Dunbartonshire Council
David Grove, Fife Council
Leigh Johnston, Scottish Government
John Lauder, SUSTRANS
Natalie le Couteur, City of Edinburgh Council
Steve McGavin, G L Hearn
Kevin McGowan, Scottish Government
Daniel McKendry, A+DS
Daisy Narayanan, SUSTRANS
Iain Nicholson, PRBI
Phil Prentice, East Renfrewshire Council
Emma Scott, SURF
Tom Sneddon, STP
Leigh Sparks, University of Stirling
Caspar Wilson, Nadfly
Chris Wragg, Fife Council

Attending: Elaine Bone, Rebecca Mather, Yvonne Prager, Ewan Robertson

APOLOGIES:

Annique Armstrong, Leigh Brown, Ros Halley, Craig McLaren, Deborah Murray, Carole Noble, Nairn Pearson, Matt Ronan

AGM BUSINESS

Leigh Sparks, Chair of STP, welcomed everyone to the third AGM of Scotland's Towns Partnership.

1. To consider and approve Financial Accounts for Year to end 31 March 2015

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 2015 of £149,869 includes Conference Income of £29,820, Membership Fees of £18,349, Sponsorship of £11,700 and Government funding of £90,000. Expenditure was £105,840 resulting in a surplus for the year of £44,029 before tax. In February 2016, Scottish Government confirmed a further grant of £120,000 for the year from 1 April 2016”

There were no questions and the accounts were approved by TS, seconded by CB.

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

The Chair sought approval from members to review the appointment of our accountants for the purposes of good practice. This proposal was approved by MD, seconded by DN.

3.Election of Directors

In accordance with Articles 14.2.2 the following Directors were appointed during the financial year to 31 March 2016 -

Chris Bell, WSP Group
Leigh Brown, ATCM

And resigned from the Board were –

Malcolm Brown, Scotmid
Robert Crawford, EDAS
Sunil Varu, ATCM

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

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

SCOTLAND’S TOWNS PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS AND FUTURE PLANS

Despite challenging conditions, LS believes that the last year has been another 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:

- Securing a second tranche of funding from the Scottish Government to further develop the organisation into the national “go to” collaborative for towns.
- Establishing STP on a financially sustainable path and well on course for prudent end year results.

- Delivered a wide range of supports, web platform to host all the major towns toolkits and investments, a new media platform, a successful series of CPD, events and conferences.
- Partnerships, key sponsors and core membership all continue to grow at a pace – STP will soon have over 130 core members...the towns community is coming together.
- STP's reach and influence is spreading. Towns are very much back on the agenda and in the political mindset.
- Let's continue to capitalise on all of the energy and resources available to make Scotland's towns successful in 2016.

PP said that Scotland's Towns Partnership is grateful to have secured ongoing grant funding from Scottish Government in a relatively short space of time. The main focus for STP in the coming year will be housing/town centre living and digital.

STP is delighted to be involved in the organisation of the World Towns Leadership Summit 2016, in association with BIDs Scotland, ATCM and IDA; 150 international delegates are expected at Dynamic Earth on 15-16 June.

STP will also be working on the MSP connector programme, PP said it is important to engage with newly elected politicians. Also ongoing are, the small towns parliamentary reception; the annual Scotland's Towns Conference on 9 November taking place in Kirkcaldy; and the monthly supplements in the Herald.

LS introduced the first speaker Malcolm Fraser from Halliday Fraser Munro who gave a presentation on the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design

LS then introduced Danny McKendry of Architecture + Design Scotland who gave a presentation on Say Hello to Architecture.

LS then introduced Eleanor Alexander of William Lippe Architects, winner of the Future Town Design Competition 2015, which featured Inverurie.

LS thanked speakers and members for attending. He encouraged members to visit the STP website (www.scotlandstowns.org) and to visit Inverurie. LS thanked the STP executive team.