

**Minute of the Annual General Meeting  
held on  
24 September 2016 at the Albert Halls, Stirling**

1. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sir Moir Lockhead, took the Chair, supported by the Board of Trustees, the Trust Secretary and senior staff, and in the presence of 149 members of the Trust in attendance.

**PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND PRELIMINARIES**

2. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members to the 2016 Annual General Meeting (the 'meeting') of the National Trust for Scotland. He passed on the President's apologies, explaining that he would be acting as Lord Lindsay's substitute in convening the meeting. The Chairman read aloud a brief message on Lord Lindsay's behalf to the members present. Although disappointed not to be at the meeting, Lord Lindsay wished to pass on his gratitude to Sir Moir, the Board of Trustees and to Mr Simon Skinner for the approach that they have taken in managing the direction of the Trust to achieve the long-term success and relevance for the Trust that everyone desires.
3. The Chairman introduced Mr Kevin McCormick to the members. He explained that both Mr McCormick and Mr Graeme Sword (who had passed on his apologies) had been co-opted to the Board of Trustees since the last Annual General Meeting and both brought very helpful skills and insight to Board meetings.
4. The Chairman wished to thank Mr Ian Riches, the Trust's Archivist, and the Trust's Outreach Team for the two videos that were played before the meeting began. The former used materials curated to illustrate the Trust's first 85 years. The latter demonstrated ways in which heritage can be used to benefit local communities. In addition, Sir Moir thanked Miss Jen McEwan, a student from the City of Glasgow College for her presentation, also shown before the meeting, which highlighted the Trust's work during the financial year 2015/16. He noted that the college had used the Trust as a case study for their students' final year project and the Trust was pleased to share the exceptional piece of work produced by Miss McEwan.
5. The Chairman asked the Trust Secretary, Mr Stephen Small, to note the apologies given for the meeting. Mr Small recorded apologies on behalf of: the Earl of Lindsay, President; Sir Peter Erskine, Trustee; Mr Keith Griffiths,

Trustee; Mr Robin Harper, Trustee; and Mr Graeme Sword, Trustee. On behalf of the members, Mr Small noted apologies from: Captain Robert Mackenzie; Mr Stuart Meiklejohn; Professor J B L Matthews; Mrs Matthews; Mr J K Mills; Mrs S Mills; Mr John Knight; and Mr David MacLehose.

### **MINUTE OF 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*To approve the minute of the Annual General Meeting held at the Albert Halls, Stirling, on 26 September 2015.'*

6. The Chairman called for any amendments to the minute of the meeting held at the Albert Halls, Stirling on 26 September 2015. The President noted that the Trust Secretary, Mr Small, had access to an audio recording of the meeting to check any queries.
7. There being no amendments to the minute, Mrs Veronica Morriss proposed and Mr Benjamin Tindall seconded the adoption of the minute of the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The minute was formally approved by a show of hands from the members.

### **ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

*To consider the adoption of the 85th Annual Review and Accounts.'*

8. The Chairman explained that the Trust was in the process of carrying out a programme of change that involved a formal 90 day staff consultation. This had concluded a few days before the meeting. He reported that Mr Skinner would deliver his Chief Executive's report discussing the outcome of the detailed review of the Trust conducted in 2015/16 before hearing from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Allan Bowie.
9. The Chairman welcomed Mr Skinner to the podium.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

10. The Chief Executive, Mr Simon Skinner, addressed the members.
11. At the 2015 Annual General Meeting, Mr Skinner reported that a detailed review of the Trust was about to commence. Mr Skinner was pleased to say that the review had now been completed. The review confirmed that the Trust needed to change the way it had been operating. The existing model was well served but new challenges meant that the Trust had to find different ways to address the economic, social and political issues affecting the Trust and the wider nation. With visitor numbers declining over the longer term, a conservation deficit of over £40m remaining, and greater

competition and increased expectations from visitors, the case for change was inescapable.

12. Mr Skinner continued by summarising the benefits of change. He stated that by realigning resources, opportunities could be created to improve the visitor experience and associated planned capital investment. Taking the opportunities and operating efficiencies arising from this and the new ways of working, along with income derived from increased visitors and membership, the new operating model should be capable of generating around £10m per annum within the next 3 to 4 years. The new model would see: the streamlining of headquarters support functions; the introduction of new capabilities alongside and within the Trust's property operating structures; a simpler planning process; investment in new systems; and a clear set of strategic priorities. Mr Skinner proposed that the new operating model would be more effective and efficient at delivering the Trust's core purposes.
13. Mr Skinner explained that, sadly, 142 posts, largely headquarters based, were at risk under the proposed change programme. A further 68 posts would be created and 42 posts would be realigned from headquarters to sit alongside property management. Mr Skinner summarised the structure of the new operating model to the members, highlighting where this differentiated from the current model. There would be four directorates in the new structure: Operations; Consultancy Services; Customer & Cause; and Corporate Services. Under the Operations directorate, Mr Skinner reported that properties would be split geographically into six regional groupings, led by General Managers, for built heritage and one national grouping for natural heritage. The regional groupings would have devolved responsibility to commission colleagues in Consultancy Services to provide the support they need. Customer & Cause would provide fundraising and promotional support. Technical leadership would be provided by conservation and policy experts reporting directly to the Chief Executive, with both conservation and health & safety being led at the highest level of the Trust. This would allow conservation advocacy and positioning in order to influence national debates and policy makers in favour of heritage. Mr Skinner highlighted that fewer changes would be seen in the Corporate Services directorate. Once investment in new back office systems had been completed, the structure of Corporate Services would be revisited. Mr Skinner explained that the biggest single change was embedding a new culture of commercial management across the organisation.
14. Turning to the process, Mr Skinner reported that the Trust had engaged in formal consultation with the affected staff and the recognised trade union, Prospect. Consultation began in June and, after 90 days, completed on 19 September 2016. As a result of the consultation, Mr Skinner explained that there are likely to be some amendments to the proposed new structure. A

final proposed structure will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting in the week following the Annual General Meeting. Once considered and approved, a formal announcement would be made and posts would be advertised shortly thereafter.

15. Mr Skinner took a moment to reflect on the members of staff who are affected by the consultation. He thanked them for their professionalism in contributing to the discussions and keeping operations running during this unsettling time.
16. Finally, Mr Skinner took the opportunity to make a special announcement. He was pleased to confirm that the Trust would be honouring the late Mr Dick Balharry, a former interim Chairman of the Trust and inspirational man, with a special memorial event. In conjunction with Mr Balharry's son, David, a special exchange and study tour would be organised, entitled 'The Economics of Land Management, Nature Conservation and the Challenges of Fragmentation', which would take a candid look at the serious issues facing rural land management in Scotland. Mr Skinner reported that it was anticipated the programme would be made available to around 16 students, with two prizes being awarded at the end: one for best student and the other for best practitioner. This would be a fitting tribute to the charismatic personality of Mr Balharry.
17. The Chairman thanked Mr Skinner and welcomed Mr Allan Bowie, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Corporate Services to the podium.

#### **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – THE TRUST'S FINANCIAL POSITION**

18. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr Allan Bowie, addressed the members and introduced the financial statements of the Trust for the financial year 2015/16.
19. Mr Bowie reported that the form and content of the Annual Review and statutory accounts were slightly different to previous years, largely as a result of the new standard of recommended practice and FRS102 that all charities in the UK have had to adopt.
20. Mr Bowie highlighted the following matters: for the 18th consecutive year, the Trust had successfully grown its membership to over 351,000 members; the General Income Fund had increased to £26.2m, which is above the targeted reserves level of £21m; there had been a 43% increase in conservation activity spend from the previous year, totalling £12.5m; overall expenditure (£53.1m) had been higher than revenue (£52.9m), meaning that there was an operating deficit (before investment income and legacies) for the year of £167,000; membership revenues had increased by c£1m; and commercial revenues had brought in £11.7m of income.

21. Mr Bowie stated that, after taking into account some adverse stock market movements, the headline reported deficit for the Trust was in the region of £8.8m. After including investment income and receipted legacies, he explained that the true underlying position showed an adverse movement of about £1.7m.
22. Mr Bowie reported on operations in the current financial year (16/17). Visitor numbers had increased on the previous year, particularly at Culzean with the opening of the Adventure Cove playpark. By the end of August 2016, membership numbers had continued to increase.
23. Mr Bowie informed the members that the operating deficit for the financial year to the end of February 2016 was £300,000, compared to a forecasted deficit of £600,000. He summarised that the Trust's finances had stabilised but were not yet at a sustainable level. Mr Bowie stated that there were opportunities to improve the financial performance of the Trust, by driving increased revenue streams and improving costs and efficiencies in the way the Trust operates to ensure that it works within its means. This would ensure that the Trust could tackle its conservation priorities over the longer term.
24. The Chairman thanked Mr Bowie.

#### **REVIEW OF FUTURE APPOINTMENTS**

25. The Chairman introduced Professor Ian Percy, Chairman of the Trust's Nomination Committee, to the members. He explained that Professor Percy was a former Trustee of the Board, having joined in 2011 and being appointed Deputy Chairman in 2013. Professor Percy and a sub-group of the Nominations Committee had recently led a review of the process by which the Trustees are appointed to the Board. The sub-group consisted of the Chairman, Professor Percy, Mrs Lesley Knox and Mr Small. Professor Percy was invited to the podium to summarise the findings of the review.
26. Professor Percy recalled the recommendations of the Strategic Review led by the Rt Hon Sir George Reid in 2009/10 which saw the Trust move to a more modern system of governance. The Board of Trustees was established in 2011 as a direct result of this Strategic Review. With no election of Trustees scheduled for 2016, Professor Percy reported that the sub-group of the Nominations Committee thought this was a suitable juncture to consider the process of election, and to consider recommendations to ensure the effectiveness of the system of election of Trustees.
27. Professor Percy reported that the sub-group set about reviewing the effectiveness of the current system of appointments and assessing whether

it complies with modern expectations regarding the diversity of Boards and delivering a Board that is fit for purpose.

28. Professor Percy highlighted the observations of the sub-group to the members. The importance of the Board of Trustees having a broad range of experience and skills relevant to an organisation of the Trust's scale and the ability to guide the strategic affairs of the Trust remained unquestionable. However, it was clear that there was a need to develop a mechanism to facilitate diversity of Board membership in relation to gender, age, ethnicity and social background, as well as making sure that the Board has the skills and experience that reflect the full range of the Trust's charitable and commercial activities.
29. Professor Percy summarised the number of candidates standing for election and the number of members voting in the 5 years of elections since 2011. The sub-group had noted concerns that the number of applicants coming forward for Trustee election is declining and that the low member turnout for voting could result in a single issue Trustee being elected on to the Board by an unrepresented membership group. Professor Percy reported that something had to change to ensure that the system provided Board candidates who could manage the complexity of the organisation.
30. Having reviewed the governance of other organisations, in particular the Co-operative Society, the RSPB, Barnardo's, Oxfam and the Terrence Higgins Trust, the sub-group came to six conclusions on which to base their recommendations: i) there are no standard methods or practices in appointing charity trustees; ii) most charities do aim to appoint a well-skilled and diverse board; iii) achieving the appropriate skill-set on the board cannot be left to chance; iv) balancing the diversity of trustee candidates is very important and cannot be left to chance; v) low voter turnout is endemic across the sector and must be recognised as a real risk in the appointments system; and vi) the importance of maintaining a link between trustee appointments and the membership is paramount.
31. Professor Percy presented the recommendations of the sub-group to the members. He reported that there must be certainty in the appointments system and what it achieves, and that a formal statement of aims and objectives should be adopted. The skills matrix should also remain the principal tool in ensuring the Board is sufficiently balanced to meet strategic challenges and obligations. Board vacancies should be advertised widely, making clear the skills and experience required, as well as stating that the Trust wishes to broaden the diversity of its Board. Members should be encouraged to put their names forward to the Nominations Committee, which should maintain a register of interested people who wish to be elected or co-opted when Board vacancies arise. Candidates will be subject to a more rigorous process of prior assessment to ensure that only those with

the appropriate and relevant skills are presented to the membership for consideration. Commitment to the Trust will be one of the criteria considered through written submissions and interviews. Only those who emerge successfully through the assessment process would be proposed for election to the Board when vacancies arise. As a 'safety valve' to diversify the candidates, the Trust is considering, based on the Co-operative Society model, the equivalent of a member director. This would either be an employee or volunteer, or someone who can represent the wider membership of the Trust. Finally, candidates for co-option will undergo a similar assessment process to those seeking to go forward for election.

32. Professor Percy suggested that consideration may be given to expanding the number of elected Trustees in order to maintain the full spectrum of skills required. However, this would be put to the members at a future Annual General Meeting if it was thought that the skills matrix required it.
33. Professor Percy confirmed that the Board of Trustees considered the recommendations at their meeting on 25 August 2016. He was pleased to report that the Board had been fully supportive of the proposals. Although recognising that some members would disagree with the requirement of a pre-assessment, he wished to assure members that this would provide the Board with the best possible mix of skills and experience. This will ensure the Trust endures, thrives, and is fit for purpose and recognised as such not only by the membership, but also the wider public, government and funders.
34. The Chairman thanked Professor Percy for his presentation.

### **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

35. The Chairman opened the meeting up to a general question and answer session.
36. Mr Nicholas Ryan asked if the General Income Fund (GIF) is to be depleted by 10% to help fund other projects in the financial year, how quickly would the funds be restored to the policy of 6 months operating expenditure? Mr Bowie explained that the Board had approved a 10% variation in the total of the GIF, meaning that the fund could fall to £19m of the £21m target level. If the variation was to be invoked, it would be a condition of the approval that it was replenished before any further variations could take place.
37. Mrs Anne Ritchie, Chair of the Bearsden & Milngavie Members' Centre, asked if the new operating model being proposed for the Trust would make significant savings. Mr Skinner reported that a 10% saving in operating costs would equate to around £4m per annum, which would be achieved by a reduction in head count and investment in new systems.

38. Mr William Nelson stated that the Trust had significant digital assets and wondered if the Trust had any plans to utilise these resources in coming years. Mr Skinner agreed that the Trust had many assets that were currently under-utilised including, as an example, its wildlife photography. He reported that Mr Mark Bishop, Director of Customer & Cause, had been challenged to use different media to reach new audiences and to change the perceptions and demographics of the Trust.
39. Mr Calum Morrell suggested that forbidding members to take photographs at Trust properties was the wrong policy and he wished to know the reason behind the approach. Mr Skinner responded that photography restrictions are often linked to the items on display and if they are on loan to the Trust then the Trust needs to ensure that the appropriate permissions for photography are in place. Mr Skinner went on to explain that the Trust has a project underway to inventorise all of its collections. He anticipated that this project would allow the Trust to understand what it owns and find different ways to interact with its members using digital media and apps.
40. Mrs Vivien Bremner, a former member of staff, questioned the Trust's decision to outsource its provision for surveyors in the change programme proposals. Mr Skinner explained that this would be a radical change for the Trust but it was common practice for the Trust's surveyors to commission external surveyors to complete the work. He believed that, in the future, surveyors should be appointed by the properties at a local level.
41. Mr Rob Wallace, a volunteer with the Trust, asked if the Trust had any plans to encourage younger people to become more involved with the Annual General Meeting or the Members' Centres. Mr Skinner sympathised with this question. However, with only 4% of Scotland's population being members of the National Trust for Scotland, he suggested that the difficulty was raising awareness in the 18–25 demographic group. He stated that Mr Bishop had been tasked with moving the Trust from a transactional charity to a cause-led charity and he hoped that a greater emphasis on the natural heritage would engage younger people. Partnering with Young Scot and other like-minded bodies would also help enable dialogue with this demographic group.
42. Mr Andrew Gransden, a professional photographer, suggested that it was in the Trust's interest to allow photography at properties. Many people use social media and tag the location of where they are on platforms like Facebook. He suggested that by prohibiting photography the Trust was throwing away free advertising opportunities.
43. Mr William Cairns stated that the Strategic Review carried out by the Rt Hon Sir George Reid suggested that the Trust should work in collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland and other sister bodies. He wished to know

what the Trust had done to facilitate this. Mr Skinner reported that the Trust had been collaborating with other agencies and sector organisations on the 'Our Place in Time' strategy, which is the first of its kind commissioned by the Scottish Government. He suggested that it was now incumbent on the Trust to ensure its own house is in order.

44. Mrs Diana Lawson, a volunteer at Kellie Castle, suggested that the Trust was making it more difficult for older people, and those who don't use computers or technology, by only advertising opening hours on the website. The area around Kellie also suffers from poor mobile phone reception meaning that passers-by cannot look up the opening times on smart phones or tablets. She noted that Kellie Castle had received a greater volume of phone calls as a result and hoped that more information could be included in the Guide issued to all members.
45. Mr Graham Smith asked if the Trust records the nationality of visitors to its properties. He suggested that this might be helpful in relation to Brexit. Mr Skinner reported that the Trust did not capture such data but did use the Moffat Centre data, which can be analysed to provide some understanding of the nationality of the visitors passing through the Trust's properties.
46. Mr Small reported that there were two questions from the floor that had been handed to him. The first was a volunteering question of a personal nature in relation to Thistle Camps and Mr Small asked that the questioner, Mr Alfred Stocks, make himself known at the end of the meeting and he would put him in touch with Mrs Carol-Ann Boyter, Head of People. The second question was from Mrs Margaret Boyd, who asked whether the Trust had sufficient resources for training garden staff. Mr Skinner responded, noting that the Trust needed to conduct a general gardens review, including the salaries of gardeners, to understand why the Trust struggled to recruit and retain gardeners at its properties. This would be carried out under the proposed new structure.
47. Mr John Boyd was concerned that Glasgow and the West was neglected by the Trust in relation to planned talks and events. Mr Skinner agreed that the West was not well represented and hoped to talk to Mr Boyd after the meeting.
48. Miss Margaret Hunter, a volunteer at Kellie Castle, was concerned that after reading a recent interview with Mr Skinner in *The Times*, resources would be given to the Priority Projects and the rest of the Trust's estate would be neglected. Mr Skinner stated that he was misquoted in the interview. The Trust would be focusing on the properties with the highest footfall of visitors for investment and income return, but routine maintenance would continue across the estate.

49. Mr Hamish McKenzie, Chair of the Edinburgh Members' Centre, suggested that the Trust should consider charging members to visit properties, perhaps at a discounted rate, to improve the Trust's income.
50. Mrs Anne Ritchie, Chair of the Bearsden & Milngavie Members' Centre, noted that this was the third Annual General Meeting where young people had been discussed but nothing had changed. She stated that the Bearsden & Milngavie Members' Centre pays for local primary schools to visit Trust properties. She suggested that this scheme should be adopted and taken on by all Members' Centres. Mr Skinner agreed that it was a very good model to adopt.
51. There were no more questions from the members present.

### **FUTURE AGM ARRANGEMENTS**

52. The Chairman took the opportunity to ask the members present about the format and location of the Annual General Meeting. It had previously been agreed to stage all Annual General Meetings in Stirling as it was thought to be a central location equally accessible from all parts of Scotland. The Chairman reported that it had been suggested to him it would be fairer to revert to the previous practice of holding meetings in different locations around the country each year. He wished to know how the members felt about different locations and if they had any views on the format of the meetings.
53. Mr Small noted that the feedback received so far was that a fixed central location was good, but if there were other options these should also be considered. In addition, the Trust could think more imaginatively in relation to themes of the meetings and perhaps consider ways to stream the meeting live on the internet for members who do not wish to travel.
54. Mr William Nelson agreed that a central location was good and suggested that by introducing video technology, which could be interactive for the question and answer session, and by making greater use of the Members' Centres would help expand the meeting, involve more local members and reach a greater audience.
55. Miss Alison Mitchell, Chair of the Aberdeen & District Members' Centre, explained that she made representation to the Trust as it was difficult to get to Stirling from the north-east. She was pleased that the idea of streaming the meeting had been suggested.
56. Mr Ron Davis suggested that it would be helpful to receive copies of the agenda, papers and slides in advance of the meeting to help members follow the proceedings.

57. The Chairman thanked the members, the Senior Management Team, and the Board for the interesting question and answer session.

## **PEOPLE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTEERS**

58. The Chairman reported that, as a consequence of a question being asked at the 2015 Annual General Meeting about changes being made to the support offered to the Trust's volunteers in the wake of a reorganisation of the Trust's People management functions, a short presentation would be made. Mr Keith Griffiths, a Trustee and the Board's Volunteering Champion, had planned to address the members but due to personal circumstances had tendered his apologies for the meeting. Mrs Jillian Carrick was invited to the podium to make the address on his behalf.

59. Mrs Carrick reported that Mr Finlay McKichan, one of the Trust's longstanding volunteers, had raised concerns that recent changes to the People management function abolished the separate volunteering department. She explained that she undertook to report back on the effect of the change following implementation of the new arrangements. Mrs Carrick stated that the restructure was intended to overcome a series of 'silos' to create a 'one workforce' approach whereby both volunteers and paid members of staff should receive the same level of service and support. She was pleased to confirm that, after a year of the new arrangements being in place, a great deal of activity had been successfully delivered. Mrs Carrick highlighted some of the achievements to the members present at the meeting, noting that volunteering remains of central importance to the Trust.

60. The Chairman thanked Mrs Carrick.

## **AUDITOR'S STATEMENT**

61. The Chairman welcomed Ms Janet Hamblin of RSM UK Audit LLP (formerly Baker Tilly) to the podium to present the auditor's statement.

62. Ms Hamblin reported that RSM UK Audit LLP had satisfactorily completed the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2016. She explained that the audit was completed in accordance with international standards on auditing and practice note 11, which sets out the points that auditors must take into account when auditing charity accounts in the UK. Ms Hamblin reported that, as of 2016, all charities and companies have to adopt some new accounting standards. This has resulted in some changes to the reporting of the Trust's reserves and some increased disclosures in the Trust's accounts. Ms Hamblin was pleased to confirm that the Trust had

received an unqualified audit report for the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2016.

### **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

63. The Chairman called for the adoption of the Annual Review and Annual Accounts for 2015/16. Mr Ian Doig proposed the resolution and Mr Peter Ord seconded it. The resolution was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

*'The Trustees will propose RSM UK Audit LLP (formerly Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP), Chartered Accountants, First Floor, Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG be appointed as the Trust's Auditors.'*

64. Mr Ian Doig, Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee proposed that RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants, First Floor, Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG be reappointed as external auditors of the Trust. The resolution was seconded by Mr James Fenton and approved on a show of hands by the members present

65. The Chairman confirmed that RSM UK Audit LLP had been formally reappointed as the Trust's external auditors.

### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS**

66. The Chairman introduced the next item of business, the proposed re-election of the Trust's President and Vice-Presidents. He confirmed that the Board of Trustees recommends that Lord Jamie Lindsay be re-appointed as President and that the Duchess of Fife, Professor Hugh Cheape, Mr Angus MacDonald, Mr Simon Fraser and Professor Michael Scott-Morton be re-appointed as Vice-Presidents. Mrs Jill Carrick proposed the re-election of the President and Vice-Presidents. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Amanda Herries, and approved by the members present.

67. The Chairman was delighted to declare the President and Vice-Presidents duly elected.

### **ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

*'That with effect from 1 March 2017 the minimum amount of the annual subscription required for qualification as an Ordinary Member of the National Trust for Scotland, currently fifty-four pounds, shall be the sum of fifty-six pounds.'*

68. The Chairman invited the Chief Executive to present the ordinary membership subscription resolution.
69. Mr Skinner set out the wider economic context within which the proposal should be considered, suggesting that, with effect from 1 March 2017, the minimum amount of the annual subscription required for qualification as an Ordinary Member of the National Trust for Scotland, currently £54, should be the sum of £56.
70. The Chairman asked if there were any questions on the proposed increase. No questions were asked by the members present at the meeting.
71. Mr Kevin McCormick proposed the resolution. The resolution was duly seconded by Mrs Caroline Borwick and approved on a show of hands by the members present at the meeting.
72. The Chairman thanked Mr Skinner and confirmed that with effect from 1 March 2017 the Ordinary Member annual subscription rate would be raised to the sum of £56.

#### **GEORGE WATERSTON MEMORIAL AWARD**

73. The Chairman invited Professor Hugh Cheape, Vice-President, to present the George Waterston Memorial Award.
74. Professor Cheape explained that the award is presented each year to individuals who have, over a period of years, made a special contribution to the work of the Trust. The award is now in its 35th year. The award is presented in memory of Dr George Waterston, one of Scotland's leading ornithologists, who bought and subsequently donated the island of Fair Isle, together with its bird observatory, to the Trust in 1954. The award is made on the basis of nominations sent in by colleagues such as line managers, and Professor Cheape recorded his warm thanks to those who had taken the time and thought to fill out the nomination forms.
75. Professor Cheape reported that, following consideration of the nominations, it had been decided this year that two awards should be presented, both to volunteers. The winners would be presented with a wooden bowl crafted by Mr Colin McKenzie.
76. Professor Cheape had great pleasure in announcing that the recipients of the 2016 George Waterston Memorial Award were Mr James Ryan and Mr Michael Duguid.
77. Professor Cheape reported that Mr Ryan is a Volunteer Ranger at Culzean Country Park, where he began volunteering in 2009 at the tender age of 13.

Mr Ryan has developed a deep knowledge and interest in the natural world, especially the marine environment, to the extent that he is now studying for a BSc in Countryside Management. He has devoted many hours to volunteering and has matured into an invaluable and highly professional member of the team at Culzean.

78. Mr Duguid, a Volunteer Room Guide at Broughton House & Garden and Chair of the Friends of Broughton House & Garden, has been volunteering with the Trust for over 15 years. He has undertaken conservation research, offered specialist tours of the property, and chaired the Friends. Mr Duguid has also made enormous efforts to raise thousands of pounds for the property to purchase E A Hornel's painting *Harvesting, Kirkcudbright*.
79. Mr Ryan was present to accept his award. Professor Cheape reported that, although he was not available to collect the award in person, Mr Duguid was delighted to have received the award.
80. Professor Cheape congratulated Mr Ryan and Mr Duguid on their awards.

#### **COLIN DONALD AWARD**

81. Professor Cheape went on to present the Colin Donald Environmental Law Award. He explained that the Colin Donald Award commemorates the late Mr Colin Donald who, at the time of his death in 2006, was a Vice-President of the Trust. He reported that the late Mr Donald had a very long career in the Glasgow law firm McGrigor Donald but also gave service to many causes including the University of Glasgow, Sir William Burrell Trust and, not least, the National Trust for Scotland.
82. The award, co-hosted by the University of Glasgow, is judged on the submission of essays by Scots law students on the subject of environmental law. The winner is then offered a placement in the legal department of the Trust as well as a cash prize.
83. Professor Cheape was pleased to confirm that the 2016 Colin Donald Award winner was Miss Helen Kemp, an American Masters student at the University of Edinburgh. Miss Kemp wrote an essay entitled 'Plaintiffs for the Planet: An Analysis of Recent Domestic Climate Change Litigation'. Although Miss Kemp could not attend the meeting, Professor Cheape recorded that arrangements would be made for her to receive her prize following the meeting.
84. The Chairman thanked Professor Cheape and congratulated all the award winners on their achievements.

## **'BIG DIG' AT BANNOCKBURN**

85. As a prelude to the members' trip to the Battle of Bannockburn Centre after the meeting, the Chairman reported that a video presentation prepared by Professor Tony Pollard, Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, would be played over lunch.

86. The Chairman invited Mr Derek Alexander, the Trust's Head of Archaeology, and Mr Scott McMaster, Property Manager at the Battle of Bannockburn Centre, to the podium to give the members a flavour of the visit. They also highlighted some of the successes of the recent archaeological excavations at Bannockburn, which have involved more than 1,200 volunteers over the past 5 years.

## **2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

87. The Chairman confirmed that the date of the 2017 Annual General Meeting would be Saturday 30 September. A venue would be announced later in the year.

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

88. The Chairman welcomed Mr Skinner to the podium to address the members.

89. Mr Skinner invited the members present at the meeting to attend a visit to the Battle of Bannockburn Centre. He hoped that members would enjoy their trip.

90. The Chairman brought the 2016 Annual General Meeting to a close.