

**Carsphairn Heritage Group
Minutes of AGM**

Saturday 16th November 2019

Present - Committee: Chair - Karen Hall (KH), Vice-Chair - Robin Ade, Treasurer - Ruth Williams (RW), Secretary - Gail Challis, Newsletter Editor - Ian Saunders (IS), Lorraine Challis (LC), David Bartholomew, Jane Metcalf (JM).

Members: Sandy Hall, Sylvia Sinclair, Martin Temple, Wendy Fenton, Harry Hall, Darren Challis, Mary Saunders (MS), Heather Hickman (HH) Elizabeth Bell, Anna Campbell (AC), Arnold Duggleby.

Non-members: Jonathan Barrett, David Link (DL).

1. Welcome and Introductions - KH welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jonathan Barrett from Galloway Glen Landscape Partnership (GGLP) and David Link from Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway.

Apologies - Sue Wiseman

2. Minutes of previous AGM - Proposed - IS; Seconded - LC.

3. Treasurer's Report - attached.
Proposed - JM; Seconded - HH

Appointment of Auditor - Stephen Davie is retiring as Auditor of our accounts, which he has done for free for many years. He was thanked for his service. Martin Wheeler has agreed in principle to audit our next accounts.

Proposed - KH; Seconded - MS

4. Chair's Report - attached. KH invited questions from the floor.
Topics included: logistics of opening the Centre next year; potential ownership of toilets and opportunities to improve them and the picnic area; threat to the community of toilet closure; and opportunities for fundraising to prevent reliance on CREFL funding.

DL answered a number of technical queries regarding the proposed constitution for the new SCIO.

KH reiterated that the membership would be kept fully informed of our plans via the newsletter and website.

5. Office Bearers -

Retirals due by rotation - Karen Hall, David Bartholomew; both have chosen to continue on the committee.

Resignations - Ruth Williams. KH thanked RW for her work over the years and presented her with a gift.

Three new members joined the committee:

Elizabeth Bell - Proposed - KH; Seconded - LC

Darren Challis - Proposed - KH; Seconded - MS

Heather Hickman - Proposed - KH; Seconded - JM

A Point of Order was raised by AC with regard to electing committee roles at an AGM. Point 5 of the Constitution states,

“The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and such other members as may be elected by and from the members of the association at the Annual General Meeting.”

therefore KH moved to continue with the election process.

Committee for coming year -

Chair - Karen Hall

Vice-Chair - Robin Ade

Treasurer - Darren Challis - Proposed - KH; Seconded - RW

Minute Secretary - Gail Challis

Newsletter editor - Ian Saunders

Committee - David Bartholomew, Jane Metcalf, Lorraine Challis, Heather Hickman, Elizabeth Bell.

External Speakers -

Jonathan Barrett, Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership's Land Management and Access Officer gave a Year One Review, a snapshot of GGLP's projects including progress on the Pack Road, now part of the Glenkens Pilgrims' Way, Phase 1 of which is due to be finished before Christmas. He also distributed Year One Snapshot leaflets and 2020 calendars.

David Link from Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, invited anyone to get in touch with any questions they had; encouraged us to talk to other groups undertaking similar projects and suggested we as a group, join Third Sector as members. He provided his business cards with his contact information.

6. Proposal (A): It is proposed that a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) be established, name to be 'Carsphairn Heritage Initiative', the existing Unincorporated Association with Charitable Status 'Carsphairn Heritage Group, SC007408' be wound up in accordance with the provisions in its Governing Document (Constitution) and its assets transferred to the new SCIO on its establishment.

A vote was taken and the proposal was carried 17 to 0.

7. Proposal (B): It is proposed that the newly incorporated 'Carsphairn Heritage Initiative' proceed with an application to Dumfries & Galloway Council, under the Scottish Government's - Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) to take ownership of Carsphairn Heritage Centre.

A vote was taken and the proposal was carried 17 to 0.

8. A.O.B. -

CHG will be having a stall at the CCT Christmas Fayre on Sunday 8th December, 11am-3pm in Lagwyne Hall, selling CHG publications, gifts and preloved books. KH asked for volunteers to help on the stall.

Donald Grieg, author of Slow Travel Dumfries and Galloway has been in touch for up to date information on the Centre which will continue to feature in the new edition.

KH thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 4.50pm.

CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP CHAIRMANS REPORT 2019

At last year's AGM we set out plans to digitise our vast Heritage Collection and make it available on-line via our pages on the Carsphairn community website. The information contained in our heritage collection, made up of family histories, past exhibitions and newsletters, postcards, photographs, census records and other miscellaneous documents, were to be uploaded to the Carsphairn community website and made fully searchable. The project was to be completed in two phases.

The project was designed to make this information accessible to everyone wherever they are in the world for a number of reasons including genealogy research, general interest and local heritage education. It would also ensure that the work done by so many volunteers over the last 30 plus years, would be preserved and protected forever.

It was agreed that the majority of the digitisation work would be carried out by volunteers and the more complex, fragile or large items would be digitised by a professional company. The company we contracted to do this was TownsWebArchiving and I'm pleased to say their work was of excellent quality, all timescales were met, and all items were returned to us safely.

I must take this opportunity to thank Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership who were hugely supportive of our project and after submitting a successful application we were able to secure £2000 of funding via their 'Our Heritage - Small Grants Scheme' earlier this year. There is another round of funding, the deadline for which closed just a few days ago. Carsphairn Heritage Group have again applied for further funds to assist in the completion of Phase Two of our Digitisation Project, we are hoping for GGLP's continued support with this.

Another, even bigger thank you must go to our team of volunteers, without whom this very ambitious project would not have been possible at all. Believe me, there is no amount of funding that could have covered the precious time and energy they have all given up over the last twelve months, especially during our two extremely productive Digi Days.

Phase two gets underway soon and we hope to be finished completely by the Autumn of 2020, pending a successful funding bid and the continued assistance from our trusty team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone involved.

Our second project, agreed at the AGM last year, was that Carsphairn Heritage Group would submit a Stage 1 application to D&G Council via the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to take ownership of the Heritage Centre. The Centre was purpose built for the Group back in the early 1990's. Pursuing a Community Asset Transfer would not only ensure a permanent home for the Heritage Collection, it would also allow the group to make improvements to the building, enabling it to be used all year-round and for a wider variety of things.

Our Stage 1 application was accepted by Dumfries & Galloway Council early this year and after initial discussions it seemed it would be likely that a transfer could take place for a nominal fee once all paperwork and consultations processes were complete.

Unfortunately, soon after we hit a stumbling block. We quickly learned that our current legal identity, that of a Scottish Registered Charity, was not sufficient in becoming a viable 'Transfer Body' and until the Group were identified as a 'Scottish Incorporated Charity' or SCIO, then the application could not proceed any further. Due to the legal implications and necessary ratification needed by our membership we agreed that the project should be put on hold. We were very busy with digitisation with limited manpower and instead of calling an Extraordinary General Meeting the group decided to defer the project until the AGM

This year we were created a mini exhibition entitled "The Last Spinner of Carsphairn". The inspiration for this exhibition was born out of a series of three wonderful postcards which were found in our collection. The mini exhibition was displayed at the Heritage Centre during 'Worldwide Spin in Public Day' on Saturday 21 September. It was included in our E-newsletter No.128 which was distributed to our membership in early October and for those of you who still haven't seen it, it can be found in full on the online archive.

It was decided last year to modernise the format for our newsletters and the first E-newsletter was distributed. It is still possible to receive the newsletter in printed form but members must identify this when completing their membership renewal form.

The Groups online presence continues to grow with regular followers on Facebook commenting and liking our posts. There has been a huge growth in other groups sharing our posts this year. Our pages on the Carsphairn Community website goes from strength to strength and the addition of the Online Heritage Archive has been extremely positively received.

We have continued this year to assist families in their genealogy research. Enquiries have continued to come in from across the UK and much further afield; New Zealand, Canada and the USA. This shows that our local heritage is not only of high interest and importance to our geographical locality but to every corner of the globe. The wonders of modern technology together with the motivation of our Group to share this valuable information have allowed this very important facet of our work to continue and flourish. The group have received some very gracious feedback and some very nice donations too. We believe that as the online archive grows genealogy research will be improved and easily accessible to all. This is a huge future-proofing tick in the box!

Karen Hall
Chair
Carsphairn Heritage Group

Income & Expenditure for Carspham Heritage Group (Charity No. SC007408)

1/1/2018 to 31/10/2019

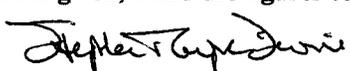
Last Year	Income	
£250.00	Membership Subscriptions	£136.00
£391.69	Donations	£180.50
£0.00	Sundries	£100.00
£39.88	Interest	£102.77
£2,032.38	Grants	£4,258.00
£4,246.86	Sales	£91.00

Last Year	Expenditure	
£157.43	Printing	£0.00
£93.33	Postage etc	£1.26
£297.80	Social Events	£431.49
£129.68	Repairs & Replacements	£0.00
£896.56	Heat & light	£1,158.30
£502.87	Insurance	£495.85
£813.31	Telephone etc.	£619.26
£3,466.16	Purchases	£0.00
£181.77	Sundries	£8.99
£824.87	Exhibition Expenses	£0.00
	Web Site	£148.71
	Archiving	£1,998.00

£6,960.81 Total Income	£4,868.27
Uncleared cheques from last year now cleared	(£156.15)
Cash In Hand @ 1/1/18	£20.00
Treasurers Account @ 1/11/18	£2507.46
National Savings Investment Account @ 1/11/18	£8502.52
	£15,742.10

£7,363.78 Total Expenditure	£4,861.86
Uncleared cheques & Banking	£0.00
Cash In Hand @ 31/10/19	£20.00
Treasurers Account @ 31/10/19	£10,860.24
National Savings Investment Account @ 31/10/19	£0.00
	£0.00
	£15,742.10

Having examined the papers and records, and with the explanations given, I find the figures correct.

Signed **Stephen T Davie**  Date: **6/11/2019**

Last Year		This Year
£6960.81	Total Income	£4868.27
(£7363.78)	Total Expenditure	(£4861.86)
(£402.97)	Profit/(Loss)	£6.41