



BAILIES OF BENNACHIE 2023 Annual General Meeting

Date: 27th April, 2023

Venue: This meeting was held as a hybrid meeting to allow those further afield to attend.

Attendees - Trustees: Ann Baillie, David Bale, Fiona Cormack, Alex Doig, Margaret Garden, Alan Henderson, Willie Linklater, Kim Morgan, Peter Stock and Allan Will.

Attendees – Bailies: Jo Vergunst, Stella Gault, Robert Smith, Barry Foster, Christ Foster, Harry Leil, John Heskett, Kate Heskett, Bob Coleman, Anne-Marie Coleman, Jim Buchan, John Murray, Griselda McGregor, Jackie Cumberbirch, Matthew Webster, David Hood, William Justice, Michael Coutts, Vera Seaford, Jim Rose, James Kerr, Norman Still, Mike Elsey.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome	Peter Stock opened the meeting with a welcome to all.
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Donna Taylor, Colin Miller
3. Previous Minutes	Willie Linklater advised that the previous AGM minutes of 24 th February 2022 had been sent out with the Agenda and invited comments on the content. There being no adjustments to the minutes, these were proposed and seconded by Allan Will and Ann Baillie and unanimously accepted as approved.
4. Chairman Report	<p>Peter Stock reported on 2022 starting with disruption following the storms of Arwen, Corrie & Dudley, with the resultant closures of many paths and damage for a significant part of the year and prevented some of the ongoing work.</p> <p>There had been some Trustee turnover and paid tribute to the work of former chair Jackie Cumberbirch and noted the resignations of Ann Baillie & Donna Taylor at the AGM, with Dave Peter and Dan Montgomery having stood down through the year, with thanks for all of their work. Jim Herbert, David Bale, Kim Morgan and Allan Will had all been co-opted during this last year and were formally welcomed and introduced.</p> <p>There was now a requirement to embed GDPR into the Bailies of Bennachie, along with improving & modernising internal communications & files with a move to Teams and hiring some administration assistance.</p> <p>A new strapline for the logo of <i>A Voice for the Hill</i> was introduced and explained.</p> <p>Peter then briefly mentioned the receipt of a substantial legacy, gearing up for the 50th Anniversary year, and the Work Party & BLP projects now back in full swing, in particular noting the approval of the dig in 2023 from Foresight.</p>
5. Accounts	Alan Henderson, Treasurer, reported that the Accounts had been sent out with the Agenda. He explained that this was a transformational year in that the Bailies had received a legacy of £2,287,337, and income was now

	<p>including dividends from investments. A competitive tender process was held to select investment managers, and Rathbones were selected, as have charity experience as well as ethical investment policy. Expenditure was up by £9k to £49,312, partially due to administration staff & audit fee costs. Year-end funds were £2,263,482.</p> <p>A question from the floor asked if the investments were ethical, which was answered that all our investments avoided armaments, tobacco and pornography and, as much as possible, followed “green” criteria.</p>
6. Election of Trustees	<p>As required in the Constitution, the 13 incumbent trustees, Ann Baillie, David Bale, Lorna Bell, Fiona Cormack, Alex Doig, Margaret Garden, Alan Henderson, Jim Herbert, William Linklater, Kim Morgan, Peter Stock, Donna Taylor and Allan Will stood down.</p> <p>Peter Stock led on the voting of the Trustees. He noted that Ann Baillie and Donna Taylor did not wish to stand again and expressly thanked them for their many years of work within the Bailies.</p> <p>Additional new Trustees were then requested to be put forward for election. No names were put forward at this time. Peter Stock mentioned that an IT Trustee in particular would be welcomed.</p> <p>The remaining 11 existing Trustees were all invited to be re-elected. This was proposed by Sir Robert Smith and seconded by Jackie Cumberbirch.</p>
7. 50 th Anniversary	<p>Peter Stock opened the presentation on the 50th Anniversary with a look back to conditions in 1973, with comment on the prices, politics and conditions in that year. He paid tribute to the foresight of the original Senior Bailies of Bennachie, Dr Danny Gordon, James McKay & Algy Watson in starting this organisation and some of the early activities and a potted history through the 50 years.</p> <p>The 50th celebrations should be threefold – celebration of the past 50 years, reminder of the activities that the Bailies undertake and broaden the awareness of the Bailies.</p> <p>The Anniversary will include an Open Day on Saturday 20th May at Inverurie Town Hall, and has many projects in line with that. A play has been commissioned, piano music has been commissioned, traditional Scottish music about Bennachie has been collected & some composed specially. Longer term projects to plan and look forward to is QR codes at sites of interest, path upgrades, environmental projects and litter hub installation.</p>
8. AOCB	<p>There were no items of additional business.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:14.</p>

Signed: Peter Stock (Chair from Item 7)  Date: 21st Mar 2024

Signed: Willie Linklater (Secretary)  Date: 21st Mar 2024

A duo presentation then followed by Jo Vergunst of the University of Aberdeen, sharing information on Digs, Archives & Future plans of the Bennachie Landscape Group and Chris Foster, BLPG member showcasing the work on the Kailyard over the past 6 years.