

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Number SCO47553

Minutes of AGM

7.00 pm, Thursday 28th February 2019

Lesser Hall, The Town Hall, High Street, New Galloway

1. **Welcome:** All attendees were welcomed by Ros Hill.
 - i) **Those present were:** Avril Bridgeman, Ray Bridgeman, Janet Carlyle, Thomas Carlyle, Gerald Cinderby, Deborah Daly, Ann Glaister, Bob Glaister, David Hardy, Debbie Hardy, Gordon Hill, Ros Hill, Catrin Johnes, Jean Marsden, Jane McQueen, Christine Rankin, Maitland Rankin, Joan Walker, Sharon Fishwick, Linda Garretty, Marion Briggs, Terry Haine, Andrew Frew, Linda Mitchell, Teri O'Loughlin, Jon Nimmo, Nicky Cruikshank
 - ii) **Apologies were received from:** Jim Ferguson, Jane Maitland, Lois Aitkenhead, David Bartholomew, David Link, Anne Rankin, Sue Vest, Mary Carlin, Alister Jack, Finlay Carson, Geoff Davidson, Janette Davidson, Susan O'Hare, Elizabeth Johnstone William Johnstone, Jana, Peter Hanson, Finlay Porter, Craig Millar, Helen Keron, Tim Curtis; Eleanor Wilson
 - iii) **Committee members were introduced:** Ros Hill – chair; Bob Glaister – Treasurer; Ann Glaister – Secretary; Ray Bridgeman – trustee; Debbie Hardy – trustee; David Hardy – trustee; Debbie Daly – trustee. Eleanor Wilson had sent apologies.
2. **Explanation of Membership:** Ann Glaister explained that the LING constitution requires a membership. Members are entitled to stand for election to the committee and to vote. Membership also provides evidence of support in making a case to potential funders. Non-members, however, are equally welcome to attend the AGM and it is always good to see new faces.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes were proposed as an accurate reflection of the previous year's AGM by David Hardy, seconded by Gerry Cinderby.
4. **4. Annual Report:** A copy of the Annual Report was made available to everyone and Ros Hill gave a verbal account of the past year and future plans. She thanked our many supporters and the grant giving bodies listed on the Annual Report insert.
 - i) She noted that LING is thriving and that we have a number of significant developments in addition to the work based in and around the Town Hall. There is now a subcommittee, the Celebratory Events Committee, with representatives from across organisations in New Galloway, which has run a Christmastime concert in the Town Hall and a summer Picnic in the Park. They have raised money to plough back into the community, including buying a memorial bench for the park. The partnership projects with Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership are supporting two ventures under the heading of Exploring New Galloway. Pathways, including woodland walks, in two locations are being cleared and improved and a walled garden on the Garroch Estate is being rescued and revitalised. Both have involved new volunteers and are proving popular.
 - ii) Ann Glaister provided an update on more recent developments. Since the end of our financial/reporting year, we have secured the viability testing grants that we bid for - a total of £15,000 enables us to commission consultants to conduct a 'Viability Testing' process to establish

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whether it makes sense for LING to engage in Asset Transfer and take on ownership of the Town Hall from D&G Council. This will include an architectural survey and options study, a community consultation process and a feasibility study looking at income stream potential and at trustee capacity and resilience. It's not a foregone conclusion, but if it's looking possible, this would culminate in a five-year Business Plan.

LING has also just been granted approximately £4500 by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership to develop a project called The New Galloway Story, which will build on a number of existing and planned projects to promote and celebrate the heritage of New Galloway.

- 5. Financial Report:** Bob Glaister introduced the income and expenditure account for 2017-18. Our annual surplus was up by 50% and the income has doubled. We are clearly covering our running costs. The increased income is made up of grants of roughly £7000, and a private donation of £2000 to the pathways projects. The car park purchase which cost £5080 was supported by grants of £4500. Other grants from the Co-op and Loreburn HA have assisted in the installation of wifi and will support an IT café. Income from Friends continues to be immensely valuable as do the funds from Sports evenings. It was also good to see that LING lunches are now in the black.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership project will increasingly appear in our accounts as will the activities of the Celebratory Events Committee which generates funds from the Christmas Concert and Picnic in the Park and distributes that income to local initiatives.

The hall hire figures had to be unpicked a little to show that the 2016/17 year's total was enhanced by income from the previous year, and the 2017/18 figures are lower because there is a significant amount of outstanding income still to come.

The heat, light and water costs are up, partly because prices are going up but also because we are still paying off the water bill from the early years. The treasurer expressed his appreciation to Richard Nash for his assistance in finalising the accounts and to Maitland Rankin, our independent examiner. The treasurer indicated that he would remain as treasurer in the meantime until a successor is found.

- 6. Approval of Constitution:** The approved constitution was signed.

7. Resignation of existing committee and election of new committee/trustees: The resigning committee were willing to stand for re-election with the exception of Debbie Daly and Craig Millar. Debbie will shortly be leaving New Galloway and was thanked for the part she has played over the past year. Craig's other responsibilities have made him less available in the meantime and he is withdrawing for now. His past contributions were much appreciated. Ros Hill, Ray Bridgeman, Debbie Hardy, David Hardy, Bob Glaister and Ann Glaister were proposed for re-election by Jean Marsden. The proposal was seconded by Christine Rankin.

---- Close of formal business ----

'Friends' £50 draw: The winning token was drawn by Linda Mitchell and the lucky winner this time was Tom Carlyle, who was presented with his £50 note by Bob Glaister.