

SCOTTISH WORKING PEOPLE'S HISTORY TRUST

Scottish Charity No. SC020357

Minutes of the 74th meeting of the Trust held on Tuesday 12th January 2021, via internet on Zoom during the Covid 19 pandemic crisis.

Present: Sian Reynolds (Chair), Dorothy Kidd (DK, Secretary), Janet McBain (JMcB, Treasurer), Michael Allan (MA), Bernard Beagan (BB), Elizabeth Bryan (EB), Joyce Connon (JC), Cathlin Macaulay (CM), Ian McGowan (IM), Alan Reid (AR).

1. Chairperson's remarks: SR welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a good new year.

2. Apologies for absence were received from: Hugh Hagan and Martyn Wade.

3. Trust Officer bearers: SR confirmed that she wishes to stand down as Chair of the Trust, but very kindly agreed to continue in post for the moment until we have a new Chair. This was greeted with unanimous approval by the committee whilst agreeing that we need to find a new Chair in the next few months. DK and JMcB stated that they are happy to continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively but do not wish to become Chair. **Action: All who might be prepared to consider the position to think about it over next few months.**

4. Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed. DK asked what other members thought Hilary Young's position was and it was agreed that DK should email her to check whether or not she wishes to remain a Trustee of SWPHT.

Action: DK

5. Matters arising: SR, JMcB and CM confirmed (see Item 5) that a £2400.00 donation had just been made to the School of Scottish Studies for digitising the Trust's oral history collection. CM asked that the letter thanking the School for the work be sent also as an email attachment, due to current Covid restrictions making it impossible for her to enter University buildings. **Action: JMcB**

SR asked DK if she had been able to ask Birlinn/NMSE if they were considering republishing Ian MacDougall's Flashback on the Onion Johnnies (see item 7). DK had forgotten to follow this up, apologised and undertook to do so as soon as possible. **Action: DK**

(Item 9) SR raised the issue of the dissolution of the Friends as it was not included as a separate item on the agenda. DK confirmed that she had contacted all of the Friends to explain that the organisation was to be dissolved and suggesting to them that they instead opt to make regular donations to the Trust directly. A couple had already done so and she hoped that more would do the same. DK went on to explain that she needs to complete a form for the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in order for the Friends to be dissolved. She hoped that Gift Aid for 2020 – 2021 could be claimed before the dissolution of the Friends is finalised.

SR asked what would happen to the Friends' *Newsletter* and everyone congratulated EB on the latest newsletter. After some discussion it was agreed that publication of an annual *Newsletter* will continue, both as a means of communicating the work of the Trust and to thank donors for their interest. EB confirmed that she is happy to continue as editor of the *Newsletter*.

(Item 1) AR reported that there was also an obituary for Ian MacDougall in the magazine *Scottish Local History*, based on the obituary written by Ian Wood and published in *The Scotsman*. Ian had been the first Secretary of the Scottish Local History Forum and it is very nice that his association with the group had been acknowledged there.

(Item 4) AR reported he still has a number of unsold copies of the Librarians book and will offer them, through CILIPS, to Scottish local authorities as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted.

Action: AR

SR also mentioned that an obituary to Ian MacDougall is included in the latest issue of *Scottish Labour History*, the Scottish Labour History Society being another organisation of which he was a founder member. She believes that they are also planning an event in Ian's memory.

6. Treasurer's report: SR introduced the financial report by noting that we are running a bit low on funds.

JMcB responded that there had not been much activity. Under Income she noted that we had not raised any more money towards the Digital Access project, having agreed to make a start from our existing funds; under Donations these are just the standard historic donations we receive; no Royalties had come in and nothing heard from Birlinn; and we no longer get bank interest with the new account the TSB transferred us to. There is £85.00 of new income but that is entirely to do with transferring the donations from the Friends directly to the Trust. So our total income over the last six months has been the sum of £145.00, whereas our expenditure is somewhat greater. The payment to the School of Scottish Studies is a one-off and there is the annual renewal for the website domain name and the annual renewal for employers' liability insurance which we had agreed as being something we should keep going. Her concern as Treasurer is that our income is not even meeting our annual commitments just for the website and keeping our insurance going. We are chipping into our assets every year at the moment if we are not able to increase our income. DK noted that there is still almost £800.00 in the Friends' account still to be transferred to the Trust. The committee therefore noted that around £400.00 - £500.00 a year is required just to keep ticking over.

JMcB went on to note that we have £2228.64 in unrestricted funds and £10,937 in designated funds. Nearly £7000.00 of that is money raised to fund the Digital Access project. Around £4000.00 remain to apply to other projects.

EB asked what amount we would expect to get every year as donations from Friends. DK reported that it was around £500.00, which would if most Friends transfer their donations directly to the Trust cover our core costs.

SR concluded that we should be able to cover our normal annual outgoings and concentrate on fund- raising for specific projects.

7. Publications project: AR had sent out a report on progress on *The Peeblesshire Textile Workers* project before the meeting. He outlined the main points briefly. The book will be published by the EERC. The EERC has been very limited in what it has been able to progress due to the pandemic but Caroline Milligan has been able to continue with her editorial work. The commemorative chapter will acknowledge Ian MacDougall's work in broad terms in the field of oral history. There is a problem on the production and publication side because their publication agent, NMS Publishing, is largely on furlough. At the moment they cannot give us a likely publication date.

SR thanked AR for his work to keep the project running, along with the staff of the EERC. It would be nice to publish in this the Trust's 30th anniversary year. J McB asked if it would be in order for her to write to the surviving interviewees to let them know the project is in hand. This would also be another opportunity to ask for outstanding copyright clearance forms. It was agreed this is an excellent suggestion.

AR asked how many individuals are still alive. J McB has a database of those still alive a few years ago and of their next of kin. EB noted that the structure of the book looks very good. AR noted that the editor is keen to allow the voices of individual interviewees to come through the text and that all testimonies will be used in some form.

Action: JMcB

8. Digital access project/Website/Ian MacDougall commemoration:

Digital access project:

Website: DK reported that the website is now almost up to date. MA has attempted to Tweet on our behalf but needs to be able to reset the password. MA will email us before he starts Tweeting to check Trust history etc and asked us for any interesting snippets he might be able to Tweet about. SR said that we should certainly advertise the Trust's 30th anniversary during the year. She hoped that things might be more normal by the time of our next meeting in June.

Action: DK/

MA

Ian MacDougall commemoration: After some discussion it was suggested and agreed that an online conference might be a suitable form of commemorative event in the current circumstances, possibly in the autumn. EB suggested that the NLS might be able to host an event. Their Education Team is very active and the NLS holds a significant part of Ian's archive. SR noted that suggested speakers include: Ian Wood and Margaret Mackay. A speaker on the artefacts and archives preserved thanks to Ian's work would also be good. And possibly also Caroline Milligan to promote the *Peeblesshire Textile Workers* book.

Action: EB agreed to contact Beverley Casebow and her colleagues at NLS (including Moving Image Archive)/DK to speak to Veronica Hartwich with regard to a presentation on the Digital Access project and Ian's interview by the Trust/Remember to Consult Sandra MacDougall.

SR suggested that a sub-committee of the Trust meet with NLS to agree four or five speakers and related events.

Action: EB/

All

9. Policy development: EB reminded Trustees that a number of policy documents were to be reviewed and updated by a sub-committee (Vulnerable Groups Policy, Volunteer Policy. This

group had not yet been able to meet but EB will convene a meeting in early March. The group at present consists of EB, MA, HH and DK.

10. AOB:

AR explained that David Fletcher, one of our Patrons, had expressed interest in receiving copies of our minutes. AR asked if we could copy our minutes to all Patrons. DK asked who the other Patrons are? After some discussion it was agreed to send the minutes to David Fletcher and any other Patron who asks for them. The minutes will also be put on our website as soon as practicable following a meeting.

Action: DK

11. Date and place of next meeting: Provisionally agreed to be Tuesday 8th June. We will ask HH if NRS might be able to host it, if we are out of travelling and meeting restrictions by then. As a second possible venue IM will ask NLS if their Lawnmarket building may be available.

Action: DK/HH(IM)

D Kidd, 14 February 2021