

**Minutes of 43rd Annual General Meeting
held in the South Side Community Centre
on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 7pm**

PRESENT: Lisa Sibbald (Chair), Tom King (Vice Chair), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Colin Christison (Mailing List and Membership Secretary), Jan Fraser (Treasurer), Margaret Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Barbara Edge, Fran Gifford, Joe Goldblatt, Bob Hodgart, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Nancy Lynner, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenneth McLeod, Ethel Murray, Tim Pogson, Jo Scott, Colin Symes, and Ola Uduku. Also present were Cllr Steve Burgess, Cllr Jim Orr, Cllr Cameron Rose, and Scott Wilkins, Community Learning and Development Worker from the South Side Community Centre.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Lisa Sibbald welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Carter, Derek Suttie, Maurice Naftalin, Clare Halliday, Susan Brown, Dora Lola Luz, Linda Femister, and Cllr Ian Perry.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 6 May 2014

The minutes were approved: proposer Jo Scott, seconder Jan Fraser.

3. Annual Reports

Copies of the annual joint report from the Chair, together with copies of the audited annual accounts, were distributed. Lisa summarised the reports, thanking all those who had supported the Association over the past year, including members, speakers, and public organisations. She particularly commended the work done by Hilary McDowell in co-ordinating the murals project. Lisa also thanked Cllr Orr for his efforts in trying to re-establish a Community Council for the area.

She noted with concern the decline in the number of members of the Association and hoped that the creation of the leaflets and website would encourage new members. For these, the Association was especially grateful for the grant received from the CastleRock Edinvar Housing Association, as well as the grant from the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership towards the Christmas celebrations.

A new Auditor, Helen Bourquin, had audited the accounts which showed a balance of £2,000, with a sum of £202 relating to planning permission fees due to be refunded from Sustrans. The approved accounts will be submitted to OSCR.

Lisa thanked members for their support during her time in the Chair.

4. Fixing of Annual subscription rate

It was agreed that the annual subscription rate would remain at £6, with donations at members' discretion.

Lisa Sibbald then vacated the Chair, and invited Scott Wilkins to chair the next part of the meeting.

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Scott Wilkins spoke warmly of the valuable and colourful contribution made by the Southside Association to local life, mentioning items from a short written history of the group, including some showing that things never change. He then read out the list of nominations:

Chair and Secretary* – Colin Christison

Vice-Chair – Jo Scott

Minutes Secretary – Moira Gibson

Treasurer – Lisa Sibbald

Four members to serve on the Management Committee with the above –

Margaret Bagan, Jan Fraser, May Linton, and Hilary McDowell.

**(to include membership and mailing duties)*

Representative for the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership – Tim Pogson.

The above nominations were proposed *en bloc* by Tom King, seconded by Isobel Leckie, and agreed.

7. Election of Auditor

It was agreed to retain the services of Helen Bourquin.

Colin Christison then presided as the new Chair .He and the members thanked those office bearers stepping down for their hard work and, particularly, Lisa for her work as Chair, and Tom and Lisa for their vision and drive in creating the flyers and website.

8. Any other business

CLlr Jim Orr outlined the benefits which the re-formation of a Community Council in the area could bring, particularly in relation to closer examination of issues such as planning, licensing, community safety, policing and so on. In areas where they were effective, such as Grange/Prestonfield, they contributed an enormous amount to community wellbeing. He asked members to consider taking part.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

The Royal College of Surgeons had kindly invited members of the Southside Association to visit the College for post-AGM refreshments and a tour. A short talk about the past, present and future of the College was followed by a tour of the various buildings, including a library, study centre, conference suites and the hotel. This hospitality from our neighbours was much appreciated by members. The evening ended at 8.30pm.