

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION
117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972 Scottish Charity No SCO12262

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 3 May 2016, at 7pm

Minutes

Present: Colin Christison (Chair and Secretary), Jo Scott (Vice-Chair), Lisa Sibbald (Treasurer), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Tom King, Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, Hilary McDowell, Fran Gifford, Maggie Bagan, Isobel Leckie, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Carol McHugh.

Also present: Cllr Steve Burgess.

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Colin welcomed everyone to the 44th AGM of the Southside Association. Apologies for absence were received from Maurice Naftalin, Colin Symes, Dora Lola-Luz, May Linton, Linda Femister.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 5 May 2015

The Minutes of the previous AGM were approved. Proposer: Jan Fraser; Seconder: Hilary McDowell.

3. Annual Reports (tabled)

The Chair gave his Report, a copy of which was tabled. It noted that the Association's membership is slowly declining, with 26 members currently. Nine meetings were held during the year, including the AGM, with average attendance of 18 members. Thanks were given to local officers from Police Scotland, to the local Community Safety Officer and to local Councillors for their regular attendance and their willingness to research and share information, and follow up on members' concerns. In addition, the Chair thanked all office bearers for their contribution to the running of the Association.

Highlights of the year were the tour of the Royal College of Surgeons at the 2015 AGM, and the Christmas Carol Service and Lights Ceremony at St Patrick Square in December. The latter occasion had a greater attendance than ever before and the Lord Provost was delighted to be invited to switch on the lights. Thanks were offered to all those who helped organise and who participated in the event.

A series of guest speakers ranged across topics from the challenges of student accommodation and living streets to proposals for the new Odeon Cinema and Holyrood Park Distillery, and the Chair thanked them all for their most interesting presentations.

The Association welcomed the formation of the new Southside Community Council and wished it well. Dora Lola-Luz represents the Association on this Council, and we hope both bodies will work together on environmental and other matters to improve the general amenity of the Southside. The Association continues to despair of its objections to late night takeaways and more cafes being disregarded by the planning and licensing authorities.

Thanks were given to Hilary McDowell for her unstinting efforts to ensure that environmental matters are noted and dealt with by the Council. It is a matter of regret that so few of the requests are met and so few of the basic legislative environmental requirements complied with or enforced. There are fears that this sad state of affairs will worsen as the number of Council staff dealing with environmental matters is cut.

On a happier note, the Gifford Park mural has been an outstanding enhancement to the community, thanks to Hilary's efforts, and has transformed a dirty and cluttered thoroughfare into a beautiful and welcoming open space. It has, deservedly, been nominated for an SCVO charity award within the 'Celebrating Communities' section.

The Treasurer tabled her report summarising the accounts since the previous AGM in 2015. Membership fees remained at £6 per year. Audited accounts will be presented at the June meeting.

Colin then vacated the Chair and invited Councillor Burgess to chair the next part of the meeting.

4. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Cllr Burgess then took the chair. He congratulated Southsiders on the successful establishment of the new Community Council, which is holding its AGM on Monday 9 May, and looked forward to close working between both organisations.

He commended the hard work done by the Association on environmental matters and expressed regret that more had not been done to address legitimate concerns. He was delighted at the success of the Gifford Park mural initiative and congratulated Hilary, in particular, on this achievement.

Cllr Burgess noted concerns about the changes within the Council and understood the fears that this might damage service delivery. Everything was being done to ensure that services continued as before but, in some cases, the results of the restructuring were yet to be worked out. He hoped the new 'four locality' scheme would ensure better co-ordination of services. He praised the recent participatory budgeting event, 'South Central Decides', where projects received over 500 votes.

He then read out the nominations for Office Bearers for the 2016-17 session:

Chair	Colin Christison
Vice-Chair	Josephine Scott
Secretary	Colin Christison
Treasurer	Lisa Sibbald
Minutes Secretary	Moira Gibson
Membership & Mailing List Secretary	Colin Christison

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

Margaret Bagan
Jan Fraser
May Linton
Hilary McDowell

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

5. Election of Auditor

It was agreed to retain the services of Helen Bourquin as Auditor.

The newly elected Chair resumed his post and presided over the rest of the meeting.

6. Any other business

Colin noted that Lisa would continue to represent the Association on the Community Centre's management committee, and Dora and Bob would continue to be our delegates on the Community Council. He thanked them all for their work.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm, and was followed by a celebratory buffet.