

# Largs & District Museum & Historical Society

Registered Charity No. SC001454

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting**

Held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Largs Museum, Kirkgate House, Main Street, Largs

Present: Anne Cowgill, Linda Grieve, Jonathan McLaughlin, George Newlands, Jim Rankin, John Riddell, Neil Stuart, Christine Thomas, Richard Topping, Fiona Hamilton

Neil Stuart (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that the main purpose was to confirm how the Committee wish to proceed in updating the Constitution and determining the status of the Museum & Historical Society.

Fiona Hamilton requested two amendments to the previous minutes (20.12.2022) Insert company name of solicitors and rename resources as assets. The minutes were then proposed by George Newlands and seconded by Christine Thomas.

### Matters Arising

All receipts for the purchases from the Community Renewal Fund will be submitted to NAC Regeneration Officer, David Haney, as requested and to date delivery of the reader is the only outstanding item. Neil has transferred the database to the new laptop and it was proposed that use of a hard drive would provide further back up. Richard has digitised and listed the postcard collection which he suggests we could use to encourage new membership.

### Treasurer's Update

We received £9639.40 from the Regeneration Fund and all this has been spent before the end of the year as per the conditions of agreement. There will be an overspend as the iPads were slightly more expensive. Balance left in the account is £5342.55. Christine has submitted all the paperwork for change to signatories. The Insurance documentation will need to be amended to include the new equipment. Also a building survey may be required to review valuation cover.

### Secretary's Report

Anne has arranged technical support from Bryan Brown (NAC) on the 7th February 2023. Bruce Macauley (6274) has requested a visit to the Museum to discuss the Heritage Interpretation Boards and assured us that there is no time limit for completion. Jill McColl (NAC) has offered to provide further information and access to any of their resources. Laura Miller (HES) will forward the latest photographs and an updated video of the Skelmorlie Aisle. She is in favour of accepting two pews from St Columba's Parish Church to be placed in the Aisle. The maintenance team are aware of some damage to the ceiling and they will monitor this.

The window covers are now in place and members have noted that they are helping to retain the heat.

### Museum and Historical Society Status

Prior to this meeting the Committee members had received the following;

Copy of the paperwork that was retained with McTaggart & Co. (Solicitors)  
Matters for possible discussion — John Riddell

Draft constitution update for consideration — Christine Thomas & Linda Grieve  
Links to OSCR & SCIO information and options.

Neil offered his opinion and invited all to do the same with regard as to how we should proceed. After much discussion it was noted that having two separate bodies was an issue and was not complying with conditions as stated in current documentation. The majority decision was to create a single organisation in the long term. Jim Rankin proposed that all Committee members were eligible to become Trustees and that the present Trustees should be asked if they wish to remain or resign. (Tom Marshall, Billy Salton and Sarah Goldie)  
In accordance with current procedures the Committee agreed that all members of the management team can become Trustees.

The following Committee members agreed to becoming trustees:  
Jim Rankin, Christine Thomas, Anne Cowgill, George Newlands, Richard Topping , Linda Grieve and Jonathan McLaughlin.

The meeting was formally closed at 11.45am and resumed at 11.50am

#### Meeting of Trustees

Present: Neil Stuart (Chair), Christine Thomas, Jim Rankin, Anne Cowgill, Linda Grieve, Jonathan McLaughlin, George Newlands and Richard Topping

Jim Rankin proposed that Largs and District Museum and Historical Society make an application to become a SCIO.  
Linda Grieve seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed by the Trustees present to put this proposal to the membership at an EGM. Amendments to the existing constitution as per conditions of a SCIO will be drawn up.

The meeting closed at 12.00 and the committee meeting resumed with all members present.

#### Constitution

Christine and Linda have updated a new version of the constitution and this will be e-mailed to the committee for further comments.

#### A.O.C.B

It was agreed that George could purchase a dehumidifier and he will monitor and maintain moisture levels within the Museum.

Anne will purchase a new diary and set up a register for removal and return of items  
Paperwork for membership and loan agreements need to be reviewed. (Neil & Jestein)

Richard will respond to membership enquiries. He has been in contact with NAC Bereavement Services who are responsible for maintaining the stairs to the old graveyard.

Neil will respond to Colin Golightly's query and request. He has received the loan agreement from the Clyde River Steamer Club.

Talks will be resumed as of September 2023. Meantime members can join the FHS Syllabus events.

It was noted that all display cabinets should remain full and as the Museum is open on Saturdays the Committee will strive to ensure that visitors have a positive experience.

#### Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 10.30am

