

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of Linlithgow Union

Canal Society held virtually by Zoom on

3rd December 2020 @ 7.30p

Attendees :		
Mike Smith – Vice Chair Douglas Robertson – Minute Secretary David Shirres – Treasurer / Company Secretary Lynne Nelson Ronnie Reis Andrew Eaglesfield Allister and Anne Mackie Stuart Rennie	Sandra Purves Danny Callaghan Anthony McKerron Ian Walker Graeme Harvey Stewart Liddle Gordon Barrie Chris Gunstone Ian Wallace Ian Robertson Steve Charteris Karen Bradford Andrew Milner David Roy John Aitken	Andrew Boyd Mauro Vecchi Gordon and Liz Beetham Roy Redwood Doug Scott Peter Lewis Andy Devenport Nuala and Jim Lonie Maureen Wilson David Wood Les Duff Peter Nixon Chris Matheson-Dear Andy Sinclair
<p>Virtual meeting / use of Zoom : Mike Smith (Vice Chair) gave an intro and instructions on use of Zoom. Stewart Liddle requested the Zoom chat facility not to be used as it comes up in the middle of his screen.</p>		
<p>1. Apologies : Tom Jamieson, David Hannah, Martine Stead, Myra Lawson</p>		
<p>2. Vice chairman’s statement (Mike Smith), covering :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to keep member interest in these difficult times • Christmas video • The much appreciated help the committee had from “associate members” who put in a huge effort to support LUCS. And an appeal for others of similar ilk to support the committee and spread the load. • Changes in IT support – much thanks to John Aitken for all his help over many years, who now wishes to step back. Mauro Vecchi taking over. 		
<p>3. Previous Minutes (AGM 5th Dec 2019) – no amendments. Proposed by Stuart Rennie, seconded by Ian Walker</p>		
<p>4. Matters Arising from previous minutes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online booking system – David Shirres gave some background. A new system is needed and funding has been applied for, from the resilience fund. • Out of water maintenance facility – Andy Eaglesfield gave update : this is now on the “back burner” due to COVID • Victoria “electrification” also now on hold. • IT, Mauro Vecchi thanked the attendees for their welcome and gave a brief update on current issues. 		
<p>5. Management Report (see the Annual Report).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Rennie gave a brief update on Scottish Waterway for All. 		

- Mike Smith mentioned those who have passed away this year. Mike also mentioned the Zoom talks that have taken place and issued a plea to the membership to “stay involved” so that we will have active volunteers available when we restart.

6. Accounts

David Shirres gave a report :

- Our balance has gone from £62k to £51k in a year when we had no operational income
- A significant number of bookings have had to be refunded, however some bookers took vouchers for future trips.
- We are in robust shape for whatever happens next year.

Danny Callaghan asked if we had any insurance refunds (as per car insurance arrangements). David confirmed this was indeed so.

7. Independent Examiners Report

Proposed by David Shirres, seconded by Graeme Harvey.

8. Appointment of Philip Bald as Independent Examiner

Proposed by David Shirres, seconded by Graeme Harvey.

9. Appointment of Solicitors

This has been Andrew Boyd of Pagan Osborne for many years. However, Andrew is now retiring. Douglas Robertson thanked Andrew for all his help and commitment over many years. Andrew then gave a bit of background on his involvement in the society and the events he has been involved in. Mike Smith also thanked Andrew. Andrew suggested that a colleague of his Ian Fraser (at Thorntons) was willing to take the position of LUCS solicitors.

The proposal is to appoint Ian Fraser as solicitor.

Proposed by Graeme Harvey, seconded by David Shirres.

10. Election of Officers and members of the committee of management

Mike Smith proposed that, given the exceptional circumstances, that the existing committee represented at the meeting should continue into next year. (Mike Smith as Vice Chair, David Shirres as Treasurer / Company Secretary, Douglas Robertson as Minute Secretary, Lynne Nelson, Ronnie Reis and Andy Eaglesfield).

Mike asked if the meeting was prepared to support such a proposal, and this was accepted without disagreement.

The question of chairman arose, and Mike Smith was asked his thoughts of accepting this position. However, in the interest of widening the group on the committee, another member then enquired if any of those who had asked this of Mike were themselves in a position to fill this post. However, no further nominations for chair were made.

Mike Smith then made a further plea for additional committee support in any capacity.

11. Proposals for next season

COVID update from Lynne Nelson :

- There is a LUCS sub-group looking at the logistics of opening next year.
- This applies to the tearoom, boats and museum operations.
- Likely to be a one way systems, new equipment, recording of contact details and space management.
- We will need some sort of “gateway” to the basin to ensure we can record contact details, so an even greater need for volunteers.

Mike Smith stated that we do want to revive all that we had at the start of this year. Danny Callaghan asked about the museum especially in the light of the funding acquired for screens and pre-payment equipment. Lynne confirmed that the museum would be available to all who wanted to go in (within space management practicalities). Sandra Purves asked about the wifi signal which had been found wanting the last time she was at the basin. John Aitken confirmed that the wifi upgrade had taken place since then so there should no longer be a problem.

Chris Gunstone commented on the slowness of the card payment system. Mike Smith said it would be checked.

Allister Mackie mentioned the individual ticket sale points that would be needed at the tearoom, Victoria and St Michael and the pre-booking would be encouraged.

Both David Shirres and Lynne Nelson appealed for input / thoughts / suggestions from the membership, of changes required to manage the COVID situation.

David Wood commented that as the situation was very fluid and changeable there was a need for flexibility.

Andy Sinclair asked about document management / record keeping.

Ian Wallace reinforced the confidence the meeting felt in Lynne's committee.

12. Fixing of subscriptions

Andy Eaglesfield said there were no proposals to change the subscriptions and thanked all for continuing to pay their subs (and for all the donations made).

AOCB

Stewart Liddle and Maureen Wilson commented on the high quality of the annual report in both content and presentation.

Mike Smith let the meeting know that the yard and sluice key codes would be changed at the end of the year for security reasons. The new codes will be available, on request, from Allister Mackie (premises@lucs.org.uk)

Mike Smith then closed the meeting thanked all for attending.