



PERTH
CIVIC TRUST

Promoting the built heritage of Perth since 1967

www.perthcivictrust.org.uk

Minute of AGM held on Saturday 28th October 2023 at The Soutar Theatre, A K Bell Library.

Welcome

Chairman, Willie Wilson welcomed the 21 other attendees and provided a brief overview of activities since the last AGM in 2022. More later.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Trevor Croft, Donald Maxwell, Margaret Linley, Diane Calder and the Guildry Incorporation.

Previous Minutes

The minute of the 2022 AGM had been circulated with the Agenda for this meeting. Subject to the correction of a typographical error in the Apologies, the Minute was accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Willie thanked both David MacLehose and Sandy Bremner who acted as Co-Chairmen and along with other Committee Members, held things during and post COVID. Both have now stepped down from the Committee but continue to support the Trust.

Willie referred to the Forward Plan which had also been circulated with the Agenda. This is a work in progress and stresses the need for co-operation between the many interest group and Trusts who share similar heritage interests. The initial focus for this year was to try and improve communication and set up regular contact with members with the view to issuing a regular newsletter with local issues and information links to other partners. We now have most members email addresses which facilitates easy, cost free communication. Any members who have an email which they have not yet provided are encouraged to do so. Alternative forms of communication are costly and time consuming.

Two main projects have been pursued over the last year, assisting PSNS and the Historic Towns Trust (HTT) in developing a Heritage Map of Perth. The map is progressing well with the view of being ready when in spring 2024 to coincide with the opening of the new Museum. The second project has been developing a scheme of Blue Plaques to record the presence and location of important people and events in Perth. Committee member Roben Antoniewicz gave a short visual presentation of the proposal for the initial phase of 15 plaques and the type of plaques proposed. The submission was prepared for discussions with Planning whose Officers were somewhat lukewarm in their response. However, a meeting with The Head of Planning was more encouraging. Final wording and locations need to be agreed with building owner whose permission will be required prior to any necessary permissions being sought and funding raised.

Financial Report

Copies of the Accounts approved by Morris & Young were issued to attendees. There was a query raised on the submission which was discussed later in the meeting and subsequently resolved. Based on this resolution the Accounts were accepted.

Officer Appointments.

At the AGM in September 2022, The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were appointed for two years and have a further year to serve.

Committee Appointments

The Committee currently comprises nine members including the Officers. The Chairman invited nominations to appoint additional members. No nominations were received.

Proposed Subscriptions for 2024.

Given the rising costs of living and in order to facilitate more regular interaction, it is proposed the subscriptions from 1 April 2024 will be £15 for individual membership, £25 for joint membership and £50 for Corporate membership. This was agreed.

AOCB

A question was asked about the likely use of the former Waterworks in Tay Street once the Fergusson Collection was moved to the Art Gallery. It is understood that the building will be retained by Culture PK in the immediate future.

Existing Plaques

Mike Bell, Committee member and webmaster, gave a presentation on the record of existing plaques recorded on PCT's website, perthcivictrust.org.uk This project was initiated by Marjory Howat and Sandy Bremner, who as a P7 pupil at Craigie Primary, started to record the vast number of plaques in various forms - commemorative plaques, memorials, date stones, crests, marriage lintels, information boards - manifest in Perth and Scone. There are 120 sites, 277 items of interest (so far) and 515 photographs and 12,500 words of text (so far)

Many of these are in a poor state, some have been painted over since being recorded, some have been buried (Archery butts on the South Inch) and some are just fading away.

They have been recorded in the categories initially set up, but are having to be reorganised to suit easier search methods and facilitate archiving through digital online access, worldwide and offer full resolution photographic access to maximise clarity.

It is intended to develop printable or digital heritage walks based on themes carried by various plaques around the city, say a King James VI walk, available on the Trust's website or accessed by links from other information sources online.

Former St Andrews Church and the new Y Centre

Jill McGrath, CEO of YMCA Tayside made an enlightening visual presentation on the roots, history and development of the YMCA and it's involvement in the former St Andrews and St Stephen's Church in Atholl Street which dates back to 1888. The Building was acquired 16 years ago and was initially used as office and meeting space by the YMCA, but proved so uncomfortable that various temporary spaces were subsequently used around town prior to their current location in Kinnoull Street.

This left the former church being as a major drain on limited resources. Finding a sensible long term use taxed the imagination and required inventive funding initiatives to develop the current proposal. Jill provided images of the intended uses and progress photographs showing the current state of the building. All going well, it is hoped to open in spring 2024 to coincide with the new Museum and the YMCA hope to realise a Royal opening, watch this space. A Grand opening akin to an Oscar's ceremony is also intended, with the temporary closure of North William Street to celebrate the many people involved in the project and many intended uses for the former Church and the seven flats also being redeveloped in North William Street. A time capsule will also be included by the well found in the external courtyard at the rear of the buildings.

Jill responded to questions raised.

Close

Willie thanked the speakers for their informative presentations and wished those attending a safe onward journey.

Ian Cameron, Secretary.

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