

Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 5th December 2018

Present:

Sarah Riddell-Webster, Chairwoman (SRW)
James Watt, Treasurer (JW)
Major (Retd) Ronnie Proctor, Trustee (MRP)
Bill Macpherson, Trustee (BM)
Rosemary Pitcaithly, Secretary (RP)
Anne Kinnes, CEO, The Black Watch Castle and Museum (AK)
Lt Col (Retd) Willie Coupar (WC)
J.D. Gorrie
Alex Johnston (AJ)
Jan Macpherson
Dennis Norrie
Alanna Robertson (AR)
Ann Rogerson
Rodger Scott
Brigadier (Retd) Garry Barnett
Sue Hendry (SH)
Col (Retd) Ian Critchley
Evelyn Roberts (ER)
Col (Retd) Alex Murdoch (AM)
Ina Murdoch

Apologies:

Brig Sir Melville Jameson
John Gauld
Valerie Henderson
Alex Baillie-Hamilton
Alasdair Wylie
Bill Pagan
Janeen Murray
Paul Crompton
Anne Mackenzie Smith
Elaine Smith
Ian Metcalfe
Col and Mrs David Arbuthnott
Gen Sir Alistair Irwin
Sandy Bell
Mr and Mrs Douglas Murray

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2017:

The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by SRW

Proposed: AR Seconded: WC Passed unanimously

2. Report and Accounts:

The Treasurer, James Watt, highlighted key points from the Accounts.

The Accounts are for the year to 31st March 2018 and follow the same format as the previous year. These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 12th September 2018 and then signed by Neil Morrison of Campbell Dallas, our Independent Examiner.

The Statement of Receipts and Payments shows a deficit of £2,667 in the year to 31st March 2018. Membership Subscriptions were £11,000. Events, including the Cocktail Party, provided income of £9,500 and involved expenditure of £5,500 which includes £2,300 paid to the Museum for room hire. Other income of nearly £1,000 was received. Donations of £17,000 were made to the Museum, including £2,500 for administration support. Other expenditure amounted to £1,500.

The Statement of Balances confirms that we had cash and bank balances of £18,574 at 31st March 2018. This is much more cash than we would normally hold and significant further payments were made to the Museum early in the new Financial Year.

The Trustees believe that the finances of the Friends are in a very satisfactory state. Our thanks are due to Linda Campbell and Alison Cocker-Tough of the Museum staff who work closely with our Chairwoman during the year to keep everything in good order.

James Watt invited comments or questions on the Accounts from the Meeting.

The Report and Accounts were formally received by the Meeting.

Proposed: MRP Seconded: ER Passed unanimously

3. Comments by Chairwoman:

Sarah Riddell-Webster reported that this year has seen a flattening out of membership numbers of the Friends organisation. Although new members were signing up, this was being equalled by those not renewing. The total stands at 530 individual members. Many now pay by Standing Order which makes administration more straightforward.

Although many members live locally, 20% of members live a considerable distance away from Perth. We plan to compile a questionnaire in order to ascertain what in particular attracts people to become members.

The successful programme of lectures has generated significant income for the Friends. This year, 14 lectures were held. HMRC regulations stipulate that tax could be due if more fund-raising events were organised by the Friends and more income was raised in the future. With this in mind, it has been decided that the lecture programme will be handed over to the Museum, and all ticket money will go directly to the Museum. The Events Committee will continue to organise the lectures and run the events, so guests will find the format unchanged.

Members of the Events Committee are compiling a 5 year plan for lecture topics. SRW thanked Willie Coupar, Bill Macpherson, Hugh Rose and Rosemary Pitcaithly for their hard work.

SRW reported that we donated almost £14,000 to the Museum this year. Two grants of £1,000 were made to the Travel Bursary Fund which enabled Primary School children to visit the Museum. Grants were made for external lighting and for replacing chandeliers in Balhousie Castle. £10,000 set aside for the AV and Loop Systems in the Queen Mother Room and the café was paid shortly after the end of the financial year, and a further £12,000 has also been given to date this year. SRW thanked members for their continued support.

SRW thanked BM for ensuring that our administration policy complies with Data Protection regulations implemented in May 2018.

4. Independent Examiner:

The meeting re-appointed Neil Morrison of Campbell Dallas as our Independent Examiner.

Proposed: AM Seconded: AR Passed unanimously

5. Appointment of Management Committee:

There were no further nominations for the Management Committee. The following committee members were appointed:

To re-appoint Sarah Riddell-Webster

Proposed: MRP Seconded: SH Passed unanimously

To re-appoint James Watt

Proposed: AM Seconded: BM Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Ronnie Proctor

Proposed: BM Seconded: WC Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Bill Macpherson

Proposed: AJ Seconded: SH Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Rosemary Pitcaithly

Proposed: AR Seconded: BM Passed unanimously

6. AOB:

SRW thanked the Balhousie Castle staff for their assistance in running events.

7. Closure of AGM:

There being no further business, SRW declared the Meeting closed.