

**Minutes of the Annual Members Meeting of the
Anstruther Improvements Association on
Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7pm online via Zoom**

Present

Ordinary Members: Arran Aird, David Andrews, Kate Anstruther (KA), Toby Anstruther, John Barker, Gordon Baxter, Bill Bruce, Kevin Dunion, Babs Elliot, Barbara Fotheringham, Elizabeth Gordon, Jennifer Gordon (JG), Catherine Kellett, John Kellett, Penny Martin, Mary Money, Trevor Money, Christine Palmer (CP), Jan Palmer, Elizabeth Riches, Alan Stewart (AS).

Associate Members: Kate MacLeod

1. CP opened the Annual Members Meeting (AMM) and welcomed the members. CP confirmed that notice of the AMM had been sent out to members in accordance with the Anstruther Improvements Association's (AIA) constitution. There were no apologies.
2. The minutes of the 2019 AMM were proposed by ER and seconded by John Kellett. There were no matters arising.
3. CP presented the President's Report (see below).
4. CP outlined the Committee's proposal that the annual subscription for September 2021 to August 2022 should be set at £10.00. The proposal was approved by the ordinary members.
5. The constitution requires that one-third of the Trustees retire each year and two of the existing Trustees had resigned in writing and were putting themselves forward for re-election. They had completed and submitted nomination forms within the deadline laid out in the constitution. Both nominees were voted in as Trustees by the ordinary members present at the AMM. They are: Alan Stewart and Jennifer Gordon.
6. CP presented the independent financial examiner's report to the members.
7. As Joint Treasurer, CP presented the annual accounts to the members, who received them. CP explained that the AIA had moved to an accrued accounting system in 2019, requiring Henderson Black to prepare two sets of accounts for 2019 and 2018 so that a comparison with the previous year could be made. CP invited questions from the members but there were none. The members were invited to submit any questions they might have about the accounts, which could be found on the AIA website.
8. KA proposed that Mark Robertson of Henderson Black be appointed as independent financial examiner for the SCIO's accounts and CP seconded the proposal, which was approved by the ordinary members.
9. CP made a call for any other competent business, but there was none.

10. CP thanked the Trustees, the Honorary Patrons, the members and the volunteers for their work and support over the previous year.

Above minutes accepted as a true record

Signed: _____(Chair) Date: _____

President's Report

The review for 2019 will be short and sweet, as the focus was mostly on the capital project to upgrade the interior of Dreel Halls. This will better its long-term sustainability by improving accessibility, increasing energy efficiency and extending its use, ensuring an improved experience for all users. The project incorporates a DDA-compliant WC on the ground floor and upgraded services, particularly replacing the building's two separate heating and electrical set-ups with modern, energy efficient systems. We've replaced the old kitchen, walk in store and corridor with a flexible open plan space including a new kitchen; and with new doorways to an external terraced area, for which a small area of the graveyard was purchased from Fife Council. Exciting moments included finding a hidden fireplace, uncovering fully the arch to the lower hall, which we knew was there, and discovering the mason's marks on it. The works are funded by Fife LEADER (The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas), the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and the Co-op Local Community Fund, with cash flow enabled by a loan from the East Neuk Community Awards Fund. We are grateful to all for their support.

For various reasons, completion of the works was delayed from the original anticipated date of the end of December, extending the timeframe to Spring 2020 although that was then impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

2019 started as usual, with the halls busy with a mix of regular and one-off hires, the second half of the Anster Nichts programme and Anster Cinema completing its season. The March Anster Cinema screening was bursting at the seams, as the community turned out to celebrate the life of former Trustee and co-founder of the cinema, Roger Sedgley. £400 was raised for Parkinsons UK in memory of Roger. In April the AIA was able to take part in Bowhouse Food Market, offering fun and games for visitors and raising awareness of the AIA and funds for the group. Following another successful duck race soon after, Dreel Halls' doors closed and in May the builders moved in.

Despite not having a home, the AIA still managed to collaborate with The Waid Academy on the S3 art exhibition, relocated to the school. We also worked with the Scottish Fisheries Museum to organize a special Anstruther Writing Awards, with entries themed on Boats, Fish and Folk to celebrate the Museum's 50th anniversary. Anstruther Primary School and The Waid Academy rose to the challenge, together with a large number of adult entries from far-and-wide in Scotland. As well as attending Bowhouse, the AIA also participated in two East Neuk Family Learning Roadshows in April and October, providing children's games and activities.

The AIA is grateful to Anstruther Parish Church for providing a second home for the duration of the building project, allowing the buffet supper, the Christmas social and the autumn Anster Nichts to run as usual. Although unable to operate during the project, Anster Cinema was able to provide technical support to two community screenings for the Museum and the Cellardyke Sea Queen project. Also, off-site, the AIA volunteers continued their gardening of community spaces in Anstruther, and helped to contribute to Anstruther and Cellardyke winning another Gold in the Beautiful Fife awards. The AIA has also participated in the Plastic Free Anstruther movement, and has been working towards becoming one of the town's Plastic Free

Champions, which we'll make a big deal of announcing when Dreel Halls re-opens.

In 2019 we received financial and in-kind support from, among others, the Community Kist, Thorntons, Fisher & Donaldson, the Fagus Anstruther Memorial Trust, James Aird & Sons, Balcaskie Estate and Fife Council. In particular we would like to acknowledge the generous legacy we received from long-time supporter, Margaret Darwood. As ever, our thanks go to the volunteers who make the AIA by giving us their time in a huge variety of ways, including our Honorary Patrons and the dedicated Committee.