

THE INVERLEITH SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INVERLEITH SOCIETY HELD IN THE LECTURE THEATRE OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH ON MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2015 AT 7.00PM

The meeting was attended by 54 members of the Society and was chaired by Alison Gordon.

Apologies were received from 9 members of the Society.

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members old and new and guests attending the meeting including the Regius Keeper, Simon Milne. She thanked the Keeper and his staff for the use of the lecture theatre for the Society's AGM.

2 MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM

The minutes had been circulated and additional copies were available at the meeting. The minutes were adopted having been duly proposed and seconded.

3 REPORT ON THE YEAR

The Chair noted that while there had been no major causes to pursue, the Society had remained active throughout the year in promoting the protection and enhancement of the amenity of Inverleith, in particular through reviewing and commenting on planning cases and in advancing views on other City Council policies affecting the area. She also recorded the Committee's thanks to Marcus and Arabella Dean and to Jim Henderson for hosting the Summer and Winter social events.

Changes had been made to Inverleith News and to the Society's website. The intention was to provide more information to members by electronic means.

The Chair paid tribute to the exceptional contributions which Bobbie and Andrew Fraser and Marian McIntyre had made to the work of the Society over many years. All of them were standing down from the Committee. There was an urgent need to recruit new Committee members who could bring skills and experience to help continue and strengthen the work of the Society. She invited members to contact her if they were interested in taking up a role on the Committee.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the audited accounts were available to members at the meeting. Graeme Cook presented his report. Subscriptions represented the main source of income; the Society had also received a number of donations for which he expressed the Committee's gratitude. In

spite of above average expenditure on recruitment and on website development the accounts for the year still showed a surplus of income over expenditure and the Society had accumulated a healthy balance which could be drawn upon if the need arose. He thanked the auditor for her work and commended the accounts to the meeting. The accounts were adopted having been duly proposed and seconded.

5 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Isla Duncan reported that membership remained more or less static at 146. Although considerable effort had gone into the recent recruitment campaign, this had only attracted a very small number of new members. She asked members to encourage others to join the Society.

6 WEBSITE AND COMUNICATION

Alex McNeil described the changes which were being made to the website. The intention was to make the website more dynamic by including more topical content and providing an alert to notify members and others with an interest in the Inverleith area when new material was posted on the site.

7 PLANNING AND CONSERVATION ISSUES

Ian Hooper referred to the summary in Inverleith News which listed the significant planning cases on which the Society had commented. The Society had also commented on the City Council's review of the Inverleith Conservation Area Character Appraisal - the key document setting out policy for dealing with planning applications and other matters in the area. The Society had made the case for the boundary of the conservation area to be more tightly drawn and for conservation policies to be set out with greater clarity and precision. A second stage of the review process was due to take place in 2015 which would provide a further opportunity for everyone with an interest to offer comments. In the course of the year the Council had also progressed plans for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the majority of roads in the area. Although supportive of the underlying intention, the Society had drawn attention to the particular challenges of implementing a 20mph speed limit on the main roads in the area and had suggested that consideration should be given to physical changes which would make the wide roads of Inverleith Place, Inverleith Terrace and East Fettes Avenue less inviting for speeding motorists and to improve the space for pedestrians on those roads and on Inverleith Row.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair closed the formal proceedings. After the interval the Regius Keeper, Simon Milne gave an informative talk about the work of the RBG in Edinburgh and across the globe and responded to questions from members about several aspects of the Edinburgh operation. This was greatly appreciated by members present and Ian Hooper gave a vote of thanks.