



AGM 2020

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Sutherland Association
held at 7pm on Thursday 17 December - by Zoom call.**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Matthew Williams
Rachel Haworth
David Mackay

Those present were:

Andrew Mackenzie
Steven Anderson
Willie and Anne Macintosh
David Morrison
Lorraine Smith
Bill and Marie Manson
Sandra and Stewart Chalmers
Christine Smith
Lynne Obrien

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated prior to and at the meeting. Andrew Mackenzie, President, asked for concerns and questions – none were raised. The Minutes were duly proposed by Bill, seconded by Sandra.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Andrew Mackenzie said:

"Back in December we enjoyed our usual Christmas dinner, with entertainment from David Morrison, our patron, and Andy Sanders. The event raised over £200 for good causes in Sutherland.

Our annual ceilidh in Loanhead was held in March, with a guest performance from Donald Barker, a Mòd medalist, whose grandfather came from Culkein in Sutherland. I am very grateful to Anne, Willie, Christine and Lorraine for all their hard work organising this event.

We were very lucky to have scheduled our annual ceilidh just before the Covid-19 pandemic escalated and much of the world went into lockdown. However, the restrictions stopped our plans for further fundraising events, including a Sutherland ceilidh scheduled to take place in Lairg. So, in the summer we took the decision to postpone the AGM and the donating of funds.

We then took the opportunity to look at our website and approach to fundraising online. I am very grateful to Steven for developing a new website and for delivering a donate button on our Facebook page, making it easy for people to donate online. Anne and Steven also worked together to set up an Amazon Smile account, so people who purchase items on Amazon can do this via Amazon Smile, select the Association as their chosen charity, and we automatically receive a percentage of that purchase as a donation from Amazon.

We continued to look online to possible fundraising options and organised a Zoom ceilidh in November. This ambitious project saw various musicians join us on this special video call, including Allan Henderson, James Graham, Sandy Brechin, Emma Macleod, Rory Matheson, Darren Maclean, Carol-Anne Mackay, Calum Alex Macmillan, Neil John MacPhail, Kenny John Matheson, Annella Bulch, Andy Sanders and our patron, David Morrison. We also heard from some individuals and groups who had benefited from our funding. Around 70 people joined us and we raised over £700 for good causes in the county. This was a useful experiment, as we were able to reach a wider audience.

Given that a return to physical events seems some way off, we will have to continue to consider alternative fundraising options. In the meantime, I will take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their hard work over the year."

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne confirmed that at the end of April 2020 we had a balance of £905.23 in the current account and £2,998.93 in the NS & I, making a total of £3,904.16, compared to £4,365.85 last year. She noted that the balance at 15/12/20 in the Current Account is £3,052.35.

Anne said that the virtual ceilidh raised £727.12, and confirmed donations from David Morrison - £1,000, Christine Smith - £20, Hilary and Bob Mackay - £100, David Paterson - £100, David Mackay - £50 and Mr and Mrs Mackenzie - £150.

She noted the fundraising events in 2019/20: The Croft Ceilidh on 07/06/19 which raised - £589.56, the Croft Ceilidh on 06/03/20 which raised - £517.95, and the Christmas Dinner - £187.

Anne confirmed that donations in 2019/20 were received from Mr and Mrs Mackenzie - £100, David Morrison - £1,000 and Andrew Mackenzie - £100, making a total of £1,200.

She explained that the Association made donations to good causes of £3,010.

She explained that there were no new members, so no funds raised from membership.

5. DONATIONS

Applications for funding were cancelled this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Andrew stated that we will look to fundraise via other means with a view to give out donations next year.

6. FUNCTIONS 2020/21

Functions, including the virtual ceilidh, were noted. There was also a discussion on possible in-person functions in 2021, but an appreciation that virtual events and other fundraising plans would have to be considered.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

It was agreed that the following would remain in their current positions:

President – Andrew Mackenzie
Vice-President – Willie Macintosh
Treasurer – Anne Macintosh
Secretary – Steven Anderson

Committee Members:

Rachel Haworth, Christine Smith and Lorraine Smith opted to remain on the committee. It was noted that Gordon Black would remain as Honorary Auditor. Sandra Chalmers remains the Honorary President. Lynne O'Brien agreed to join the committee. David Mackay was absent but remains on the committee. Matthew Williams left the committee, as he is now permanently based in Glasgow.

8. AOCB

New ways of raising money a consideration due to the pandemic.

Andrew Mackenzie thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

Close of meeting