

Mapa Scotland

1st Annual General Meeting, 10th April 2011, 14.00 Barony Castle Hotel, Eddleston

Members present: Nick Macdonald (chairman), Roger Kelly (vice chairman), Keith Burns (secretary), Graham Russell (treasurer), Nigel Rose (membership secretary), Krystyna Szumelukowa (Steering Committee), Sue Russell (Steering Committee), Dave Peck (Steering Committee), David Cameron (Steering Committee), Jarek Gasiorek, Bob Johnson (Steering Committee), Anne Hardie, Barbara Conboy, Kirsty Loudon, Bob Johnson (Steering Committee), Jim Barton (Steering Committee and minutes), Ainslie Thin, Eppie Thin, Eva Mitchell, Tomasz Trafas (Polish Consul General in Edinburgh).

The meeting was quorate.

Non-members: Aileen Orr, Andrew Orr, Erica Schwarz, Krzysztof Chuchra.

1. Apologies: George Futers

2. Minutes of inaugural meeting 25th April 2010: approved as issued.

3. Matters arising: none

4. Chairman's report (Nick Macdonald)

The Steering Group have, over the last year, publicised the map at public exhibitions, to local groups and in the media. They have also followed up several contacts with the Polish community in Scotland and attended numerous Polish Scottish cultural events hosted by the Edinburgh Polish Consul General Mr Tomasz Trafas. Most recent was the book launch for 'Scotland and Poland' edited by T M Devine and David Hesse, where Nick Macdonald and Keith Burns made contact with co-host Neil Ascherson, journalist and Hon Prof at Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

5. Treasurer's report (Graham Russell)

GR circulated copies of the accounts for the 12 months ending 2 April 2011. Total income from membership subscriptions and donations was £761.07 with total expenditure of £234.95 on printing leaflets and purchase of hand tools, leaving a balance of £526.12. GR and KB are custodians of the internet banking account. These two plus David Peck, Jim Barton and David Cameron are co-signatories for cheque signing (any two). Keith Burns raised the potential question as to why little of the money has been spent on the map. He answered by explaining that current funds are not enough to begin significant restoration of the map, and that it is a condition of many sources of grant aid that the project must not start spending until a grant is approved.

However, several work parties have been cleaning up the map surface which has required no expenditure.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting (proposer Barbara Conboy, seconder Roger Kelly).

6. Secretary and Project Manager's report (Keith Burns)

Much time has been spent in the last 12 months on setting up Mapa Scotland as a democratic not-for-profit organisation, and on preparing applications for grant aid. The first application was made for Landfill Communities Funding through the WREN scheme, in which a proportion of landfill tax is returned to community projects close to landfill sites. We were eligible to apply through our proximity to the Oatslie landfill site near Penicuik. The application was lodged in July 2010. It went before their Local Advisory Panel in September. The application was unsuccessful, apparently in competition with more conventional local authority supported projects in Edinburgh and Midlothian. Our second application, for £42,100 to the Heritage Lottery Fund, is in progress and has obtained pre-application approval. We shall submit the full application this month.

7. Membership Secretary's report (Nigel Rose)

NR has set up a database which currently contains details of 26 individuals, 10 family subscriptions and 2 others. He noted that these included two members from overseas. We also have many more supporters on the database, whom we hope to convert to members.

8. Proposed changes to Constitution

KB explained that some changes were proposed to match more closely the requirements of the applications for the Heritage Lottery Fund application and for eligibility for charitable status. The proposed changes modify the primary aim of the project more closely towards promotion of Polish – Scottish heritage and cultural links, for which restoration of the map is a part, and will provide a catalyst for related educational projects.

The meeting approved the changes to the constitution (proposer David Cameron, seconder Roger Kelly).

9. Election of officers to the Steering Group

The existing members were willing to continue and were elected unanimously:

Chairman: Nick Macdonald (proposer Graham Russell, seconder David Cameron)

Secretary: Keith Burns (proposer Krystyna Szumelukowa, seconder Bob Johnson)

Treasurer: Graham Russell (proposer Dave Peck, seconder Bob Johnson)

Membership Secretary: Nigel Rose (proposer David Cameron, seconder Dave Peck)

10. Open discussion

Krystyna Szumelukowa asked what timetable the project would follow if the Lottery funding were granted. KB said that we expected two working (summer) seasons would be needed, with a third for contingency; we agreed on the importance of educational material and publicity as additional parallel activity.

Sue Russell asked when the charitable status was likely to be granted. NMCD replied that he expected this later in April. Heritage funding was not dependent on charitable status.

Bob Johnson pointed out the potential for the map to be used in publicity for hill walking challenges (Munros etc) and other geographically-related Scottish activities as well as many other educational themes.

We discussed the potential benefits of professional designers being used in revising the Mapa website and a publicity leaflet. KB had made initial contact with an email enquiry from an interested designer, but this had not developed further. He agreed to pursue this, but pointed out that our finances are initially very limited and could not yet justify the full cost of professional fees. Facebook was seen to be useful in raising the profile.

Action KB: follow up web design contact

Krystyna Szumelukowa is willing to invite the manager of the Breda Museum over to meet us and see the map.

Action KS: invitation for Breda Museum manager

We noted possible Polish Government support through Tomasz Trafas, Polish Consul-General in Edinburgh. Roger Kelly suggested inviting a few prominent people to become patrons of the project – for example Neil Ascherson and Tomasz Trafas.

11. Any other business

None. Everyone was invited to inspect the map after the meeting.

15.00 Meeting closed