



The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Agenda for the sixty-fourth Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery, on Wednesday, 14th March, at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestics
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous A.G.M. (attached)
4. Matters arising from those Minutes
5. Secretary's Report (attached)
6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2011/12
7. Annual Subscriptions
8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts
10. Summer Outings 2012
11. Any other competent business.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, propose and second the nomination of

.....

as (Committee / Secretary etc).....

Proposer

Seconder

Date

Perthshire Society of Natural Science is registered in Scotland as a charity (SC012718))



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Minutes of the sixty-third AGM of the Section, held on 16 March 2011.

The President, John Joyce, opened the meeting by welcoming members and reading the health and safety procedures for the evacuation of the building in the event of fire. He stressed that these arrangements should be taken seriously and that everyone should sign in.

1. Present: 28 members were present.

2. Apologies:

Dorothy Alexander, John Bennett, Arthur Bryce, Alan Hunter, Dr & Mrs. Nicholson, Joan Robertson.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: accepted as a true account.

Proposed : Graham Watson, seconded : Wyn Craig

4. Matters Arising:

Mr. Craig pointed out that his wife had been, in fact, 'Treasurer' and not 'Treasure'.

5. Secretary's Report:

Had been circulated previously, with the AGM papers, and was taken as read.

Proposed : John Lewington, seconded : David Bowler.

6. Treasurer's Report:

There are currently 68 members. 17 had not renewed their subscriptions and 12 new members had joined since last AGM.

Payments had increased over the year as a laptop computer had been purchased and speakers' expenses had increased.

£8.00 of income had been generated from sales of publications.

The Adopt-a-Monument account had no transactions.

The Accounts and Report were accepted without objection.

7. Subscriptions:

The committee recommended that subscriptions should remain at their current level :-

£20.00 for individuals, £38.00 for a couple and £1.00 for junior members.

8. Election of Committee and office-bearers:

President: John Joyce commences the second year of his three year term of office

Vice-President: David Bowler

Proposed : Richard Higginbottom, seconded : Jennifer McKay

Secretary: John Lewington

Proposed : Richard Higginbottom, seconded : Patricia Matte

Treasurer: Patricia Matte

Proposed : Jennifer McKay, seconded : John Joyce

Committee members:

Graham Watson

Proposed : Patricia Matte, seconded : John Lewington

Colin McLeod

Proposed : Jennifer McKay, seconded : Patricia Matte

Richard Higginbottom

Proposed : Patricia Matte, seconded : John Lewington.

Irene Green and Jennifer McKay continue on the committee.

The President thanked them warmly for their work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

9. Examiner of accounts:

Lisa Ramsay ACCA had examined and signed off the accounts. The Treasurer suggested that the accounts continue to be examined by a professional and that the cost is £20.00 per hour, which was accepted.

10. Charging visitors:

With rising costs and no rise in subscriptions, there is a case for charging visitors.

Mrs. Cairncross pointed out that the Museum does not permit charging.

It was suggested that donations could be solicited from visitors for the cup of tea while John Lewington suggested that visitors could be asked to make a donation on entry.

David Bowler's solution to increasing income was to increase membership.

It was agreed that the Committee look at all of these before the start of the winter programme.

11. Strategy to respond to winter weather.

No strategy was forthcoming.

12. Summer outings:

4 June: Doune and Dunblane

16 July: Inchmahome

20 August: Antonine Wall.

13. AOCB

Eva Bennett asked about progress of Adopt-a-Monument -this initiative is currently non-active, both nationally and locally.

Eva Bennett asked if the Pitmiddle booklet, which was scanned about four years ago, would appear on the Society's website - the President undertook to find out.

After the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, Graham Watson gave an illustrated talk on Colditz Castle with an account of several attempted escapes while Jennifer McKay delivered an illustrated report on the 2010 summer outings and a brief account of the 2010 excavation at the Law of Dumbulls.

An excellent supper was provided by Georgie Watson, who was thanked for her tasty offerings over the year, and enjoyed by all.

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Secretary's Report

Committee Meetings

The Section's Committee has met on seven occasions in the year 2011-12, with an average attendance of 84 %. The Committee has met in various venues, arranged by the President, and at no cost to the Section.

Summer Outings 2011

As usual, there were three Outings - to Doune Castle and Dunblane Cathedral in June, Inchmahome Priory in July, and the Antonine Wall in August. All were reasonably well attended (on average 15 Members + guests) and thoroughly enjoyed. Risk Assessments were completed timeously for each Outing.

Winter Programme 2011-12

The Committee thought that the Winter programme was up to its usual very high standard, with a range of speakers on a range of topics from a range of eras :-

Oct 12	Prof Richard Fawcett	A corpus of medieval churches
Oct 28	Dr David Strachan	The Black Spout Excavations (to the full Society)
Nov 16	Prof Trevor Watkins	The first people in the world to be like us
Dec 7	Dr Gordon Barclay	The fortifications of Scotland in 1940
Jan 11	Dr Geoff Bailey	New light on the Antonine Wall
Feb 15	Mr Andrew Clegg	The history of brick making

Miss Fothergill was presented with a logistical headache when the Art Gallery & Museum closed for refurbishment, but as usual, she overcame the problems and provided venues for our Section. Already, dates and venues are in place for next session, which means that the shape of the Winter programme will remain as it has been in recent years i.e. the Section will meet on Wednesday evenings.

Weather had no impact this year - neither postponements nor cancellations - a great relief.

Summer Outings 2012

The Committee is already embarked on arranging the summer Outings for this year, (and winter programme for 2012-13).

By way of experiment, there will be more Summer Outings, and one is proposed for a Wednesday afternoon - your views expressed either by word or deed (attendance) will be heeded, as ever.

Website

At the request of Members at last year's A.G.M., the Pitmiddle booklet has been found and added to the website, as has an earlier publication of the Section, A Stone Circle Trail in South East Perthshire. The editorial has been updated, too.

The website can be accessed at PSNS.org.uk.

Communications with the Council of the Society

These have never been easy, and despite having three Committee Members on the Council, things have not improved.

The most testing topic has been the status of the CSA subscription - naturally the Council is endeavouring to reduce its costs, but the Section is not in a financial position to bear any more costs either.

Section Library

Former President Graham Watson nobly undertook to update the catalogue of materials held by the Section in the PSNS Library in the Museum. His report to Committee was not happy reading, since he was unable to track down a number of volumes. This is a matter which remains on the Agenda for Committee Meetings !

Publicity

With information supplied by Committee Members, the spread of information about the activities of the Section has increased, both locally and nationally.

Other local heritage / history groups

I have gradually widened the net of people I inform about the activities of the Section, but there will be groups I don't yet know about - information would be greatly appreciated ! Whether there is a need / desire / benefit to forming a Society of such groups is a matter of conjecture, but benefits can be seen in sharing information about dates (so that those interested could visit other groups), and speakers (we all want great speakers to inform our Members).

Photographic record of Perth & Kinross

A Member has suggested that the Section form its own collection of pictures of changing Perth & Kinross which could provide an invaluable resource for the future. These would not necessarily be the images so often seen of places, but perhaps of change in your own locality - a shop changing use, a building coming down or going up, a change to the road network. Should Members wish to e-mail me their pictures, I would collate them and make them available to Members.

Committee Membership

As usual, the Committee would like to see new faces elected, so a nomination paper is attached to the Agenda - these must be lodged with the Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, that is before March 7th 2012. Nominees must be fully paid-up Members of the Society of at least 12 months standing, have shown an active interest in the affairs of the Section, and be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members.

I would add my thanks to my fellow Committee Members, who have been a great support when the going got tough, especially to a Geographer !

John W. Lewington
Section Secretary