



Perthshire Society of Natural Science

(Registered Charity Number SC 012718)

2021 AGM Notice of Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 154th Annual General Meeting of Perthshire Society of Natural Science will be held at 7pm Friday 26th March 2021 using Video Conferencing to transact the following business.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM Friday 16th October 2020 (attached) to be agreed.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Society Report 2020/21
5. Treasurer's Report 2020/21
To receive and consider the accounts for the year 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021 and the reports of the charity trustees and auditors.
6. Election of Council (List of Nominations attached).
7. Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts
To appoint Douglas Calderwood as the Independent Examiner for 2021/22.
8. Proposed Motions
Proposal to Amend Membership Subscription
Proposal to Amend Data Protection GDPR Policy
9. Announcements
10. AOCB

By order of the Council and Charity Trustees

John Jessop
Secretary
Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC 012718)

15th February 2021



Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC 012718)

153rd Annual General Meeting 2020
7pm Friday 16th October 2020
Video Conference

Minutes

1. **Welcome:** The President welcomed the members of the Society.

Apologies received from Tom Ryan, Tim Haynes. Fourteen members were in attendance.

2. **Previous Minutes:** Correction to Item 2 - 'It was unanimously agreed that the 2019/20 subscription rates would remain as 2018/19.
Adoption of The Minutes of the 2019 AGM proposed by J Banks, seconded by M Allnutt and unanimously approved.

3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the 2019 minutes.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

The accounts for 2019-2020 have been examined by the Independent Examiner, Mr Douglas Calderwood, and a copy has been circulated to members and is available. They have been submitted to OSCR, the Charity Regulator, for approval. Copies of the Financial Statement have been circulated to members. The accounts for last year, 2018-2019, have been approved by the Charity Regulator.

This year the three funds that are little used have been transferred from the Bank of Scotland account to the Scottish Widows account so that the bank account now comprises only the General Fund from which the running costs of the society are met. These three funds, however, are still administered as separate funds as you can see from the second page of the Financial Statement.

Overall, this year there has been a surplus of £2,366.84 of income over expenditure.

In the General Fund, from which the running costs of the Society are met, the year 2019-2020 has produced a surplus of £1,938.37. This has been achieved through our fourth Curious Minds lecture series, which has attracted more members and more of the public. Average attendance this year was 67.

There are 167 fully paid members of the Society this year, a decrease of 30 on last year; there are also three honorary members and 1 student member, a total of 171. There were 21 new members or renewals of membership after a lapse and 51 members who did not renew. There are 26 members of the Parent Body alone, 61 members in the Archaeological and Historical Section, 28 in the Botanical Section, 18 in the Ornithological Section and 52 in the

Photographic Section. The numbers total more than 171 because some are members of more than one section.

Gift Aid is an important source of income for the Society. I would remind any of you who are eligible, that is who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, but have not filled out the new Gift Aid form to do so.

In the Publication Fund donations for older journals have been received.

The Macintosh Fund has received the collection that was raised at the funeral of our Honorary Life President and long-time Secretary, Miss Fothergill. Discussions are in progress with Perth Civic Trust and the Friends of Perth and Kinross Archive as to how to commemorate her life and achievements.

Discussions are also underway on how to use the Aitken Fund in a tree-planting scheme.

I should like to thank the section treasurers and the President and members of Council for their help and support.

David Perry, Treasurer

Adoption of 2019/20 Accounts and Report - Proposed M Lind, seconded M Borland Stroyan, and unanimously approved.

5. President's Report:

My first year as President went more as less as planned, at least to start with.

Our flagship Curious Minds Friday lecture meetings were again a great success. We had a lively programme of 11 meetings, covering subjects in psychology, microbiology, space engineering, neurology, geography, genetics, archaeology and fashion history. We are once again indebted to our Past President Tom Ryan for ably organising the fourth season of our Curious Minds series. Numbers were very slightly down this year, but attendance continues to be strong, and discussion lively, showing that we are meeting a real demand within the cultural life of Perth.

Society Council Meetings continue to be cheerful and encouraging occasions, and I am very grateful to all my fellow office-bearers and Council members for all they have done to keep the Society in good heart. We made good progress with plans to simplify our membership and subscription arrangements. We had proposals all ready to put to the membership, had events in the field of microbiology not intervened.

In parallel with this, our four sections maintained their usual vigorous programmes of meetings and workshops right up to the end of the season.

The arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic coincided almost exactly with the end of our lecture meetings. We were able to complete all our lecture programmes with good attendances, and even the AGMs of some of our Sections, but decided to postpone our Society AGM, anticipating by five days the start of official UK-wide lockdown. As a Society with a strong interest in life sciences, it is encouraging that we had an early understanding of the situation, and were even able to get ahead of the curve.

We have spent the Summer in a kind of hibernation (aestivation is the technical term), but our Council and Section Committees have continued to keep in touch informally, and formally through e-mails and online meetings. We have also kept in touch with the various national and local public bodies that impinge on our areas of interest.

We are now holding our first ever online AGM. We know that not all members may be able to participate easily, so we have decided to transact only the necessary business required to fulfil our legal obligations and keep the Society functioning. We will revisit any more ambitious ideas when normal life resumes and we can consult our members properly.

We have decided not to hold the Curious Minds lectures this coming year. It will obviously be impossible to meet this side of Christmas, and even in the new year any arrangements we made would be subject to constant disruption and cancellation without warning. In the meantime, we are exploring ways of organising online and other activities which will help to keep the Society active. We look forward eagerly to resuming something like normal life, perhaps in the Spring of 2021.

David Bowler, President

Adoption proposed C McLeod, seconded G Freeman, unanimously adopted

6. Election of Council

The following Council officers were duly elected:

President: David Bowler

Past President: Tom Ryan

Treasurer: David Perry

Secretary: John Jessop

Proposed J Lewington, seconded M Borland-Stroyan, unanimously approved

Council Members: Tim Haynes, Michael Allnutt, Margaret Borland-Stroyan, Frances Whittet, Dr Gordon Pirie, Dr Gordon Freeman

Proposed by D Bowler, seconded by M Borland-Stroyan

7. Appointment of Examiner of accounts:

Mr Calderwood to be appointed as the Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2019-20.

Proposed by D Perry. Seconded by G Pirie. Unanimously agreed.

8. Membership Fees 2020/21

Various options have been explored, including a reduced fee. The following proposal, as circulated to all members before the AGM, was adopted.

'Due to the current pandemic, we have not been able to hold our normal activities since the end of the lecture season in March 2020, and do not expect to resume before March 2021. We therefore propose to the AGM that we should not charge a subscription for the year 2020 - 21, and that all memberships should be extended without charge until after our next AGM. We hope to hold another AGM around our usual time in March 2021, in person or online, where we will be able to consider our subscription for the year 2021 - 22. This will involve a loss of income to the Society. This will be mostly offset, but not completely, by a reduction in expenditure, as we will not be hiring rooms or paying speakers. If members wish to make a voluntary donation



Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences

(Registered Scottish Charity SCO12718)

Nominations for Council 2021/22
(the list remains open for further nominations)

President

David Bowler MA, M Phil, FSA Scot

Past President

Dr. Tom Ryan PhD

Treasurer/Gift Aid Convenor

David Perry, MA, FSA Scot

Secretary

John Jessop

Members of Council

Ms Frances Whittet
Ms. Margaret Borland-Stroyan
Dr Gordon Freeman
Dr Gordon Pirie
Jeffrey Banks
Malcolm Lind
Dr Clare Scanlan

John Jessop
Secretary

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24th February 2020

PSNS
GDPR Review
2021

Since 2019, no GDPR infractions or breaches have been reported.

Covid-19 put paid to regular meetings in person from March 2020 onwards. At AGM 27 October, it was decided to extend existing membership records for a year without charge. Accordingly the mailing-list remains valid for use; an opt-out link is presented with every outgoing newsletter. The Secretary has been sharing members' contributions especially YouTube videos of interest to maintain activity.

External Influences

GDPR was folded into UK law as part of the Brexit process. The PSNS should be alert to future changes in data-protection law.

With Covid-19, sections (especially Photography) have been meeting virtually, running a programme for the season via Zoom.

The Privacy Policy document (<http://www.psns.org.uk/legal/privacy-policy-gdpr/>) has a section "**Perthshire Society of Natural Science Communication with Members**" stating

"Communication with members will normally be by email where an email address has been provided, otherwise by post or telephone."

It would be wise to augment this with another paragraph such as:

In atypical circumstances, where such communication is through a VoIP or video communication platform, sections are encouraged to refer members to review that service's own privacy policy.