

Minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Arran Access Trust

(Registered Company No: SC196243, Registered Charity No: SC0290027)

7.00 pm via Zoom on Wednesday 25th November 2020

Attendees

Stuart Blake; Malcolm Whitmore; Timothy Billings; Graeme Walker; Henry Murdo; Margo Mclellan; Andy Walker; Kate Sampson; Malcolm Wilkinson (minutes).

1. Apologies

Kenny Morrison; Rachael Philips; Robert Wayne.

2. Minutes of the Nineteenth AGM held on 14th March 2019

These were adopted as a true record

3. Directors Report by the Chairman

Geopark Update

- Bob Gooday (Geopark Ranger) and Nial Moffat (Project Coordinator) in post throughout the year in order to establish the Geopark.
- There is a feeling that the Geopark has been welcomed by the community and other island organisations.
- Lochranza Centre geology room operated with help of volunteers – hopefully this is to be continued.
- Geopark footpath team – major work on Suidhe Fhearghas and upgrading of 'geo-trails' completed.
- Nial bid via SNH for AAT and Geopark funding unsuccessful.
- Bob & Nial departed in late autumn 2019.

General Work Update:

- Arran Trust funding received for work at Dougarie and Fisherman's Walk. FW likely to be a limited duration project due to sea level rise. Long term solution being investigated.
- Coastal Way – grip strips installed on the Cordon boardwalk. Handgates replaced stiles at Strathwillan, Kingscross and Catacol through SNH funding (Scottish Great Trail)
- Volunteers – working in various locations - Goatfell path, Fisherman's Walk. Blackwaterfoot team have concentrated efforts at Drumadoon and Brown Head



- **Consultations:**

- High School Mountain Bike Group – Dyemill trails project. AAT approached to lead on this but agreed that Forestry Commission Scotland will take this forward.
- Fish Farm development at Millstone Point. Letter of objection submitted detailing negative impact on Arran Coastal Way.
- Brodick to Lamlash off-road cycle route. Consultants recommendations awaited.

Staff:

- Malcolm Wilkinson – appointed to project manage Geopark but also working on AAT activities. Working 2 days/week (during lockdown) then to 4 days/week.

4. Treasurer's Report

Report presented by Chair in Treasurers absence

Ending 30th Sept 2019 – balance at £99k.

Geopark - Coastal Communities Fund was the major provider + also NAC + Arran Trust.

5. Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019

Proposed by Henry Murdo, Seconded by AW

6. Fixing of Annual Subscriptions (Article 15)

£10 normal membership / £125 for businesses – all agreed to keep as is.

7. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners

Cornerstone Accountants – agreed to keep them in the position.

8. Election of Directors

Timothy Billings intimated he was willing to continue as NAC representative.

Malcolm Whitmore (Access User) and Kate Sampson (Access Provider) were both due to step down as directors. Both were proposed for re-election by Robert Waine and Forest and Land Scotland respectively and seconded by Graeme Walker and Henry Murdo.

Discussion re board membership:

Greater diversity should be encouraged. Suggestion to appoint a senior pupil at the school as a “work experience” directorship role. Funding bodies will be looking at composition and diversity of boards.

Suggestion to bring onboard members of the bike club - who are already involved in trail maintenance and include a COAST representative as there are crossovers e.g. beach cleans, Coastal Way.

9. Proposal of amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association

SNH (now Nature Scot) has intimated that it no longer has the capacity to provide a director. This throws up several clauses in memorandum which need amendment and to be agreed via the AGM.

Clause 26 - Proceedings of general meeting. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business. Save as herein otherwise provided a quorum shall be present if a representative of the Council or SNH are personally present but otherwise a quorum shall not be present.

(see also clause 74 below regarding meeting quorums)

RESOLUTION

To amend Clause 26 to read

No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business.

AGREED by show of hands

Clause 46 - The SNH may by notice in writing signed by it and given to the company:

- a. Appoint any person (other than an employee of the Company) who is willing to be act to be a Director(either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Director or*
- b. Remove any Director appointed by SNH before the expiration of his period of office.*

RESOLUTION

To delete Clause 46

AGREED by show of hands

Clause 54 - A member shall not be eligible for re-election as a Community and User Director at any AGM if, at the time of the AGM he has served as a Director for a continuous period of 5 years; where a member is disbarred from re-election at an AGM by the preceding provisions of this Article, he shall be eligible for election as a Director at the AGM which next follows.

RESOLUTION

To amend Clause 54 to read that at the time of the AGM all Community and User Directors having served as a Director for a continuous period of 3 years shall stand down but be eligible for re-election immediately at that AGM.

AGREED by show of hands

Clause 61 - A member shall not be eligible for re-election as an Access Provider Director at any AGM if, at the time of the AGM he has served as a Director for a continuous period of 5 years; where a member is disbarred from re-election at an AGM by the preceding provisions of this Article, he shall be eligible for election as a Director at the AGM which next follows.

RESOLUTION

To amend Clause 61 to read that at the time of the AGM all Access Provider Directors having served for a continuous period of 3 years shall stand down but be eligible for re-election immediately at that AGM.

AGREED by show of hands

Clause 74 - Proceedings of Directors - The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors shall not be less than one-third of the Directors, which number shall include either the Council Nominee or the SNH Nominee or a representative authorised to vote on behalf of the Councillor or SNH or otherwise a quorum shall not be present.

RESOLUTION

To amend Clause 74 to read the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors shall be a minimum of 3 Directors otherwise a quorum shall not be present

AGREED by show of hands

9. Any other competent business

Discussion opened regarding future of Geopark:

Agreed need to seek a sustainable funding stream

Ayrshire Growth Deal fund for tourism and marine tourism a possible source. Tourism representative from NAC is interested in concept of the Geopark. TB to pass on details once he's discussed with the representative

SB suggested Scientific Tourism is a growth area and something we should pursue.

MW there is a need to quantify added value of the UNESCO status

GW highlighted need for quantifiable statistics. Student research project on stats for visitors / scientific tourists? We should contact University of Glasgow - Professor John Lennon, Dean, Glasgow School for Business and Society. They have worked before with VisitArran.

Chair closed the meeting, thanked the attendees and looked forward to return to in person meetings once easing of health restrictions allows.