

Association of Highland Clans and Societies (AHCS)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

21st July 2018 at 5.00 p.m.
In the MacLean Room, Eden Court, Inverness

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman Graeme Mackenzie welcomed those present (*see Appendix 1*).

Apologies were received (*see Appendix 2*)

The Chairman asked the Secretary to write and thank Gerry Reynolds, and Highland Council, for the arrangements at the Clan Village.

2. Adoption of Minutes of AGM July 2017

The minutes were adopted. Proposed: Norman McPherson Seconded: Susan Chisholm.

3. Matters Arising

No matters were arising from these minutes.

4. Secretary's Report

October 2017 – Visit to the Clan Grant Museum. Members attending received a warm welcome from Lord Strathspey and Fiona Grant of Monymusk who showed the group around this interesting museum. The group went on to lunch in Grantown on Spey and visit the Grantown on Spey Museum to be shown round the exhibition of paintings by Richard Waitt.

April 2018 – The pre Culloden talk at the Waterside Hotel had been attended by 66 members. The talk was “Meg and Me” by Gregor Ewing and was interesting, informative and enjoyed by all.

July 2018 – Inverness Games. A busy and successful day for the attending clans and it was felt that the positioning of the marquee had been the best to date. The Clans showing had been visited by people from all around the world.

The Association currently has 27 member clans and societies plus a further 9 included in the Clan Chattan Confederacy which are not already members.

5. Treasurer's Report (*see appendix 3*)

The Treasurer presented the accounts and listed all the memberships received to date. Anne Maclean was reminded to send in the account for the AHCS wreath laid at Culloden.

Proposed: Duncan Cameron; Seconded: Duncan Chisholm. Adopted.

6. Chairman's Report – Graeme Mackenzie

The Chairman reported that in 2019, in addition to the three usual events of pre Culloden talk, Clan Village at the Inverness Games and Gala and autumn outing, there would be a commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel the weekend of 7 to 9 June for which further details would follow as the arrangements progressed.

The Chairman represents AHCS in the Highland Clans Partnership Group, headed up by the Earl of Cromartie. This group is doing well unlike the Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group and Scottish Clans Forum both collapsed. The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs is now headed by Donald MacLaren who wants to have each clan's septnames authorised by its chief.

Plans for the Inverness Castle site continued to be discussed and the proposal for a Clan Centre there remains on the table.

The meeting was reminded that there would be International Gatherings in 2019 held by Clan MacDougall, Macpherson, Cameron and Grant. Also by Clan Stewart in 2020.

AHCS: Should it continue? As the 5 year initial set up period is now reached does AHCS fulfil a function?

Discussion followed. The feeling of the meeting was that the AHCS should continue in its present form as it fulfils a worthwhile function in serving the member clans as a representative non-political Highland based group. Much had been achieved which was not over ambitious and enjoyed by all. It is supportive of the committees of member clans and gives opportunities to meet, discuss common needs and issues and share useful information about working methods. It is helpful to clan PR and brings the clans forward in various situations. At events and functions it shows what Scots can do to recognise our heritage and strengthens the cohesion of the member clans. That AHCS should continue was proposed by Norman McPherson, seconded by Tom Urquart and carried unanimously by the meeting.

Newsletter. The Chairman commented that he enjoys producing it and gleans information from other clan websites. He was commended by the meeting on the high quality of the newsletter produced on behalf of AHCS. It was felt that it works in its current digitalised format. The importance of forwarding the newsletter to members of the individual clans was stressed.

7. Future Events

a. The autumn outing would be on the 13th October. The possible venues being; Clan Cameron museum followed by the West Highland Museum, Fort William; Dunollie Castle in Oban; The Clan Donald Centre on Skye. It was decided to visit the Fort William area this year and to take up the other invitations in subsequent years. The Secretary would make the arrangements.

b. The commemoration of the tercentenary of the Battle of Glen Shiel. Plans were forward for this event to take place over the weekend of 7th to 9th June 2019. This event might include some clans who are not members and would include representatives of those who fought on both sides and dignitaries from Spain would be invited as would local history groups and the local school pupils. Numbers would have to be limited as there are logistical issues in having many people at the battle site at one time. Donald MacKenzie had booked a ceilidh for the Saturday night to which all would be welcome.

c. Splash of tartan. Twelve AHCS member clans had taken part and most who had attended agreed it was a very memorable occasion. It might be held again in 2022. There is pressure in America to have another joint Clan event. Jenn Scott intimated that she considered the presentation of the re-enactors was very poor and that there should have been a reduced entry price for those clan members who took part. Margaret Saunders felt it was very poor that, those clans who attended a televised evening, were not then shown at all when the programme was aired or on the produced video. Norman McPherson felt that the clans had been used as an entertainment before the event began and had not been part of the actual tattoo or treated properly. There should be better clan representation with the organisers should such an event take place again. Duncan Cameron reminded the meeting that the Highland clans had not been well treated previously at Bannockburn and in the joint event arranged by Jamie Semple in 2009. Clans do not seem to be valued as equal partners at these events but are being used. Everyone who attended felt that the organising Sergeant-Major had been officious and had not understood the clan systems of banner placement or that the clanspeople knew how to march behind their chief. Roddy Cameron had enjoyed the event and it had boosted membership which the meeting agreed. Allan Maclean and Donald MacKenzie asked how many clans had used the funding grant available. Not all clans were aware of the funding available or how it could be used.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman and office bearers. - Norman McPherson took the chair.

Graeme Mackenzie agreed to stand for re-election as Chairman. Proposed by Anne Maclean, seconded by Fiona Grant. Elected unanimously.

Vice Chairman - Norman McPherson, proposed by Tom Urquhart, seconded by John MacPherson.

Fiona Grant proposed by Graeme Mackenzie and seconded by Norman McPherson.

A vote was held, and Fiona Grant was elected as Vice Chairman.

Committee - The committee members agreed to stand again and were elected en bloc. Anne Maclean (Secretary), Rossie MacRae (Treasurer), Duncan Cameron, Donald MacIntosh, Norman McPherson and Allan Maclean.

9. A.O.B.

Year of Youth.

Norman McPherson asked if anyone knew of events which had taken place under this title. He stated that in the USA lots of young people take part in the various Highland Games which are held. Fiona Grant said that Feis Spey was an excellent gathering of young people with the common purpose of music making. Iain McGillivray commented that it was very important to include and encourage young people to all event. Jenn Scott thought that a ceilidh would be a good idea and Donald MacKenzie invited all to attend the MacKenzie ceilidh to be held in the Mercure hotel in Perth in the autumn. The Secretary to send out invitations to the membership. Allan Maclean asked if Gerry Reynolds could be asked to include a Clan Tug of War at the Inverness Games and Gala where each clan could sign up and front a team to take part.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended. Norman McPherson thanked the Chairman and Committee for their hard work on behalf of the membership.

Appendix 1. – Present

Cameron	-	Sonia Cameron Jack, Duncan Cameron, Roddy Cameron
Chisholm	-	Susan Chisholm, Duncan Chisholm
Donald	-	Lois MacDonell, Virginia Macnaughton, Alaine Macdonald
Donnachaidh	-	Colin Robertson
Grant	-	Fiona Grant
MacGillivray	-	Iain MacGillivray
Mackenzie	-	Graeme Mackenzie (<i>Chairman</i>), Donald Mackenzie, Margot Mackenzie, Margaret Saunders
Maclean	-	Allan Maclean, Anne Maclean (<i>Secretary</i>), Ken Maclean
MacMillan	-	Carol Millican Morris
Macpherson	-	John Macpherson, Iris Macpherson, Mary McPherson, Norman G. McPherson
MacRae	-	Rossie MacRae (<i>Treasurer</i>)
Stewart	-	Jenn Scott
Urquhart	-	Thomas Urquhart

Appendix 2 - Apologies.

Chisholm	-	Ben Chisholm-Broomfield, Juliette Chishlom-Broomfield
Chatton and HAC-		Anne Fraser
Chatton	-	Donald MacIntosh, Denise MacIntosh
Fraser	-	Malcolm Fraser
Fraser (SSUK)	-	Graeme Fraser
MacMillan	-	George MacMillan
MacAulay	-	Hector MacAulay
Munro	-	Hector Munro
Sutherland	-	Mark Sutherland, Linda Gilmore
MacGillivray	-	Elizabeth MacGillivray
Davidson	-	Nick Hide

Appendix 3. - Treasurer's Report

Income

Clan Membership	22	£550
Associate members	3	£ 45
Individual member	1	£ 10
Tables at Games x 17		£ 85
Waterside Talk		£300
Bank interest		<u>£ .06</u>
		<u>£990.60</u>

Expenditure

Clan Grant Centre donation		£100
Eden Court AGM 2017		£242.88
Waterside Hotel talk 15.04.17		£305.00
Lecturer 15.04.17 (Gregor Ewing)		£177.95
G Mackenzie – website charge		<u>£ 17.99</u>
		<u>£843.82</u>

Balance £ 146.78

Amount in bank **£1571.77**

MEMBERSHIP PAID TO DATE

Clan Cameron Association
Clan Chatton Association
Clan Chisholm Society
Clan Davidson Association
Clan Donald Society
Clan Donnachaidh Association
Clan Fraser of Lovat
Clan Fraser Society of Scotland and the UK
Clan Grant Society
Clan Lindsay Society
Clan MacAulay Association
Clan MacDougall Association
Clan MacGillivray Association
Clan Mackenzie Society
Clan Maclean Association
Clan MacLennan Association Worldwide
Clan MacMillan International
Clan Macpherson Association
Clan MacRae Society
Clan Matheson Society
Clan Munro Association
Clan Stewart Society
Clan Sutherland Society
Clan Urquhart Association

Other member Associations

Highland Archive Centre
Highland Family History Society
The 1745 Association