

Association of Highland Clans and Societies (AHCS)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

15th July 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

In the MacLean Room, Eden Court, Inverness

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Graeme Mackenzie (Chair) welcomed all 30 people present; see Appendix 1.

Apologies were received from 11 people; see Appendix 2

Graeme asked the Secretary to record our thanks to Gerry Reynolds for the arrangements at the Clan Village.

2. Adoption of Minutes of AGM July 2016

Matters arising: Visit Scotland website content will be addressed later in Agenda.

Proposed: Norman McPherson Seconded: Alistair MacLennan. Adopted.

3. Secretary's Report – Acting Secretary Fiona Grant of Monymusk

The Secretary regretted being unable to be at the meeting due to a family commitment, see Appendix 3

The report was read to the meeting by Anne Maclean who thanked Fiona for acting so ably for her over the past 6 months. The report was accepted unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report – Rossie MacRae

The Treasurer presented the accounts; see Appendix 4

Corrections: spelling of Chattan and Chisholm. Clan Stewart to read Stewart Society. Allan Maclean asked for clarification of membership status for Clan Fraser of Lovat (Full membership) and Fraser Society of Scotland and the UK (FSSUK) (Associate membership). Clan F of L applied for and was approved for membership first, members are able to attend events and meetings and it is located in the Highlands. FSSUK applied secondly and is based in England and was accepted for membership on the understanding that only Associate Membership was possible. Clan MacLennan were yet to pay and Clan Donnachaidh had, in error, not paid the full membership price. Colin Robertson to sort out the error with their new clan secretary.

Graeme Mackenzie explained that the payments under website expenses include hosting, email and domain name.

Proposed: Lois MacDonell Seconded: Margaret Saunders. Adopted.

5. Chairman's Report – Graeme Mackenzie

Graeme reported that the visit to the Clan MacPherson Museum had been enjoyed by all and the donation to the Museum had been acknowledged with thanks. He proposed only to produce one newsletter each year in March. The Culloden commemoration had been well attended and the wreath laid by Sir Archibald Grant. Iain, the newly appointed Commander of the MacGillivrays, was there. The weather had been similar to that experienced on the battlefield in 1716, wet, cold and sleaty.

Clan MacDougall Association was welcomed by the Chairman to the meeting as a new member. Graeme said that Ian Macfie continues to recover from illness and it is hoped Clan Macfie will return to membership of AHCS soon. The Secretary was asked to write to Clan MacLeod to encourage them to join. Graeme will also enquire when Clan Mackenzie marches with the MacLeods at the Tattoo in August.

Member Clan activities included the Maclean Gathering with some 700 participants. Allan Maclean reported a successful event with grant funding received from the Clan Event Fund (£5000); Argyll and Bute Council (£3000 from 3rd Sector funding and £200 for a civic reception); Clan MacAulay will shortly have a gathering in Ireland.

Graeme said he continued to be involved with

a. "A Splash of Tartan" at the Edinburgh Tattoo where most member clans will take part. General concern was voiced at the confused and contradictory information being received from the organisers regarding wristbands; prohibition of wearing the skian dhubb; arrangements in the Castle on arrival. Graeme was asked by members to contact Jamie MacNab for urgent definitive clarification of the arrangements.

b. Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group has a new Scotland's People website with free index searches. Nick Hide joined Graeme in expressing concern over the "fake" genealogical information on websites including "Find a Grave"; Ancestry; and Family Search.

c. Clans and Families Forum now headed up by Fiona Hyslop (MSP) who seems interested and knowledgeable, however the last meeting was postponed and not yet rescheduled.

d. Visit Scotland Working Group. The work on website accuracy and content and clan itineraries continues. Vineet Lal, who did an excellent job, has moved on and been replaced by Noelle Campbell (from Inverness).

e.. Highland Clans Partnership Group. The proposed Secretariat hub for clans to access help and information has not been formed to date. Graeme therefore asked for the member clans to draw up lists of suppliers and contractors they have used. Allan Maclean expressed concern that the recommendation list should not appear on the website in case of liability issues if subsequent employment did not work out. Joint Clan Events are proposed for 2018 “Year of Young People” and the 2019 Anniversary of 1719 Jacobite Rising and Battle of Glenshiel on 10th June. Eilean Donan Castle has offered their facilities and Jen Scott and the 1745 Assoc. are already involved.

Inverness Castle: John Cromartie was asked to report. Members of the planning committee for the proposed change of use to include a Clan based visitor centre had not previously visited one so the sub-committee will visit the well managed Clan Donald Centre for inspiration. John thanked Graeme for ably Chairing AHCS.

f. AHCS is nearing the end of its initial 5 year period. Clans will be asked to write down what role or purpose they think the Association has fulfilled for the clans and to state if they feel it should continue. If the feeling is that AHCS continues then suggestions will be welcomed as to the route it should pursue in future.

6. Visit Scotland Website and Clan Itineraries – Norman McPherson

It is hoped that under the leadership of Noelle Campbell progress will be made on updating the accuracy of the website content. Twenty two clans have been asked to verify their content so far. No response is being taken to signify assent that the current content is correct. There is a time lapse for update of the content after submission and the standardisation of format can lead to inaccuracies occurring during update. A further 20 clans are to be asked to verify content shortly.

7. Election of Office Bearers

Chairman and office bearers were elected en bloc

8. Election of Committee Members

The committee was re-elected en bloc.

Fiona Grant (in absentia) was elected to the committee. Proposed: Graeme Mackenzie Seconded: Alistair MacLellan.

9. Future Events

a. Visit to Grantown-on-Spey to visit the Clan Grant Museum followed by lunch and a visit to the Grantown Museum to view the exhibition “Richard Waitt, Picture Drawer Portraits of A Highland Clan (1713 -1733)”. The proposed date of 14th October is to be confirmed.

b. Culloden weekend. Saturday 14th April. There will be a social gathering the evening of Friday 13th April. The suggested speaker is Gregor Ewing, to be confirmed. Chas MacDonald asked for something for young people to be included in the programme.

c. Inverness Games and Gala – Date will be Saturday 21st July 2018.

d. Autumn event. Alastair MacLennan agreed to remind Ruairidh MacLennan of the plan to have some form of Ceilidh/Dinner/Dance which he had previously agreed to investigate along with Jen Scott.

e. 2019 Anniversary of 1719 Jacobite Rising – see 5. Chairman’s Report

10. A.O.B.

a. Donald McIntosh intimated that the Clan Chattan weekend would be at Moy on 3/4/5th August. There will be a Macintosh March around the Games Field on Friday 4th to which all Clan Chattan member clans are invited to attend, rallying at 12.30 p.m. on the Games Field.

b. Chas MacDonald reminded members that all are welcome to join with Clan Donald when they visit Islay, on 18 to 21 September. Cost is £40 per person for a varied programme of events and visits. The cost does not include transport and accommodation. See Clan Donald website for more info.

c. Malcolm White proposed that a piper be asked to pipe at the Culloden weekend for AHCS and could be drawn from clans on a rotational basis. Virginia MacNaughton felt that the adequacy of the piper should be judged prior to engagement by holding a competition.

d. Malcolm White proposed that a Bard be found for AHCS

e. Allan Maclean proposed that it would be mutually beneficial for committee members of Clan Heritage Trusts to meet and exchange views and information

The Chairman and committee were thanked for their hard work on behalf of the membership.

Appendix 1. - Present at meeting.

Chairman – Graeme Mackenzie (Mackenzie); *Secretary* – Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch (Maclean); *Treasurer* Rossie MacRae (MacRae);

Committee - Norman G. McPherson (Macpherson); Donald McIntosh (Clan Chattan); Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch (Maclean); Duncan Cameron (Cameron).

Tom Urquhart (Urquhart); Mary McPherson (MacPherson); Iris Macpherson (MacPherson); John Macpherson (MacPherson); Fiona MacLennan (MacLennan); Alistair MacLennan (MacLennan); Alaine Macdonald (Clan Donald); Lois MacDonell of Glengarry (Clan Donald); Virginia MacNaughton (Clan Donald); Chas MacDonald (Clan Donald); Duncan Chisholm (Chisholm); Susan Chisholm (Chisholm); Denise McIntosh (Clan Chattan); Nick Hide (Davidson); Carol Millican Morris (MacMillan); Jen Scott (Stewart); Malcom White (1745 Assoc.); Maureen Lipscomb (1745 Assoc.); John Cromartie (Mackenzie); Eve Cromartie (Mackenzie); Margaret Saunders (Mackenzie); Colin Robertson (Donnachaidh); Colin MacDougall (MacDougall).

Appendix 2 - Apologies.

Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan (Vice Chairman); Roderick Cameron (Cameron); George MacMillan of MacMillan (MacMillan); John Graham (Highland Clans Partnership Group); Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield (Chisholm); Barbara and Hugo Rankine (Maclean); Kenneth McIver (Iver); Ian McIver (Iver); Walter MacAulay (MacAulay).

Appendix 3 – Acting Secretaries Report. (Excerpt only a full report to can be downloaded with minutes).

Fiona Grant apologised that she was unable to attend the meeting and thanked Anne Maclean for leaving a clear outline of the tasks to be undertaken. Graeme, Rossie and Anne had been able to answer any queries. Thanks to Kim Todd of Monymusk Estate for her help with emailing and office tasks. Culloden had been a good event despite the cold weather and the wreath was laid by Sir Archibald Grant. The Clan Grant visitor website is now set up and the addition of Paypal facility has boosted the new membership from overseas. Graeme has suggested that a “members only” section would be a useful addition. Funding and help from the Clan Event Fund facilitated the new website and the experience was found to be excellent training and encouragement to work on further projects. Links with Grantown Museum are being built up and a visit to the Richard Waite exhibition is suggested for the autumn social. The exhibition is sponsored by Visit Scotland as part of the year of HHA and by Bonhams.

Appendix 4. - Treasurer’s Report – Rossie MacRae

Income

Clan Membership x 19	£475
Associate members x 4	£ 60
Tables at Games x 18	£ 90
Individual member x 1	£ 10
Newtonmore lunch outing	£250
Bank interest	<u>£ .46</u>
	<u>£885.46</u>

Expenditure

Eden Court 2016	£339.36
Newtonmore lunch	£250.00
Hotel tip	£ 20.00
Donation MacPherson Museum	£ 100.00
G. Mackenzie – website charge	£ 29.99
G Mackenzie – website charge	<u>£ 17.99</u>
	<u>£757.34</u>

Balance £ 128.12

Amount in bank £1279.99