

**Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the
Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th March 2019
In the Church Hall, Lochmaben**

Those Present

David Rose (Chairman), Ian Stewart (Finance), Freda Seddon (Minutes), Howard Baisden, Tony Hancock, Hazel McNinch, Neill Smith, Muriel Robinson, Jack Wade.

Project Development Officer – Darren Flint.

Also in Attendance

31 members of CLLCT.

Adrian Cox from Historic Environment Scotland.

Apologies

Liz and Adrian McCulloch, Elaine Smith.

Welcoming Address

David Rose opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes of Last AGM

The minutes of the AGM 2018 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

Project Development Officer: Darren Flint is still in post.

Funding: Ian Stewart still looks after funding.

Kirkhirst Plantation: CLLCT now owns the woodland.

Chairman's Report (David Rose)

A large number of people walk round the loch and there are now 350 members of CLLCT. The Trust is fortunate in raising funds, led by Ian and Darren. The Scottish Land Fund gave £36,000 for Kirkhirst Plantation and CLLCT also received a generous donation of £5,000 towards the purchase.

Financial Report (Ian Stewart)

Ian distributed copies of the report for 2018-2019 and gave an explanation of the figures. CLLCT receives £2,300 annually from the fishing contract.

Election of Trustees

David Rose is standing down as Chairman of CLLCT and as a Member of the Board of Trustees, and Jack Wade is also standing down. Both will be much missed.

David Mair proposed that all remaining 8 Trustees should be re-elected and this was unanimously approved.

John Reid and John Robison have been nominated as replacement trustees, proposed by Alistair Brown, seconded by Margaret Baisden and duly elected. The new Chairman will be elected at the next meeting of the CLLCT Board of Trustees.

Questions

None.

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Report from Project Development Officer.

Darren gave an illustrated report showing photographs of volunteers performing tasks over the last year. Other activities carried out include the Annual Painting Competition and the Childrens Writing Competition (thanks to Lockerbie Writers who judged the work). Sponsored walks were held by the Lochmaben Gala, Rotary Club, BBC Children In Need. The archaeological dig was held during a fine spell of weather and the 4 public events, of which 2 were for children, were very well attended.

Many people visit Castle Loch and word is spreading to other organisations.

The purchase of Kirkhirst Plantation will enable a new path to be made to avoid the muddy farm track and a childrens play area will be made in the wood, but the rhododendrons will be a problem. The Scottish Land Fund grant paid for the purchase, legal elements and the PDO's salary for one day for one year. The plantation will provide lots of work for volunteers and contractors. Thanks to Douglas Fountain for using his tractor to fill in various potholes with gravel.

Darren thanked all those who contribute to fund-raising. In the last year 1000 hours of volunteer work was carried out and CLLCT thanks its volunteers with an annual BBQ.

A highlight of the year was the presentation of the Queens Award for Volunteers, the equivalent of an MBE.

Presentation to David Rose

To thank him for all his work in establishing CLLCT and initiating the purchase of Castle Loch on behalf of the Community, David Rose was presented with an album and a bottle of whisky. Flowers were presented to Pauline.

Guest Speaker Adrian Cox of Historic Environment Scotland

Adrian explained that his job is to develop community projects and the archaeological investigations at Lochmaben Castle held in 2016 and then in 2018 were part of this.

He went on to describe the historical importance of the castle and the need to look after the remains, and how treatments of the structure have changed over the years. Modern methods of investigation include resistivity and ground penetrating radiology which do not disturb the underground remains, but trenches were opened in interesting places to determine evidence of previous use. This provided the opportunity for public engagement and there was lots of local enthusiasm, including from children. Adrian illustrated his talk with photographs of the castle and the archaeological investigations.

Vote of Thanks

David Rose thanked Adrian for his presentation and closed the meeting.

Date of the next Annual General Meeting

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