



**APRS**  
The Association for the  
Protection of Rural Scotland

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held on 31 May 2017  
Calderbank Community Centre, North Lanarkshire**

Present: David Batty, Maureen Batty, Peter Bickmore Dundas, Jane Bower (*Vice-Chairman*), Nigel Buchanan, Duncan Campbell, Jim Clark, Janet Clark, Ann Glen, Stephen Goldsack, Marie Grant, Robin Harper, Catherine Haverson, Beryl Leatherland, Alastair Macbeth, Eileen Mascid, John Mayhew (*Director*), Mrs McAllister, Keith McPherson, Peter Owens, Eddie Palmer, David Patterson, Maureen Patterson, John Peter, Colin Prior (*President*), Walter Simpson (*Treasurer*), Nina Sobocka (*Administrator*), Ellie Stirling, Karol Swanson, Anne Thomson, John Thomson, Fiona Walker, Sandy Watson, Kathleen Weetman, Ruth Whitmore

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Vice-Chairman welcomed all APRS members, friends and family to the meeting. The Vice-Chairman introduced the office-bearers, giving a particular welcome to President Colin Prior.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Jonathan Armitage, Mike Barnacle, Edward Baxter, Mary Byatt, Ann Cowan, Jane Dalgleish, Patrick Ford, John Gerrard, Alison Grant, Rebecca Hughes, Sir Alistair Irwin, Ian Jarvie, Graham Lang, Marion Lang, Catriona Maisels, David Maisels, Charles Millar (*Chairman*), Judith Mylne, Robert O'Riordan, Patrick Playfair-Hannay (*Vice-President*), Margaret Richards, Charles Strang (*Vice-President*), Ben Tindall, Penny Uprichard, Jo Woolley, Bill Wright (*Vice-President*).

Special Item – Presentation on North Lanarkshire Green Belt by Dr Ann Glen, Secretary of Monkland Glen Community Council

The Director thanked Monkland Glen Community Council (MGCC) for inviting APRS to visit its local Green Belt, which is under threat from the proposed massive EuroPark housing development. The Director gave a brief introduction to Green Belts in Scotland and plans for the APRS Green Belts Alliance. He then introduced Dr Ann Glen, Secretary of MGCC, who gave an illustrated presentation on the local Faskine and Woodhall area which was highly informative and educational. There followed much discussion and full agreement on the need for greater protection for Green Belts, particularly from housing development.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 28 May 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Karol Swanson, seconded by David Batty and approved.

4. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2016

The Treasurer introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2016. He explained that the charity's balance continues to decline as it spends more annually than it receives in income, but considerable efforts are being made to address this. He also alerted members to the fact that the Financial Statements are dominated by project funding which accounts for most of current APRS income. The Annual Report and Financial Statements were proposed by Walter Simpson, seconded by Nigel Buchanan and approved.

5. Annual Review

The Director gave an illustrated presentation of the key achievements and events of 2016 covering policy development and advocacy, town and country planning, communications, partnership working, fundraising, membership, governance and management issues. He was particularly pleased to report significant progress on APRS projects, particularly the Have You Got The Bottle? and National Parks campaigns. It was the busiest year the Director can

remember for APRS and included including numerous meetings with Scottish Ministers, parliamentary briefings and significant media coverage for APRS projects. In relation to giving advice to members on planning issues the Director highlighted the invaluable service given by volunteers Karol Swanson, Executive Committee Member and Joan Geddes, former APRS Director. The Director outlined plans for the rest of 2017 which included raising funds for the APRS Green Belts Alliance to promote the value of Scotland's Green Belts and support local groups in their work, expanding APRS capacity to support our members and others with advice on dealing with development proposals which affect their local landscapes, and actively promoting the importance of Scotland's rural landscapes as national policy debates take place around land reform, land use and rural policy, in the context of negotiations over the UK's departure from the EU. The Annual Review was proposed by Ann Glen, seconded by Walter Simpson and approved.

6. Appointment of independent examiner

The Treasurer proposed that Chiene + Tait should be re-appointed as independent examiner. This was seconded by Ann Glen and approved.

7. Resolution – Subscriptions.

The following increases to the minimum annual and life subscription rates for APRS members were proposed by Janet Clark, seconded by Walter Simpson and approved:

<i>Membership Class</i>	<i>Current Minimum Sub</i>		<i>Proposed Minimum Sub</i>	
		£		£
<i>Ordinary</i>		35		<b>40</b>
<i>Ordinary – concessions</i>		25		<b>30</b>
<i>Family</i>		55		<b>60</b>
<i>Life</i>		550		<b>595</b>
<i>Life – 65 &amp; over</i>		275		<b>295</b>
<i>Corporate</i>		275		<b>300</b>
<i>Affiliated Society</i>		25		<b>30</b>
<i>Constituent Society</i>		55		<b>60</b>

8. Resolution – minimum number of members of the Executive Committee

The following resolution was proposed by Alistair Macbeth, seconded by John Thomson and approved: *Article of Association 12.1 shall be changed to: 'There shall be an Executive Committee of at least five members comprising the Office-bearers (with the exception of the President and the Vice-Presidents) and up to nine members of the Council elected by the general membership at any general meeting.'*

9. Resolution – Quorum of the Executive Committee

The following resolution was proposed by Karol Swanson, seconded by Walter Simpson and approved: *The first sentence of Article of Association 12.4 shall be changed to: 'A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be four.'*

10. Election of Office-Bearers

The Vice-Chairman reported that Colin Prior has completed his first three-year term as President and is willing to be elected for a second three-year term. Vice-President Charles Strang has completed his first three-year term and is willing to be re-elected for a second three-year term; John Foster, Pat Playfair-Hannay and Bill Wright continue as Vice-Presidents, as they have each completed two years of their second three-year term. The Chairman, Charles Millar, has completed his first three-year term and is willing to be elected for a second three-year term. Jane Bower is stepping down as Vice-Chairman, having completed two three-year terms; John Thomson is willing to be elected as Vice-Chairman for a three-year term. The Honorary Treasurer, Walter Simpson, wishes to retire as Treasurer and the Executive Committee had identified a likely successor, but unfortunately the individual concerned has recently been seriously ill and so has reluctantly decided that he cannot take on this commitment after all; as an interim measure Walter is willing to continue until a new Treasurer can be identified. The election of the Office-Bearers was proposed by Duncan Campbell, Graham Lang, seconded by Beryl Leatherland and approved. Colin Prior said a few

words following his re-election as President, commenting that Scotland's countryside is under ever-increasing pressure from visitor footfall and that care needs to be taken to avoid destroying the rural areas so many have come to love. He believes that bodies such as APRS are needed now more than ever in order to give voice to the need to protect Scotland's rural heritage.

#### 11. Election of Council

Individual Members: The Vice-Chairman reported that the following nine Members of Council wished to be re-elected: Mary Armstrong; Mike Barnacle; Peter Bickmore Dundas; Duncan Campbell; Michael Gascoigne; Graham Lang; Rebecca Hughes; Karol Swanson; Bridget Wilcox. The election of these Members was proposed by Alistair Macbeth, seconded by Nigel Buchanan and approved.

Constituent and Affiliated Societies: The following two Constituent Societies wish to be re-elected to Council: Camping and Caravanning Club and the Caravan and Motorhome Club. The re-election of the two Constituent Societies was proposed by John Thomson, seconded by Janet Clark and approved.

#### 12. Election of Executive Committee

The Vice-Chairman explained that Peter Bickmore Dundas was stepping down from the Executive Committee having completed two three-year terms of office. He had served APRS for six years as Vice-Chairman and then six years as a Member of the Executive Committee, so was thanked for these long years of service to APRS, which are not yet over as he is remaining on Council. Michael Gascoigne and Karol Swanson had each completed their first three-year term of office and were willing to be elected for a second three-year term; Rebecca Hughes is willing to be elected to the Executive Committee for a three-year term. This was proposed by Nigel Buchanan, seconded by Beryl Leatherland and approved.

#### 13. Any Other Competent Business

Ann Glen asked for any ideas to help in the local effort to stop the proposed development on the Green Belt. Based on his experience protecting the Helensburgh Green Belt Alastair Macbeth advised locals to try to secure as many designations for the site as possible, whether related to or example forestry, individual trees or country parks; all will help to highlight the value of the area. At a more national level APRS can help where it can.

John Thomson added that what is happening to Green Belts is happening to planning across Scotland and this will only intensify under the proposed Planning Review. Green Belts could be a great rallying point for greater protection of the countryside. Karol Swanson added that APRS has a key role to play to ensure that development happens in the right place. Duncan Campbell commented that the APRS response to the Planning Review White Paper should include the results of the recently commissioned poll on the value of Green Belts by Survation.

On behalf of all the members present, the Director thanked Jane Bower for the valuable service she had given to APRS during six years as Vice-Chairman and before that on Council and Executive Committee. She had been consistently kind and supportive to the staff and volunteers but was also business-like and decisive, which had been necessary on a number of occasions. He presented Jane with a floral tribute as a token of appreciation and gratitude, accompanied by applause from all present.

May 2017