

SCOTTISH WORKING PEOPLE'S HISTORY TRUST

Scottish Charity No. SC020357

Minutes of the 78th meeting of the Trust held on Tuesday 10th January 2023, at General Register House, Edinburgh

Present: Dorothy Kidd (DK, Secretary), Janet McBain (JMcb, Treasurer), Bernard Beagan (BB), Elizabeth Bryan (EB, Chair), Joyce Connon (JC), Hugh Hagan, Alan Reid (AR), Sian Reynolds (SR).

- 1. Chairperson's remarks:** Elizabeth Bryan welcomed Trustees to the meeting and wished us all a happy new year. She also thanked Hugh Hagan and the NRS for again hosting the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from: Michael Allan, Cathlin Macaulay, Ian McGowan, Amina Shah.
Note 1: DK informed the meeting that Ian McGowan had indicated that he wished to resign as a Trustee. This was noted with regret and the unanimous request to invite Ian to become a Patron of the Trust. **Action: DK**
Note 2: Bernard Beagan informed the meeting that he also felt it was time for him to retire as a Trustee. He undertook to find a replacement within Unite and would get back to the Trust in due course. **Action: BB**
Note 3: Both Ian McGowan and Bernard Beagan have been very regular attendees at Trustee meetings and AR noted that it was important that new Trustees should also be in a position to attend regularly.
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** Agreed.
- 4. Matters arising:** There had been no reply from Richard Wilson's agent (see item 11).
- 5. Ian MacDougall annual memorial meeting 2023:** EB reported that a number of planning meetings had been held with NLS staff and SIHS colleagues over the summer. Professor Jim Phillips of Glasgow University had agreed to give the lecture on Thursdays 6th or 20th April 2023, with the time for the event again agreed at 5-7pm. Sandra MacDougall had indicated a preference for the event to be held in Edinburgh rather than Glasgow. The event would again be promoted by the NLS via Eventbrite and both SWPHT and SLHS to their supporters and members and the SLHS would be able to promote their Ian MacDougall memorial essay prize aimed at undergraduate students. BB reminded the Trust that there might also still be copies of Ian's *Catalogue of some Labour Records in Scotland* to give away. HH suggested that NLS might be asked if a small display of material deposited by Ian might be put on display (eg: BB suggested material relating to the Trade Unions collection). DK asked if this year NLS might be in a position to live-stream the event. **Action: EB**

Note: Since the meeting the date and venue have been confirmed as Thursday 20th April 2023, in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

- 6. Secretary's report:** DK reported on the work she had been undertaking creating and updating a spreadsheet of the SWPHT's oral history collections held at the School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University. SR, JMcb and AR had all also provided help with this and, once progressed as much as DK can, she would arrange to pass it to the School with the hope that a volunteer working for the Trust would be able to finish it from the information only available at the School. DK also reported that student Giorgia Santangeli had been working very hard on transcribing the Co-op Workers'

interviews passed to DK by Cathlin Macaulay (CM) at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Only one interview remains to be transcribed and DK will contact Cathlin to ask if other interviews remain to be transcribed.

DK went on to summarise the report provided by Veronica Hartwich (VH) on the work she has been undertaking on promoting the Trust's collections via the SCRAN website: VH has been working on preparing extracts of all nine of the Onion Johnnies interviews and this work is now ready for SCRAN. Unfortunately she had found out from SCRAN that they are in the middle of a project to bring together all of HES' various resources and may be pausing any new additions to SCRAN for several months. This pause has led her to be concerned about the long-time security of the material she has been working on and she had asked the Trust to explore this. It was agreed to ask the School of Scottish Studies if they would be able to save this electronically-held research until it can be uploaded to SCRAN.
Action: DK to liaise with CM at the SSS

- 7. Treasurer's report:** J McB tabled a general financial statement for the period 7 June 2022 to 10 January 2023, showing the Trust's funds stand at £15, 259.59, of which £10,937 are in unspecified designated projects. [see separate financial papers for detailed information] JMcB reminded DK to ask Veronica Hartwich to submit an invoice for her recent work on the digital access project.
Action: DK/JMcB

- 8. Publications projects:** AR summarised the report her had received from Mark Mulhern at the EERC on the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book – Caroline Milligan has completed most of the work on getting the interviews ready for publication, succeeding in cutting the text down to under 200,000 words. Their deadline is the end of March 2023. There will not be a separate introductory chapter on Ian and his work but instead this will be spread across the book at appropriate points.

AR went on to announce that Birlinn Ltd has agreed to issue an updated reprint of Ian MacDougall's *Onion Johnnies*. Ian S Wood has been asked to prepare an appreciation of Ian MacDougall for this (the EERC is not worried about this duplicating the version in the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book) and the print-run is expected to be 500-600, including a section on the Trust and its association with the EERC. There is no publication date as yet. Trustees discussed this and it was suggested that the Museum *La Maison des Johnnies et de l'Oignon de Roscoff* in Brittany might wish to produce a version in French. It was agreed that a subvention of £1500.00 should be given to Birlinn Ltd.

Action: AR to speak to Ian Wood and JMcB to arrange subvention to Birlinn.

- 9. Digital access project via SCRAN/Website:** [See above at item 6]. DK reiterated that she would get in touch with the School of Scottish Studies regarding the storage of the Trust's electronically produced collections. She also explained that Michael Allan has expressed his desire to remain as a Trustee now that he has embarked on a career in primary school education but would like to work on producing oral history resources for schools, based on the Trust's collections, for the Trust website. Trustees agreed that this would be a good addition to the website and acknowledged that the hunt for a Trustee able to work on the Trust's social media presence continues.
Action: DK/MA

- 10. Policy documents update:** EB tabled two further Trust Policies, *Guidance for volunteers carrying out interviews* and *Comments and complaints procedure*. She invited comments from

Trustees and these should be made to her as soon as possible. These two policies, together with the Trust's policies on *Data Protection*, *Safeguarding* and *Volunteers* will be finalised by EB and DK and uploaded to the Trust's website. **Action:** DB/DK

11. Date and place of next meeting: Tuesday 13 June 2023 at General Register House, at 2pm, preceded by lunch at 12.30 for Trustees who would like to meet up

Action: DK to confirm to Hugh Hagan nearer the time

D Kidd, 30 January 2023