

# SCOTTISH WORKING PEOPLE'S HISTORY TRUST

*Scottish Charity No. SC020357*

## **Minutes of the 77th meeting of the Trust held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 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, the first in-person meeting since January 2020, just before the Covid pandemic. She noted how nice it was to catch up with other Trustees in person and thanked Hugh Hagan and the NRS for hosting the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from: Michael Allan, Ian McGowan, Amina Shah, Martyn Wade.
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** Agreed.
- 4. Matters arising:** See below.
- 5. Report on Anniversary meeting:** JC noted that it had been a very good event. SR confirmed that Sandra MacDougall and her family had been happy with the way it had gone and had felt that Prof Lynn Abrams' excellent lecture had been particularly appropriate. EB noted that NLS Curators were in the process of accessioning Ian MacDougall's papers. She went on to invite suggestions for the 2023 lecture and explained that she, JMcB and DK would shortly be meeting with NLS staff and a representative of the Scottish Labour History Society to plan the event.
- 6. Secretary's report:** DK reported that she had met with Veronica Hartwich (VH) to discuss progress on the project for SCRAN. Although VH had submitted the work relating to the Trust's interview with Ian MacDougall to SCRAN this has not yet been added to the website. Although in large part due to delays associated with Covid VH undertook to follow this up with SCRAN. She also agreed to prepare sample interviews on the Onion Johnnies collection by the end of 2022 and on the Peeblesshire Textile workers by April 2023. DK had also started doing some picture research for the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book and would be in touch with one of the new volunteers who would be able to visit archives in the Borders.  
**Action: DK to liaise with VH and volunteer**
- 7. Treasurer's report:** JMcB had submitted the annual financial report in writing in advance of the meeting. She recorded the Trust's thanks to Jennifer Donnelly CA as independent examiner. She went on to remind Trustees that it would be prudent to spend some money before undertaking any further fundraising. EB asked what work still needed to be done. JMcB responded that the Bondager interviews require to be digitised, along with quite a bit of transcribing of a number of interviews.

The accounts were then formally agreed. Proposer: Alan Reid

Secunder: Sian Reynolds

**8. Publications projects:** AR reported that work on the Peeblesshire Textile Workers book had been delayed due to the editor's illness. Work had now restarted and Caroline Milligan was working on the typescript and undertaking contextual research. It was hoped that the draft typescript would now be available for circulation and comment in September 2022. He then confirmed that Susan Reid does not wish to receive an honorarium for her work. The book will be marketed and retailed through National Museums Scotland Enterprises (NMSE). AR had mentioned to the EERC the possibility of having a stand for the books at the next Ian MacDougall memorial lecture.

**9. Digital access project via SCRAN/Website:** DK mentioned her meeting with Veronica Hartwich (see item 6 above).

J McB suggested a reprint of the Onion Johnnies book, possibly even with a French or/and Breton version. AR then wondered if it would be worth approaching Birlinn about this and ask for both their interest and the cost, and volunteered to do so, assisted by SR.

**Action: AR/SR**

**10. Policy documents development:** EB reported that the sub-committee of herself, HH and DK had met and gone over the documents she had drafted. Comments from Trust members were as follows –

**Data Protection Policy:** J McB reminded us that there is a great deal of data held in the personal release forms completed by interviewees and now held in the School of Scottish Studies. JC noted that it would be worth making sure that the organisation holding the data also has access to the Trust's relevant policies. AR asked for confirmation that the Trust has consent forms which can be used by Trustees and volunteers when carrying out interviews on behalf of the Trust. J McB confirmed that consent forms are available but that we do not hold completed forms for all interviews conducted on behalf of the Trust, due to that part of the process occasionally having been forgotten by interviewers. Forms are available for the Peeblesshire Textile Workers interviews and all available Trust interview forms have either gone or are going to the SoSS.

**Safeguarding Policy:** EB explained the most likely scenario would be for someone undertaking an interview on behalf of SWPHT to observe something that concerned them.

**Volunteer Policy:** The Trust's current version is based on the updated version from Volunteer Scotland.

AR asked if Disclosure should be undertaken for Trust volunteers. It was agreed that the policy would include a line explaining that any Disclosure certificate expenses would be reimbursed; and on page 2: the insertion of the phrase 'identifying potential interviewees' to the list of potential volunteer tasks.

**Other:** EB suggested that we also look at Lone Working and Complaints policies for the website.

**Actions: DK to forward final versions of policies to School of Scottish Studies.**

**DK/EB to put together shorter version of Volunteer, Lone Working and Complaints policies to go on the Trust website.**

**11. AOB:** J McB asked if we had received a response from Richard Wilson's agent.

The names of potential Trustees were suggested: Dr Ailsa Hutton at NMS and Prof Lynn Abrams at Glasgow University.

**Action: DK to follow up**

**Newsletter:** EB reminded Trustees that a Newsletter is due for Trust supporters. J McB undertook to ask Prof John Hume to write a piece on the late Michael Moss, Glasgow University Archivist. Any content should be sent to EB by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. **Action: All**

**Trust leaflet:** It was agreed not to go ahead and produce an updated version as we do not have the means to distribute a leaflet effectively.

**12. Date and place of next meeting:** The next meeting of the Trust will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, again preceded by lunch at the Guildford Arms, beside HM General Register House in Edinburgh, provided HH is able to host us again.

**Action: DK to confirm to Hugh Hagan nearer the time**

D Kidd, 26 July 2022