

Mapa Scotland

Minutes of 2nd Annual General Meeting

15 April 2012

14.00 Barony Castle Hotel, Eddleston

Present: Nick Macdonald (chairman), Roger Kelly (vice chairman), Keith Burns (secretary), Graham Russell (treasurer), George Futers (Steering Committee), Krystyna Szumelukowa (Steering Committee), Sue Russell (Steering Committee), David Cameron (Steering Committee), Bob Johnson (Steering Committee), Jim Barton (Steering Committee and minutes), Barbara Conboy, Kirsty Loudon, Ainslie Thin, Eppie Thin, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Michael Taylor, Andrew Orr, Aileen Orr, Ted Radford, Anne Hardie, Mr & Mrs Witoslowski, Michael Taylor,

1. Apologies for absence: Fiona Baker, Gerry Cassidy, Dave Peck, Nigel Rose, David Stokes, Jim Thomson.

2. Minutes of AGM 10th April 2011: accepted by the meeting without amendments.

3. Matters arising: none

4. Chairman's report (Nick Macdonald)

The Chairman expressed his thanks for the support of the Mapa Scotland membership and the voluntary effort put in on the map. He highlighted the current sale of the Barony Hotel as a source of uncertainty that has prompted our application to Historic Scotland to list the map as a unique monument. He also reported that Mapa's application for charitable status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) was progressing. This will secure tax efficiency with use of our funds and remove our exposure to personal financial liability if the project were to fail after receiving grant aid.

5. Treasurer's report (Graham Russell)

GR circulated copies of the accounts for the 12 months ending 31st March 2012. Total income from membership subscriptions and donations this year was £791.78 with total expenditure of £24.67 on printing, combined with an opening bank balance of £526.12 at 1st April 2011 resulting in a bank balance at 31st March 2012 of £1293.23. Accounts attached.

The accounts were approved. Ted Radford thanked the Treasurer for clear and simple presentation of the accounts.

6. Secretary and Project Manager's report (Keith Burns)

KB explained that at the start of the project we had underestimated the amount of paperwork that we faced, - through applications to the WREN Landfill Grant Scheme (unsuccessful), to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which resulted in £20k grant aid approval, to Historic Scotland for listed status and to Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for SCIO status. HLF, along with similar grant-giving bodies, requires that the project work shall have a no-break lease. As the map is on hotel property, this has not been immediately forthcoming, complicated by the Barony Castle Hotel currently being on the market for sale, which Mapa Scotland learned in December 2011. As a precaution we have submitted an application to Historic Scotland to list the map as an historic structure or monument, and the assessment procedure is in progress. A decision on listing is expected in the next few months.

In response to a question from the floor, KB said that HLF are aware of the sale of Barony Castle and grounds, and has agreed to a delay in proceeding until the no-break lease can be resolved. In the meantime, we are conducting a 'holding operation' to keep the map clear of

weed growth and further deterioration. Direction signs made by Bob Johnson have been installed recently to mark the route from the hotel car park.

Wide publicity has been secured over the past year and useful contacts made at a public presentation on General Maczek in Penicuik, at a book launch ('Scotland and Poland') at the University of Edinburgh, and at a public lecture there on 31st March by Captain Zbigniew Mieczkowski of the First Polish Armoured Division to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the birth of General Maczek. A poster/ banner made for this latter event has been added to an exhibition 'For Our Freedom and Yours' recently opened at the Tweeddale Museum, Peebles. Roger Kelly gave a talk on General Maczek and the map to Tweeddale U3A in October 2011.

KB plans to write as a matter of urgency to Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Cultural and External Affairs to follow up a contact made at the 31st March lecture with Dr Noel Fojut, Head of Policy and Legislation, Historic Scotland. In addition, other relevant Cabinet Secretaries Mike Russell (Education and Training) and Richard Lochhead (Rural Affairs) are to be contacted. Roger Kelly emphasised the importance of obtaining political support for the process of listing the map. George Futers noted that the map is already listed as a 'garden feature' by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). - **Action KB.**

7. Membership secretary's report (Nigel Rose reported by KB in absentia)

Mapa Scotland currently has 31 Individual members, 17 family members, 3 voluntary group members and 1 honorary member. The voluntary group members are: Scottish Polish Cultural Association, Saltire Society, Polish Edinburgh Group plus a representative member of Scottish Archaeology.

We have also received 9 donations to a total value of £210.

8. Proposed changes to constitution

KB explained that lengthy but necessary additions to the constitution had been recommended as part of our application to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. He noted that this absolved us of collective liability for the value of the map and grant funding should the project fail. The meeting approved the changes to the constitution (copy attached). Our formal application for SCIO status could now be taken forward very quickly – **Action NMacD.**

9. Election of officers to the Steering Group

The existing members were willing to continue and were re-elected unanimously.

10. Open discussion

The importance of approaching Scottish Government ministers urgently was re-emphasised to highlight the potential danger of losing the map through the hotel sale if an unsympathetic owner secures the property before we have obtained protection through listed status from Historic Scotland.

This was agreed to be an urgent priority – **Action KB**

It was pointed out that there is a possibility that the map is the largest such topographical relief model in the world. A model in British Columbia is currently listed in the Guinness Book of Records as such. KB is following up the details from the website. [post-AGM note – the Great Map is at least 2.83 times greater in area than the BC model claimed to be the largest]

Bob Johnson suggested that a small portable version of the map would be invaluable as a publicity aid for talks and exhibitions. Techniques such as layering templates cut to contours from Perspex or high density polystyrene sheets can be used.

David Cameron said that a 'Goretex National Trail' from Kirk Yetholm to Cape Wrath has recently been proposed which will go through Eddleston on the Old Post Road, about ½ mile from the map. We should follow this up and suggest that the map itself would be an ideal place to launch the opening of the route.

For clarification, the matched funding to be added to the HLF £20k does have to be in cash rather than as support in kind or in materials.

15.20 Meeting closed