

Mapa Scotland

Minutes of 3rd Annual General Meeting

28 April 2013, 14.00 Barony Castle Hotel, Eddleston

Present: Anne Nimmo, Ian Nimmo, Anne Hardie, Barbara Conboy, Judith Pollock, Robert Pollock, George Winter, Ted Radford, Terry Wiles, Kim Traynor (Trustee), Kirsty Loudon (Steering Group), Keith Burns (Sec, Trustee), Roger Kelly (Vice Chair, Trustee), Jim Barton (Steering Group), Dave Peck (Trustee), Hamish Brown, Majka Koslowska (Steering Group), David Cameron (Trustee), Nigel Rose (Membership Sec, Steering Group).

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence, minutes of last meeting (Roger Kelly)

RK opened the meeting with apologies for absence from Nick Macdonald, Tomasz Trafas, Michael Taylor, Jim Thomson, Frank Large, Aileen Orr, Fiona Baker, Ainslie Thin.

The minutes of the second AGM 15th April 2012 were accepted without amendments.

2. Chairman's Report (Nick Macdonald)

Roger Kelly gave Nick Macdonald's report, summarising progress 2012-13. The change of ownership of Barony Castle Hotel from De Vere to Barony Castle LLP has been a significant event in this period. We are continuing to seek funds to match the £20k required to secure the Heritage Lottery grant and Mercure have demonstrated their support by pledging to match the amount we can raise provided this reaches the required £20k, i.e. to make £60k in total from grant plus matched funding.

Two applications relevant to Mapa and the Map's status have been successful: the Map is now grade B listed by Historic Scotland, which provides some safeguard to its future; Mapa Scotland is now registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), with associated benefits of gift aid from donations and limited liability status.

Mapa is continuing negotiation of the details of a lease with Barony Castle LLP. This is described more fully in the Secretary's Report.

We thank the volunteers for several work parties held to remove weed growth and rubble with noticeable improvement to the Map's appearance.

3. Secretary's Report (Keith Burns)

We have made progress as noted above but there are still some obstacles to overcome before restoration work can begin.

A lease agreement with the landowners (Barony Castle LLP) will be necessary to comply with the Heritage Lottery Grant conditions and or charitable status. Barony Castle LLP has drafted a lease based on standard conditions for their properties, but some details pertinent to the special situation of the Map need to be agreed. We have sent our comments on the draft to Barony Castle LLP and await their response.

Heritage Lottery Fund has specified a deadline of the end of June 2013, after which we would be eligible to re-apply with the same proposal, and Barony Castle LLP has been made aware of this.

The Holyrood debate initiated by MSP Christine Grahame was an outstanding success in publicising and raising interest, emphasising the cultural and historic importance of the Map. KB recorded our thanks to Christine Grahame, Graham and Sue Russell, and Tomasz Trafas

for their efforts in arranging the debate and reception. A 'before and after' photo rendition of the map, poster banners, a DVD and a small portable model of the map, made by Bob Johnson, were prepared as publicity material; free copies DVDs and postcards were available at the AGM. KB noted that the Mapa Scotland debate was the first time that simultaneous translation into a language other than Gaelic had been in use at Holyrood. The debate was also televised.

Grant aid has been secured and promised as given in the Chairman's Report, plus a £1000 cash donation from Scottish Borders Council and £2600 from the Polish Consulate in Edinburgh. An application for £20,000 as matched funding for the Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been submitted to the 'Entrust' Landfill Communities Fund scheme, and is being held pending the outcome of the lease negotiations. If this is successful the £20k pledge from Mercure plus other smaller donations should bring us to the £70k estimated cost of the restoration, including flowing water on the Map.

Publicity: KT noted that our Wikipedia entry gains around 600 hits per month, plus the Facebook page and Mapa website as well. A Twitter account was suggested but would probably be most appropriate for rapidly reporting progress once the restoration starts. KB has given a talk to North Berwick Rotary Club, an article has appeared in 'Dumfries and Galloway Life' and the Map is featured in the recent book 'The Oldest Post Office in the World' by Hamish Brown.

A BBC TV crew has filmed the Map for one of a series of programmes made by Folko Böermans on the cultural links between European nations. This is to be shown on BBC Scotland at 2230 on 27th May: "The Poland Connection".

In October 2012 KB attended a 'State of the Map Scotland' conference hosted by University of Edinburgh. He gave an impromptu talk which attracted the conference award for the most interesting new mapping project, and Mapa Scotland has been awarded a copy of the book 'Scotland – Mapping the Nation' which features the Map.

We learned that the European culture and heritage organisation, Europa Nostra, is enthusiastic about Mapa Scotland. Sneska Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic, their Secretary-General said, "Europa Nostra welcomes the listing of the "Mapa Scotland", the largest topographical relief model of its kind in the UK. It also encourages the restoration project by a group of dedicated volunteers. The "Mapa Scotland" tells a moving European story - a story of mutual respect and friendship between the Polish and Scottish people during a recent, particularly difficult, episode of Europe's history. It therefore deserves to be preserved for future generations".

Questions arising from the Secretary's Report:

(i) What was the meaning of the listed 'B' status? DC commented that although 'B' listing was lower in absolute protection, it did allow some latitude for work to be carried out during restoration which might have required specific permission under an 'A' listing.

(ii) What alternatives exist to raise matched funding if the 'Entrust' application is not successful? KB explained that we do not have other immediate applications in progress, but the WREN Landfill Grant fund is available and we could revise and update our previous application for this. The EU Leader fund was another alternative.

4. Membership Secretary's Report (Nigel Rose)

Membership was very similar to last year: 30 individual members (31 at 2012), 17 family members (17), 2 voluntary groups (3) and 1 honorary member (1). 9 donations totalled £405. Note added after the meeting: 16 subscriptions for 2013 were paid at the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts (KB)

KB is acting treasurer at present and distributed copies of the balances of Mapa's account at 31 March 2013. Income (subscriptions plus donations) exceeded expenditure by £3417.64 leaving an overall balance of £4710.87, split between the Treasurer's Account (£600.43) and the Matched Fund Account (£4110.44). Since expenditure at present is very limited it was agreed that subscriptions should remain as they are.

TR suggested that we consider a 'Friends of the Map' category at a smaller subscription.

6. Endorsement of Constitution

As part of the process of gaining charitable status, the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator recommend that we adopt a modified constitution based on their example document, which the Steering Group have used as the basis for the new version. KB explained that this included details required to fulfil the charity obligations, and asked the meeting to consider this. The constitution was adopted unopposed.

7. Election and re-election of charity trustees

The current trustees were willing to remain as such; continuation was proposed by Nigel Rose and seconded by Hamish Brown.

8. Any other business

David Cameron drew the meeting's attention to a new book by Dr Gordon Barclay 'If Hitler Comes: preparing for invasion, Scotland 1940' which examines the choice of locations and construction of coastal defences, in which the Polish Army played a major part. The book had been publicised in the previous day's The Scotsman.

KT suggested that the Steering Group should buy a copy for Mapa, and this was agreed.

9. Meeting closed at 1515.

Keith Burns

Attached. - Profit and Loss Summary

MAPA SCOTLAND			
PROFIT AND LOSS A/C			
March 31 2013			
	CREDIT	DEBIT	TOTAL
INCOME			
Membership subscriptions	£821.94		
Donations + Interest	£4,898.47		£5,720.41
EXPENDITURE			
Internet charges		-£131.90	
Printing		-£20.00	
Holyrood Reception PR etc		-£1,245.90	
Photo Rendering		-£697.60	
Office & Miscellaneous		-£207.37	-£2,302.77
2012-2013 INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE	£3,417.64		
MAPA SCOTLAND			
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
March 31 2013			
OPENING BANK A/C – Apr 1 2012	£1,293.23		
PLUS INCOME	£5,720.41		
LESS EXPENDITURE	-£2,302.77		
TOTAL	£4,710.87		
CLOSING BANK A/C – March 31 2013	£4,710.87		
PLUS – Deposits lodged not on statement	£0.00		
LESS – Cheques issued not on statement	£0.00		
TOTAL	£4,710.87		
(in Treasurer's Account)	£600.43		
(in Matched Fund Account)	£4,110.44		