



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 5th June 2016 at 1pm
at the JCC, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6UE

Lunch will be available from 12.15.

Agenda:

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 14th June 2015 and Council of 6th March 2016
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Cooptions and confirmation of membership:

Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh)	Edward Green (Edinburgh)
Frank House (Highlands)	Neil Livingstone (Glasgow)
Judith Sischy (Edinburgh)	Evy Yedd (Glasgow)
5. Report from the Chair
6. Financial Report and adoption of accounts
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Reports from Director
9. Election of office-bearers:

Chair
Vice-Chair
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer
10. Reports from Communities
11. Date of next meeting: Sunday 4th September (Edinburgh)
12. AOCB

Papers are also available online at <http://www.scojec.org/members/council/council.html>



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Minute of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th June 2015

Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation

1. Present: Hilary Rifkind (Chair), Micheline Brannan, Paul Morron, Debby Taylor, Ehud Reiter, Chrissie Nyssen, Gillian Raab, Itamar Nitzan, Ephraim Borowski, Nicola Livingston, Fiona Frank, Zoe Jacobs, Alan Kay.

Observers: Brian Mark, Liz Byrne, Jonathan Rosenstein, Kanan Rosenstein.

Apologies: Simon Dover, Howard Gordon, Raymond Taylor, Neil Livingstone, Fiona Brodie, Philip Mendelsohn, Evy Yedd, Frank House, Edward Green, Judith Sischy, Joe Goldblatt.

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies

Hilary opened the meeting and welcomed Itamar Nitzan who had been elected to represent Israelis in Scotland.

2. Minutes of AGM of 29th June 2014 and Council of 22nd March 2015

The minutes of the AGM had already been approved and were noted. The minutes of the last Council meeting were approved without discussion on the proposal of Gillian and Alan.

3. Matters arising from minutes

It was noted that Aberdeen are still exploring the possibility of a Shabbaton, but it might be difficult to find a suitable date.

4. Amendment to the Constitution

Approved unanimously, with the addition of Approved unanimously, with the deletion of "Northern Region Chaplaincy", and the addition of Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland to the schedule.

[The revised constitution was subsequently submitted to OSCR and approved, and is now at http://www.scojec.org/scojec/policies/scojec_constitution_amended_15vi.pdf]

5. Cooptions and confirmation of membership

It was noted that under the revised Constitution, Itamar is now a full member of Council. Neil Livingstone and Evy Yedd are now nominees of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, and Micheline and Alan are ex officio members by virtue of being office-bearers of Bemis and Interfaith Scotland respectively.

The following co-options were then confirmed: Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh); Fiona Brodie (Glasgow); Edward Green (Edinburgh); Howard Gordon (Glasgow); Walter Hecht (Glasgow); Judith Sischy (Edinburgh).

6. Report from the Chair

Hilary referred to her report, which had been posted on the website and circulated in advance. She reiterated her appreciation of the huge amount of work done by Ephraim, Leah, Nicola, Fiona, and Zoe, and the growing band of vounteers who support themall the others who had supported them.

Her report was adopted without further discussion.

7. Financial Report and adoption of accounts

The 2014 accounts and half-year results had been circulated in advance. In the absence of the Treasurer, Ephraim spoke briefly to these, and they were adopted *nem con*.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ephraim thanked the current Independent Examiner, Lewis Osborne, for his diligence, and reported that he had indicated his willingness to continue. This was agreed *nem con*.

9. Reports from Director

Ephraim spoke to a number of key points in his circulated report, and reported excellent feedback from VAF on our final report on the 2012-15 Equality Fund grant. The current grant round is only for one year, so this should stand us in good stead for the next round. However, he said the present situation is not sustainable: aside from the need to be able to fund a full-time CEO, there has to be significant fund-raising to meet current commitments.

In reply to Micheline and Alan, he said it is easy to draw up a business plan to balance the books but it requires effort to achieve fund-raising targets. The first ports of call should be national organisations such as the Board of Deputies, JLC, and CST for a proportionate and reliable commitment, and expatriate Scots, some of whom have given extremely generously to the photography project need to be approached by a suitable intermediary.

Paul agreed that the current situation is not sustainable and that we need a business plan, which could be built on the LEAP report. He said fund-raising needs to be regular to be sustainable, so in the first instance needs to be addressed mainly to UK institutions, and suggested that Scottish Deputies should act together to put pressure on the Board.

Gillian agreed, but said we seem to have been able to carry on so far. Paul responded that the past year had been a game-changer, and national organisations will understand that the world has changed. Ephraim added that now is an opportune time, since UK communal organisations are unsure how to respond to the results of the General Election, and the situation is analogous to their fundamental shift in attitude to campus politics in the 1970s.

Hilary proposed that the Executive set up sub-committee to take fund-raising forward, and this was agreed.

Ehud commented that the line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism is blurred, and Israel matters to Jewish people in Scotland. Itamar agreed: the fact that politicians are obsessed with Israel but have never condemned Syria makes their criticism of Israel antisemitic.

Ephraim responded that the *Being Jewish in Scotland* projects had made it much easier to raise these issues with Government and others: we have consistent empirical evidence that Jewish people in Scotland are affected by the obsessive anti-Israel activity. Paul added that the mainstream community support Israel, and said he was concerned that the Scottish Government, unlike the UK Government, has only acknowledged and condemned last year's outbreak of antisemitism to the Jewish community, but not in public. Ephraim said that he hoped that the planned public meeting with the First Minister would correct this.

10. Election of office-bearers:

The following were proposed, seconded, and elected unopposed:

Chair:	Hilary Rifkind	(proposed: Micheline, Gillian)
Vice-Chair:	Micheline Brannan	(proposed: Hilary, Alan)
Hon Secretary:	Simon Dover	(proposed: Micheline, Alan)
Hon Treasurer:	Howard Gordon	(proposed: Micheline, Hilary)
Small Communities:	Debby Taylor	(proposed: Ephraim, Hilary)

11. Reports from Communities

There were brief reports from EHC, ELJC, Aberdeen, and the new Israeli group.

Fiona commented that grants are available from Interfaith Scotland for events during Interfaith Week in November.

12. Date of next meetings:

Sunday 20th September in Glasgow was confirmed.

It was agreed to explore holding the subsequent meeting on Sunday 6th December in Dundee, followed by a Chanukah celebration.

13. AOCB

It was agreed to refer the letter from Glasgow Jewish Representative Council that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting to the Executive.

The formal meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair proposed by Paul.

Supt Ross Aitken, Head of Safer Communities at Police Scotland then addressed the meeting and responded to questions.