



Annual General Meeting
Sunday 26th June 2022 at 2.00 pm
in Giffnock JCC and by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759807915?pwd=MWNraXVMVUVsU0dGSIVnVGkxKzQzQT09>

Agenda:

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 20 June 2021 and Council of 6 March 2022 (attached)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Report from the Chair
5. Financial Report and adoption of accounts (to be circulated)
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of office-bearers
8. Reports on current activities
9. Date of next meeting:
Sunday 21 August 2022 – venue tbc.
10. AOCB



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 20th June 2021

by Zoom

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies

Present: Alan Kay (Chair) Micheline Brannan, Danielle Bett, Ephraim Borowski, Fiona Brodie (part), John Danzig, Paul Edlin, Carol Levstein, Nicola Livingston, Jonathan Manevitch, Philip Mendelsohn, Paul Morron, Gillian Raab, Hilary Rifkind, Susan Siegel, Paul Spicker, Howard Singerman, Sammy Stein, Mark Taylor, Raymond Taylor, Debby Taylor.

Staff: Leah Granat, Kirsty Robson

Apologies: Simon Dover

Observers: Colin Grant, Tom Griffin, Henry Lovat, Timothy Lovat, Brian Mark, Charles Raab

2. Chair's welcome and introductory remarks

Alan Kay welcomed everyone and reminded them that this is a public meeting and everyone is responsible for their own conduct and they should be aware that their remarks are public and, since a journalist is present, may be reported in the Press.

He thanked the Council, staff, and volunteers for the extraordinary amount of work that they have put in during an extraordinary year. The Community has responded to a pandemic that has had huge impact on people's lives and caused huge heartache and distress by pulling together. More recently there has been an enormous flare-up of violence in Middle-East which has intensified communal worry and stress. There has been a significant rise in antisemitism, a threat that never goes away, but this time the normalisation of antisemitism within British society, the bile, and vitriol has been the worst that he could remember.

Alan said that SCoJeC had responded quickly to these external events, by moving our many events online. It could be argued that the pandemic has moved us forward 10 years.

SCoJeC has also focused on the need for internal reform and renewal. Earlier this year Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Deputies, the first of its kind, which has enabled SCoJeC to move forward with appointing a salaried Chief Executive Officer. Alan regretted that, due to his illness, the process was taking longer than he would have liked, and the path had been far from smooth. He advised the meeting, that we will soon be in a position to interview applicants.

Alan noted that, as usual, the agenda includes elections of Officers. Most years, nominations are uncontested, but this year there are two candidates for each post. Alan told the meeting that his own agenda has been clear from the outset, namely to reform SCoJeC, employ a CEO, and improve governance to make it more relevant and accountable to the communities it serves.

Alan proposed that the AGM should take place in two parts, the first part to deal with normal business and the second, on a later date, to hold the election in a more considered manner. It was noted that the Constitution permits this; however, it was for Council to decide whether to accept this suggestion or not.

A secret ballot was then held to decide this issue. The Immediate Past Chair, Micheline Brannan received all votes by Zoom Chat addressed only to her. The vote was 11 in favour of holding the election immediately, 8 to defer, and one abstention.

(Before the vote, Alan ruled that Jonathan Manevitch was entitled to vote as the representative of Jewish students studying in Scotland.)

3. Minutes of AGM of 28 June 2020 and Council of 23 May 2021

The 2020 AGM minutes had been adopted at the August 2020 Council meeting, and no additional comments had been received. The Council meeting minutes of 23 May 2021 were adopted *nem con*.

4. Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Report from the Chair

Alan said the formal Annual Report and Accounts were his report on the first part of his tenure, and he had nothing to add to his introductory remarks.

Fiona Brodie joined the meeting.

6. Financial Report and adoption of accounts

Mark Taylor thanked Philip Mendelsohn for his circulated report.

John Danzig commented that ~~said~~ the term “resignation” is misleading when applied to people who stand down at the end of their term of office, and suggested the use of “retired” in future. Alan commented that “resignation” is a technical term and is correct.

Alan noted a formatting error in the accounts, and Philip confirmed that this will be corrected before final printing.

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Philip, seconded by Nicola Livingston and Ephraim Borowski, and agreed *nem con*.

Turning to the current year, Philip confirmed that SCoJeC has applied to the new Scottish Government equality fund (which excludes faith-related activities) for MEMO, MEMO+, and PAD, but the terms of future funding for the faith strand have not yet been announced. He also restated that SCoJeC does not have secure funding for the CEO post, but Mark disputed this.

Debby Taylor asked if SCoJeC has guaranteed funding for the continued employment of consultants. Philip replied that there is no guarantee. All of SCoJeC’s staff are self-employed consultants, and they are aware that there is no security for their continued employment. He said that some other affected organisations are preparing to give redundancy notices in case their funding is not continued, and he will have to bring proposals to the August Council if the Scottish Government does not publish proposals for ongoing faith strand funding.

Paul Edlin said that he has concerns about IR 35. Philip advised that Alan and Mark had asked Howard Singerman asked to carry out a review and he has confirmed that there is no liability for SCoJeC’s main contractor. Howard confirmed that these matters were discussed with the Inland Revenue and they had no concerns, so he does not think this is a matter we need to spend any time on.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ephraim said that Lewis Osborne is prepared to undertake this for one more year. Alan proposed Lewis's reappointment. Nicola and Philip seconded and this was agreed *nem con*.

8. Election of office-bearers

Alan again expressed disappointment that there is a contested election at this stage, which is unusual and unexpected. Paul Edlin and Sammy Stein objected to one of the candidates, but Paul Spicker said it is not proper for members to speak before the candidates make their statements. He said Alan should stand down until the election is decided. Alan said he had already made a statement, so invited Nicola to speak.

Nicola said that she had agreed to be nominated after having being approached by several Trustees and members of Council who had concerns about transparency. She referred to her background in community education, and her long track record with several communal organisations including as President of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. She said that, if elected, she would take forward plans for a paid CEO and build on SCoJeC's excellent reputation developed over the 22 years since its establishment. She said that she considers SCoJeC's outreach and education programmes and its representative activities to be very successful. Her intention was to develop a robust strategic plan, to secure a wide range of funding for the future, and to work consensually with others who can help SCoJeC achieve its aims.

In the subsequent discussion, Paul Edlin and Sammy Stein objected to Nicola's candidacy and said that a change of Chair could impact negatively on the relationship between SCoJeC and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. Paul Morron said that Alan should be given credit for what he had achieved during his tenure. However, he also expressed concerns that SCoJeC had not made any statement about the Gaza War.

In a secret ballot, again conducted by Zoom 'direct chat', Nicola was elected to the Chair by 12 votes to 9.

Mark Taylor withdrew his candidacy for the post of Vice Chair and left the meeting. Gillian Raab, Philip Mendelsohn, and Fiona Brodie were therefore elected unopposed for the posts of Vice Chair, Hon Treasurer, and Hon Secretary respectively.

9. Reports on current activities

Discussion of the remaining reports (Director, Research and Publications Officer, Projects and Outreach Manager, Education and Outreach Officer, and JLC Scotland Regional Manager) were deferred because of lack of time.

10. AOCB

Membership:

Carol asked about co-options and Ephraim replied that proposals will be brought to the next Council meeting.

Mark Taylor, Debby Taylor, and Sammy Stein informed the meeting that they wished to resign from Council. Micheline noted that since she is no longer Immediate Past Chair she will be no longer be a member of Council.

Alan confirmed that, as Immediate Past Chair, he will remain a Trustee, and informed the meeting that he intends to also continue in the role of Deputy for SCoJeC.

Thanks to office bearers:

Paul Spicker thanked all the previous year's office bearers, and wished the new team well. He emphasised that SCoJeC is particularly important to small communities and will continue to be so in the future.

Fiona commented that holding a democratic election was a positive and healthy thing for Council. She thanked Alan and Mark for their efforts towards appointing a paid CEO, but also said that she had had some concerns about the transparency of those proceedings.

Carol Levstein also thanked Alan for all his hard work during the year.

Alan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished the new office bearers well.

Nicola thanked Alan for bringing the discussions about a CEO with the Board of Deputies to the current stage, and said she hoped to build on that work.

11. Date of next meeting: Sunday 29 August – venue tbc.