



Annual General Meeting
Sunday 9th July 2023 at 10am
following the AGM of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council
in Giffnock JCC and by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83561157507?pwd=OU5NOVJyejhHZFFsakxGdEFtUzhMdz09>

Agenda:

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 26 June 2022 and Council of 19 March 2023 (attached)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Report from the Chair
5. Election of office-bearers
6. Financial Report and adoption of accounts (attached)
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Reports on current activities (to follow)
9. Date of next Council meeting:
Sunday 3 September 2023 – venue tbc.
10. Address by Robert Marshall, Public Sector Policy Adviser, and former Head of Connected Communities, Scottish Government
11. AOCB



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26th June 2022

Giffnock JCC and Zoom

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies

Present: Nicola Livingston (Chair), Gillian Raab (Vice-Chair), Philip Mendelsohn (Treasurer), Ephraim Borowski (Director), Micheline Brannan, John Danzig, Alan Kay, Henry Lovat, Timothy Lovat, Jonathan Manevitch, Hilary Rifkind, Jackie Sevitt, Raymond Taylor

Observers: Derek Livingston, Sharon Mail, Paul Morron, Sammy Stein, Vicci Stein

Staff: Mike Beral, Eloise Bishop, Leah Granat, Kirsty Robson

Apologies: Fiona Brodie, Simon Dover, Carol Levstein

Welcome and introductory remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was conducted as a hybrid event. She particularly welcomed the new nominees of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, and congratulated Tim Lovat on his election as President on 16 June. She also congratulated Kirsty on achieving First Class Honours in her degree.

2. Minutes of AGM of 20 June 2021 and Council of 6 March 2022

There being no comments on the accuracy, both sets of minutes were adopted *nem con*.

Proposed: Micheline, Seconded, Gillian

3. Matters arising from minutes

None were raised.

4. Reports

The Chair said that all reports had been circulated in advance, and the AGM was assumed to have read them.

There were no questions on the Chair's report. Adoption was proposed by Philip and seconded by Jonathan, and it was adopted *nem con*.

Referring to her report on Projects and Events, Kirsty highlighted that SCoJeC hopes to have more in person events in the coming months. She also said that we need a Volunteer Ambassador to the Highlands and Islands since Linda Martin had now moved to England. She invited ideas from Council members for events.

John commented that Zoom events can have not only a national audience but also an international audience. The Chair said that this can feature in planning for the future but for the present, Scotland is the priority. She added that the Scottish Government is particularly impressed by how SCoJeC events enable us to gather information about how Jewish people in Scotland are feeling and what concerns they have. We now need to find the best way of continuing to have events at a time of hiatus between the Pandemic, with everything online, and the safe and gradual return to in-person events.

On Jewish Scotland Connected, Mike said that historically SCoJeC events have focused on people living geographically close to the event, but hybrid events create an opportunity for events to become genuinely Scotland-wide. He posed the question whether the partner

organisations want to grab that opportunity, which would double or triple the engagement of Jewish people across Scotland in those events. The project can help with the technology, but success depends on those organising the events wanting to increase the range from local to all of Scotland. The Chair said that the organisations which could operate in this way are not yet ready to think this way. That is why the funders have agreed to have a pause for a few months while we take stock. Ephraim commented that the recommendation to suspend the hybrid events pilot does not mean it was a failure. Rather it is a success that we have learned quite a bit about what does and does not work. Ephraim added that now people have started coming out to live events, he and Mike feel it is time to start again having events in remote locations and letting central locations join in by Zoom – what Mike had referred to as “reverse geography”.

Speaking to his Director’s report, Ephraim said that there had been more engagement with the Scottish Government and others than before the pandemic, which can be very intense as meetings on Zoom or Teams often take place with no break for travel or refreshments. As well as the SG’s new round table with faith communities, there had been discussions on a very wide range of specific topics, particularly on aspects of Family Law from cradle to grave. The hybrid “First Minister’s Questions”, with live audiences in Glasgow and Edinburgh as well as 120 on Zoom had been a particular success for which he thanked the entire Jewish Scotland Connected team led by Mike, and we had also facilitated meetings for Jewish students with the First Minister and the Minister for Higher Education.

There were no further questions on any of the reports (but see AOCB below).

5. Financial Report and adoption of accounts

Philip said the report of the Trustees and the Accounts have been circulated and he will not go through all the details. He clarified that the events themselves are not funded through Jewish Scotland Connected, but organisations have to meet the costs that they would have incurred in any case; the JSC funding is for the additional costs of technology and staffing to make the event hybrid.

He also drew attention to the effect of inflation on the Scottish Government grant which is steady at £50K a year but is losing value year on year. He stressed again the need to have a strategy and funding to replace Ephraim with a salaried appointment. Jonathan asked about the scope of the salaried post – is it just public affairs. The Chair clarified that it is to direct all the work of SCoJeC including public affairs, events and community support.

Philip continued that the expenditure and income were in balance in 2021 but that was at a much-reduced level of activities. Philip added that the new Scottish Government Equality Fund is not suitable for us partly because of the emphasis on “places”. Ephraim said that identifying “communities” with local neighbourhoods disadvantages minority communities like ours – small communities are invisible at the local level and even if local authorities had resources to support them, what people need is a Scotland-wide support network such as SCoJeC. He will raise this again at a forthcoming meeting.

Philip said that for many years SCoJeC has received an annual donation from the Fanny & Moray Glasser Charitable Trust. The Trust is now being wound up, and he expressed thanks for a substantial award from their final disbursement.

Nicola proposed adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts and Micheline seconded it, subject to correcting a reference to 2020 rather than 2021. It was agreed that the corrected version would be recirculated to Council.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Philip expressed thanks on behalf of Council to Lewis Osborne for his many years of service to SCoJeC as independent examiner. Tim and Micheline mentioned a possible candidate who has been recommended by Lewis and Philip said that he would look into this and make a recommendation to Council.

7. Election of office-bearers

The office bearers had all agreed to stand for re-election, and were nominated en bloc by Ephraim and Henry and elected unopposed.

8. Date of next meeting

The proposed date of 21 August is not suitable for Edinburgh as they are hoping to reinstate the Festival Open Day at EHC. There were also clashes with other events on Sundays in August and September, and the Chair said she would prefer to have the meeting on a weekday at an earlier date by Zoom. Hilary said to avoid 17 August.

9. AOCB

John said that he remains extremely concerned about the delay in appointing a CEO. He said that the JLC should be seen as part of the solution and not part of the problem. The Chair said that progress has been made as outlined in her report. The Scottish Government will now allow their grant to be used for core costs. Meetings are lined up with the Community Trust, the BoD, the JLC, and the SG. As and when the funding is fully in place the post will be advertised.

The Chair thanked everyone for all their hard work during the year, including Executive, Council members, Ephraim as Director, and the staff, Leah, Kirsty, Eloise, and Mike.

The meeting closed at 1504.