

THE MORAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP  
("the Partnership")



Company Number: SC196042

**MINUTE of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the Partnership held at the Beaufort Hotel, Inverness on  
2nd November 2009 at 12.30pm**

**Present**

Maureen Macmillan (Chair)  
George Hogg (Vice Chair)  
John Dunthorne (Director)  
George Dobbie (Director)  
Clive Goodman (Director)  
Sinclair Young (Director)

and other members of the Partnership as shown in the AGM Attendance List (Annex A)

**Apologies**

Gordon Mackie (Director)  
Apologies were intimated from other members (see Annex B).

**Notice and Quorum**

Notice of the meeting, copied to members, was taken as read. More than 10 members being present, or duly represented, the meeting was declared quorate and proceeded to business.

**1. Chair's Report**

Maureen Macmillan gave a brief overview of the Partnership and its objectives for the benefit of non members present, followed by a review of the activities and achievements over the last year, and outlined the Partnership's plans for the forthcoming year. The Chair reported that the Partnership has been acting as lead partner for a Bottlenose Dolphin Economic Survey and work has been progressing throughout the year on a Sustainable Marine Recreation Survey. The Partnership was involved in organising the Living Traditions Marquee at the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival and a Traditional Boat repair workshop in Helmsdale. Future work will include a 2 year Gansey Heritage Project and a new round of the Community Grant Scheme, as well as continuing work on improving Moray Firth information resources and developing a marine biodiversity action plan for the Moray Firth.

The Chair provided an update on the progress of the Scottish Marine Bill and how the Partnership expected to work with Scottish Government on issues where future consultation will be required.

Formal thanks were expressed to all Members of the Partnership, MF Strategic Group and Action Groups, Staff, Directors and to Sponsors for their valued support. The list of core and project sponsors was displayed.

Tom Dawson from Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion (SCAPE) and Jacquie Aitken of the Clyne Heritage Society then delivered presentations before the meeting proceeded to the formal business.

## **2. Accounts & Reports**

John Dunthorne, the finance director, gave a brief overview of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2009, which showed a deficit of income over expenditure of £2,637, compared to £22,144 in the previous year. This deficit was a result of timing issues and did not mean that the Partnership had made a loss on any of its projects or on core activities.

The Partnership is continuing its policy of trying to increase funding from projects, and to reduce reliance on a few key core funders. However, the small team of staff restricts the number of projects that can be successfully managed in any one year, meaning that there remains a need for core funding. The Scottish Government is still considering proposals for central funding of coastal partnerships as part of the Marine Bill, but there are no clear indications yet as to what this will be or how Partnerships are to be funded.

The balance sheet showed the Charity had total reserves of £72,742, compared to £75,379 in the previous year. These reserves included £30,859 of "Restricted Funds", which related to cash received in advance for projects, i.e. money that was ring fenced for those projects and not part of the general funds available to the Partnership. "Unrestricted Funds" related to reserves for core activities totalled £30,859.

The Board had agreed to increase the level of core reserves to provide 6 months ongoing operational costs, which were in line with its policy to have a cash buffer equivalent to at least three months' ongoing operational costs.

**Resolution 1** - To receive the statement of accounts of the Partnership for the period ended 31 March 2009 and the balance sheet as at that date, with the reports of the Board of Directors and Independent Financial examiners thereon.

Resolution 1 was passed unanimously.

Proposed by Roger Goodyear Seconded by Sinclair Young.

## **3. Election of Directors**

The Partnership can have a maximum of 7 directors in terms of its Articles of Association. Each year, one third of the directors must retire by rotation. John Dunthorne and Clive Goodman were due to retire by rotation, and while Clive Goodman had indicated that he wished to stand again, John Dunthorne had announced that he was formally retiring.

Maureen Macmillan thanked John Dunthorne for his contribution and commitment to the Partnership over the last five years and presented him with a gift on behalf of the staff and Directors.

One formal nomination to join the Board had been received from Mike Comerford

**Resolution 2** – To elect up to two directors to the Board

Clive Goodman – Proposed by Maureen Macmillan Seconded by Sinclair Young

Mike Comerford – Proposed by John Dunthorne Seconded by George Dobbie

Both candidates were elected unanimously.

**Composition of Board following the election:-**

Mike Comerford, George Dobbie, Clive Goodman, George Hogg, Maureen Macmillan, Gordon Mackie and Sinclair Young.

**Appointment of Chairman**

In terms of the Articles of Association, the Chair is elected annually by the Board at its first meeting following the AGM which would be later that afternoon. The current Chair of the Partnership was Maureen Macmillan. Any current director is eligible to stand. Members would be advised who had been appointed Chair in the following MFP newsletter.

**4. Appointment of independent financial examiners**

**Resolution 3** - "to authorise the Board to appoint independent financial examiners to the Partnership and to fix their remuneration" was approved unanimously.  
Proposed by Sinclair Young Seconded by Clive Goodman.

There being no further business the official part of the meeting was declared closed and members were then invited to take part in an informal discussion session.

**Informal Discussion Session**

Roger Goodyear, on behalf of the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, thanked the Partnership for its support over the years and its contribution to the success of the extended 2009 festival. In particular, he thanked Kathryn Logan for her efforts in organising the Living Traditions Marquee and Sinclair Young, who played an important role in the festival's initiation and ongoing success. As a token of appreciation, Roger presented Kathryn and Sinclair with limited edition 2009 STBF tankards.

Alasdair Cameron, Black Isle Partnership, congratulated staff on the Partnership's Autumn 2009 Members' Newsletter, which he thought was the best to date.

Dr Stewart Campbell mentioned a recent success in the movement to have a single joined up path network around the Moray Frith coast. Thanks to support from Scottish Water Solutions, a section of the network had recently been joined up between Alness and Invergordon. He said there were still opportunities for more funding and encouraged members to make the most of them.

**There being no further items raised for discussion, the meeting closed.**

**Annex A – Attendees included:-**

Sinclair Young	Moray Firth Partnership (Chair)
George Hogg	Moray Firth Partnership (Vice Chair)
John Dunthorne	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
George Dobbie	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Maureen Macmillan	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Gordon Mackie	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Kathryn Logan	Moray Firth Partnership (Manager)
Dominic Shann	Moray Firth Partnership (Administrator)
Alastair Simmons	Moray Firth Partnership (Project Officer)
Jacquie Aitken	Clyne Heritage Society
Alasdair Cameron	Black Isle Partnership
Dr Stewart Campbell	Alness Partnership
Mike Comerford	
Tom Dawson	SCAPE
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Chris Ferne	Dornoch Area CIC
Capt Ken Gray	Cromarty Firth Port Authority
Eric Grant	Groam House Museum
Roger Goodyear	Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
Jonie Guest	NOSAS
Simon Gunn	Rosemarkie Caves Project
Vanessa Halhead	
Capt Ken MacLean	Inverness Harbour
Tim McKeggie	
Jim Miller	
Beryl Miller	NHS Highland
Tim Negus	Findhorn Village Heritage
Jean Sargeant	Timespan
Jenny Sleeman	BTCV Scotland

**Annex B – Apologies included:**

Linda Adam	Moray Council
Mike Balmforth	Scottish Boating Alliance
Paul Bancks	The Crown Estate
Lord Burton	Ness District Fishery Board
Karen Campbell	Portknockie Community Council
Kenna Chisholm	RSPB
Birggite Geddes	
Rachel Harding-Hill	SEPA
Malcolm Harrison	Invergordon Tourism Alliance
Chris Higgins	HIE
Susie Hoggarth	Inver Primary School
Richard Jenner	Chanonry Sailing Club
Ian Macfarlane	Macfarlane Shipping
Gordon Mackie	Moray Firth Partnership
Jim McKie	Marine Scotland
Cath Millar	Burghead Headland Trust
Sue Mitchell	WEA Scotland
Eleanor Munro	Aberdeenshire council
Tim Negus	Findhorn Village heritage
Wing Commander McCord	RAF Kinloss
Thomas Robinson	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Bruce Robertson	Aberdeen Council

John Thomson  
Janet Trythall  
Joyce Watson  
Hamish Young

Forest Enterprise  
Civic Committee of the Moray Society  
Highland Libraries  
Maritime & Coastguard Agency