

Draft Note of Morecambe Bay Partnership Annual General Meeting

10th September 2002, Coronation Hall, Ulverston

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Captain John Green (JG) welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the Morecambe Bay Partnership as a charity. He particularly welcomed new members reflecting our growing support.

JG reported the following staff changes:

1. Chris Rowley has joined us part-time as Education Officer for the 'Mermaids Purse' project, replacing Alistair Kirkbride
2. Susannah Bleakley (SB) has returned as Partnership Officer following her secondment to the Government Office for the North West
3. Rona Arkle, Partnership Officer and Davina Stanford, Partnership Assistant have pursued career moves with Cumbria County Council and in research in New Zealand respectively
4. Michael Barker, Partnership Assistant is moving on.

JG thanked the leavers for their contributions and wished them well in their new ventures.

On behalf of the Partnership he offered the following thanks:

1. To Susannah for her enthusiastic and committed work for the Partnership
2. To Alan Chester and Geoff Paul who having recently retired have been giving some of their time supporting Susannah in the Partnership office
3. To the Conference sponsors for their generous financial contributions.

Apologies for absence were noted.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Conference

John Hetherington (JGH), Chair of the Partnership Executive and Management Committees, invited the election of the Conference Officers as follows:

Captain John GreenChair
Colin PeacockVice Chair

It was **proposed** by Jack Sheldon, **seconded** by Gordon Hathaway and accepted unanimously.

3. Report on Partnership Activities

SB briefly outlined the achievements of the last and current year which are covered more fully in the conference papers. She then spoke about the forward direction for the Partnership, including:

1. Using established networks for information exchange and conflict resolution
2. Improving information about the Bay, particularly through the interpretation strategy adopted at the last conference. She noted that the consultants' report costed the recommended action plan at in excess of £900,000. This will require substantial funding, a first priority being for the Officer to be appointed to take this forward
3. Working with local communities to improve interpretation and to pursue other worthwhile projects such as beach cleaning, where the focus will be on linking existing groups and creating new groups. Funding for 'Beach Care' is also being sought
4. Continuing the education focus through the 'Mermaids Purse' programme.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

4. Morecambe Bay Partnership AGM

a) Introducing the Trustees

JG reminded the meeting that a photograph and details of the Trustees was in the last newsletter, on the web-site and in the Annual Report.

b) Notes of Last Meeting

Notes of the Business Meeting held at the conference on the 2nd November 2001 were accepted as a fair record. There were no matters arising or outstanding actions.

c) Resignation and Election of Trustees

The constitution provides for 12 trustees. There are currently 11 in service.

The following retirements were required under the constitution:

Alan Chester by rotation, June Ashworth and Margaret Martindale as co-opted members. All were eligible for re-election. Captain John Green had been nominated to the vacancy. No other nominations had been received. The meeting approved unanimously all three re-elections and the election of Captain Green to the vacant position.

d) Trustees Report

JGH introduced the Morecambe Bay Partnership Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2002 and reported a successful first year. He recognised that we need to implement our Business Plan.

JGH outlined the Partnership's objects, reiterated the key achievements for the reporting period, including the award of a grant for community work from the Esmée Fairburn Foundation and expressed optimism about future funding.

SB reported on the financial statements which were also presented within the Business Papers. The accounts had undergone independent examination in line with Charity Commission requirements and had been approved by Fiona Newbould, Group Management Auditor, Cumbria County Council. SB stressed that the core income did not now cover the day-to-day running costs and that the historic surplus is being eroded. Future financial viability will depend on the generation of management fees from project funding streams, over and above membership and sponsorship income.

There were no questions from the floor on the Trustees' Report and it was adopted by the meeting. JGH on behalf of the Trustees formally thanked the many organisations that support the Morecambe Bay Partnership. He said that the scale of engagement with the public and private sectors was exemplary.

JG offered thanks from the Partnership to JGH for his leadership. He said that this is a true partnership of people working together and is becoming better known locally and outside the area.

f) Amendment to the Constitution

The following amendment to paragraph 12.1 of the constitution to assist day-to-day financial management was proposed and accepted unanimously:

12.1 Any bank account in which any assets of the charity are deposited shall be operated by the Executive Committee and shall be held in the name of the charity. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such account shall be signed by at least two persons from four named signatories comprising three named Trustees and the Partnership Officer.

g) Appointment of Auditors

The proposal to re-appoint Fiona Parker (nee Newbould) as auditor was accepted unanimously.

h) Honorary Life Membership

JG acknowledged Olive and Cedric Robinson who, he suggested, needed no introduction. He reported that the Trustees have unanimously proposed Olive and Cedric as the first Honorary Life Members of the Partnership. They were presented with a certificate of the award.

Cedric thanked the Trustees and Susannah and said that he and Olive would treasure it. He showed some slides and talked about a recent cross-bay walk and carriage crossing.

i) Date and Venue for the next AGM & Conference

SB proposed that the next event be held during the first week in October 2003. This was accepted. JG asked that evaluation forms be used to indicate preferences on timing and venue.

5. Closing Remarks

JG invited questions or comments from the floor. There were none. JG closed the AGM and thanked everyone for coming.