

Scottish Justices' Association

Executive Meeting

18th November 2018 starting at 2:35 p.m.
Golden Jubilee Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank.

Minutes

Present:	Tom Finnigan, (NS)	David Ferguson (SSD&G)
	John Whyte, (TC&F)	Marella O'Neill (NS)
	Dennis Barr (G&S)	Neil McKechnie (G&S)
	Gordon Hunter (SSD&G)	Phil Cropper (GH&I)
	Grace MacLeod (NS)	John Burns (L&B)
	David Donaldson (TC&F)	
Apologies:	John Lawless, (G&S)	Thomas Davis (GH&I)
	Brian Wood (GH&I)	Mandy Shand (TC&F)

	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Appointment of Temporary Chairman</p> <p>As this Executive Meeting immediately followed the SJA Annual General Meeting, held at the same location, it was necessary to appoint a temporary Chairman to allow the appointment of the Associations' Office Bearers.</p> <p>Tom Finnigan proposed that as he should chair the meeting on the basis that he was the out-going Chairman, and had held the position for two years, and as such would not be eligible to stand again as Chairman. This motion was unanimously approved, and Tom Finnigan was appointed as the temporary Chairman.</p> <p>Before relinquishing the role of Chairman of the SJA Tom Finnigan thanked the Committee for all of their support over the past two years. Dennis Barr on behalf of the full Executive Committee thanked Tom Finnigan for all of his work and dedication to the position and the fact that he had significantly raised the profile of the SJA. In addition he had also led the SJA on a number of influential projects and had firmly established the SJA as the representative voice for JPs in Scotland.</p>	Tom Finnigan
2.	<p>Election of the SJA Chairman and Office Bearers 2018/19</p> <p>(a) Chairman – David Ferguson proposed that Mr Gordon Hunter be appointed as the new Chairman. This was seconded by David Donaldson. As there were no other nominations and as Mr Gordon Hunter was prepared to accept the nomination it was unanimously agreed to appoint him. Mr Gordon Hunter thereafter assumed the role of Chairman of the meeting.</p> <p>(b) Vice-Chair – John Whyte proposed the appointment of Mrs. Grace MacLeod as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Marella O'Neill.</p>	

	<p>As there were no other nominations and as Mrs Grace MacLeod was prepared to accept the nomination it was unanimously agreed to appoint her.</p> <p>(c) Secretary – Neil McKechnie proposed that Mr. Dennis Barr be re-appointed as Secretary of the Association. This was seconded by Phil Cropper. As there were no other nominations and as Mr Dennis Barr was prepared to accept the nomination it was unanimously agreed to re-appoint him.</p> <p>(d) Treasurer – Marella O’Neill proposed that Mr John Whyte be reappointed as Treasurer of the Association. This was seconded by Dennis Barr. As there were no other nominations and as Mr John Whyte was prepared to accept the nomination it was unanimously agreed to re-appoint him. Mr Whyte did ask the Committee to note however, that after this coming year he will have completed five years as Treasurer and would thereby be ineligible for any further appointment in this role.</p>	
3.	<p>Appointment of All Other Post Holders</p> <p>(a) Membership Secretary:- David Ferguson proposed that Mr John Lawless be re-appointed as Membership Secretary. This was seconded by David Donaldson, and unanimously supported. Due to the absence of John Lawless the Secretary agreed to contact him and confirm whether or not he was prepared to continue in this role. Subsequent to the meeting Mr John Lawless confirmed his acceptance. Subsequent to the meeting Mr John Lawless did accept this position.</p> <p>(b) ICT Committee Representative:- Gordon Hunter proposed that Mr John Lawless should also be re-appointed as the SJA Representative on the Information and Communication Technology Judicial Committee. This was seconded by David Ferguson. Again due to the absence of John Lawless the Secretary agreed to contact him and confirm whether or not he was prepared to continue in this role. Subsequent to the meeting Mr John Lawless confirmed his acceptance.</p> <p>(c) Welfare and Support Committee Representative:- Grace MacLeod proposed that Marella O’Neill be re-appointed as the SJA Representative on the Welfare and Support Committee of the Judicial Council. This was seconded by John Whyte. Marella O’Neill accepted the nomination and as there were no further nominations Marella O’Neill was appointed as the SJA Representative on the Welfare and Support Committee.</p> <p>(d) Conduct Committee:- Gordon Hunter proposed that Dr John Burns be re-appointed as the SJA representative on the Conduct Committee of the Judicial Council. This was seconded by David Donaldson. John Burns accepted the nomination and as there were no other nominations John Burns was appointed as the SJA Representative on the Conduct Committee.</p>	Secretary

	<p>(e) SCTS/SJA Liaison Committee:- Tom Finnigan advised that the normal representatives on the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service (SCTS) Liaison Committee were the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, accordingly it was proposed that this arrangement continue and our Representatives on the SCTS/SJA Liaison Committee would therefore be Gordon Hunter and Grace MacLeod. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>(f) Judicial Council:- Tom Finnigan advised that the normal JP representatives on the Judicial Council for Scotland were the Chairman and the Secretary of the Association. However Tom Finnigan had been appointed by the Lord President to be part of a small working group of the Judicial Council reviewing judicial ethics. Accordingly he requested that he should be allowed to continue to represent the SJA on the Judicial Council whilst his involvement with this working group was on-going. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Tom Finnigan and the Chairman, Gordon Hunter would be our representatives on the Judicial Council for the time being. It was also agreed that upon completion of Tom Finnigan's work on the working Group we shall revert to our normal arrangement and our representatives on the Judicial Council would therefore be Gordon Hunter and Dennis Barr. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>(g) 'Scottish Justice' Sub-Committee:- David Ferguson confirmed that he was prepared to continue on the Sub-Committee and to co-ordinate the work of the Sub-Committee. In addition the two other members of the Sub-Committee, namely, Marella O'Neill and Grace MacLeod agreed to remain on the Sub-Committee. David Ferguson did advise that he believed that Brian Wood would wish to continue on the Sub-Committee. It was agreed that additional resources would be beneficial and after a short discussion Mr Neil McKechnie agreed to join the Sub-Committee. All members of the Sub-Committee were thanked for their work in producing the electronic newsletter and were unanimously appointed to continue in their role.</p> <p>(h) Web-Master:- Dennis Barr proposed that John Lawless should continue in the role of Web-Master for the SJA website. This was unanimously agreed, but in the absence of John Lawless the Secretary agreed to contact him to confirm whether or not he wished to remain in this role. Subsequent to the meeting Mr John Lawless did confirm his agreement to continue as the SJA Web-Master.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the AGM</p> <p>It was noted that the only significant issue arising from this years' AGM was the requirement to investigate what technology was available and could potentially be used to allow members to participate in the SJA AGM without the need for their physical presence at the meeting. It was agreed that we do have the best part of a year to undertake these investigations, but it was agreed that it should be made an agenda item at our next full Executive Committee meeting. It was also confirmed that it would be beneficial to obtain the views of John Lawless on the subject as he is our representative on the ITC Committee.</p>	Secretary

5.	<p>Urgent Issues Arising from the Executive Meeting on 12th September 2018</p> <p>It was agreed that there were no pressing matters from this meeting and as previously advised by the Secretary; Brian Wood's report on the Digital Justice Conference would be considered at the next meeting, when he would be available to speak to his report.</p>	
6.	<p>Review of the Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Chairman asked if there were any issues or questions with the Treasurer's Report which he had circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>David Donaldson noted that in the budget provision for next year, options had been provided for the cost of attending the 2019 CMJA Conference; these options identified estimates for the varying costs for business class travel arrangements rather than economy class. David did advise that the 2019 conference was due to be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and that as he had attended the 2108 conference in Brisbane in Australia he felt that business class travel should be seriously considered to allow a delegate to be better prepared for the conference. He also noted that all other Scottish delegates had travelled to Brisbane on business class flights. It was confirmed that the class of travel had been determined by the SJA rather than imposed by the SCTS or any other authority. The Chairman then decided that the whole matter of attendance at the 2019 CMJA conference would be considered at the next meeting, including what class of travel would be appropriate if attendance was agreed, and also the nomination of a delegate. The Treasurer was asked to establish some clarification of the respective costs for travel and the Secretary was actioned to ensure it was on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	Treasurer/ Secretary
7.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>John Burns raised the possibility of co-opting a SJA member from Lothian & Borders Sheriffdom onto the SJA Executive Committee. He advised that in an informal discussion during a Sheriffdom Training session a member had expressed interest in joining the Committee. The question of co-opting members onto the Committee had been discussed at the last meeting and the constitutional position considered. It was noted that John Burns is currently the sole representative from L&B Sheriffdom and has already reached the age of 70, he has also been granted an extension to his JP appointment by the Sheriff Principal, accordingly, under the terms of the SJA Constitution clause 4(k). this could reasonably be considered exceptional circumstances. On this basis a motion to allow the Committee to approach the identified SJA member to offer a co-opted position on the SJA Executive Committee was proposed by Neil McKechnie and seconded by John Whyte. The motion was approved unanimously. However, it was agreed that before any such formal approach be made then we do need to confirm that the JP identified was indeed a member of the organisation, and the Secretary was actioned to establish this with John Lawless the Membership Secretary.</p> <p>David Ferguson also intimated that South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Sheriffdom had a long-standing vacancy, and that the South Strathclyde section of the Sheriffdom had not been represented for some years. The Chairman and David Ferguson agreed to review the situation in their Sheriffdom and explore the possibility of either co-opting or</p>	Secretary/ John Lawless Chairman/David Ferguson

	<p>encouraging members to stand at the next election.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 3:40pm.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>The Secretary was asked to check the availability of Conference Room 2.14 in Glasgow Sheriff Court for Monday 28th January 2019.</p> <p>It was subsequently transpired that this date was available. Accordingly the date of Monday 28th January 2019 is confirmed for the next meeting, commencing at 10:30am to allow for the meeting to start at 10:45am.</p>	Secretary

Dennis Barr JP
Secretary
12 December 2018