**Ulster Place-Name Society**

**Minutes of the AGM of the Ulster Place-Name Society 2019**

The AGM of the Ulster Place-Name Society was held at 7pm on Thursday 28th November 2019 in Room 02/018 of the Peter Froggatt Centre, Queen’s University.

**Present:**

**1: Apologies**

Greg Toner, Richard Warner, Dónall Ó Baoill, Conchubhar Ó Crualaoich, Ruairí Ó Bléine sent their apologies.

**2. Adoption of Minutes of 2018**

MÓM indicated a number of amendments which needed to be made in the text.

**3. Matters Arising from Minutes of AGM 2018**

*Charity Commission*

MÓM reminded members that a special meeting had been called previously (March) to submit the Charity Commission Report, as it hadn't been submitted for AGM (2018), and the first two reports had gone through.

*Payments of guest speakers*

MÓM indicated that contact had not yet been made with the Institute of Irish Studies and the School of Modern Languages to draw down the money promised for guest speakers. The institute used to cover travel and accommodation costs for guest speakers, but have agreed to continue support to a more limited extent. The CDRG have also promised £100 per annum, but notification needs to be done in advance. Agreement was made that once two guest lecturers had been decided for coming year, it was important to approach the Institute of Irish Studies, and the CDRG to ensure support in advance. KM noted that it was common practice for UPNS to hold two lectures per annum, and that we should clarify that for supporting bodies.

***Financial support***

GMcC successfully applied to Foras na Gaeilge for £600 and indicated that the committee should apply again quickly (particularly with the financial year end approaching) and for more (£2000?). MÓM agreed that the society had a good case to make. To be advanced shortly after Christmas[[1]](#footnote-1).

***Secretary's report***

GMcG indicated that more people were paying online (14, an increase on previous year), which proved useful. There was agreement that online payment should be promoted moving forward. GMcC asked everyone to google the society and let him know if the search engine was displaying the website, following a reboot[[2]](#footnote-2).

***Ainm***

MÓM reiterated a previous agreement that the society couldn't absorb the printing costs of *Ainm* indefinitely. DMacD suggested that we could produce a print version at most twice more, possibly. The provision of a hard copy remains important for some members, and MÓM noted the security issues for the long term with online publication. MÓM recalled exploring Kevin Murray (UCC)'s suggestion of printing a limited number of hard copies, alongside an online version. MÓM agreed to contact Kevin Murray again to follow up[[3]](#footnote-3).

***Membership***

PMcK suggested that the printing of *Ainm* might be secured by increasing membership, and that the lectures should be exploited for this purpose. MÓM said he would mention it at the beginning of the lecture. KM also said that illustrations would enhance the quality of publications. GMcC noted the problem of emails/newsletters going into junk folders.

***Website***

PMcK noted the new website address was ulsterplacename.org (missing plural -s), and that this might be a possible deterrent for visitors.

**4. Secretary's Report**

GMcC reminded that he was standing down as secretary. MÓM thanked GMcC for all of his efforts, which was reiterated by the committee. Membership stands at 72 (3 of which are institutions), 50 contactable by email. Membership payments by stripe are increasing ( currently 14) and 19 pay by direct debit. GMcC sent reminders to 11 members who hadn't paid for a while, two of which rejoined. GMcC noted some problems in matching the invoices to the payments and this should be more closely monitored going forward. The most popular pages on the website are the Road Name Project pages, and GMcC noted a need to make the website more dynamic, with more content (perhaps old issues of BUPNS). Members talks/handouts should be uploaded onto the site. Blogs or short articles by members articles would also be attractive. A general thought was that if everything were available online, what motivation would remain for people to join the society? GMcC noted a need to join NICVA[[4]](#footnote-4) (membership is free for societies with incomes up to £20,000) and they are happy to help with problems with the charity commission, and provide free training for members. GMcC also expressed a wish to republish *Dictionary of Ulster Place-Names* (scanned as a pdf perhaps). With an upsurge in tourism, tour guides need more direction and contact should be via the Tour Guide Association of Northern Ireland to alert them to our work and our resources and website[[5]](#footnote-5).

**5: Treasurer’s Report.**

DMacD reported that publications had gone well, particularly in *An Ceathrú Póilí* most recently (copies of *Ainm*). MÓMindicated that there were still copies in the department for distribution, and that these should be offered to *An Chultúrlann* along with copies of *Lough Neagh Places[[6]](#footnote-6),* if there is capacity for them to be taken. KM also suggested Marble Arch Caves as a location for further copies of publications. FK asked were the publications for sale online, and MÓM indicated that they weren't. DMacD said that individuals can order via email[[7]](#footnote-7). PMcK said that Amazon had copies of *DUP* for sale, as had *No Alibis*. FK also suggested Belfast Welcome Centre as a possible sale site. DMacD drew attention to £300 that GMcC had received from \**Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise* (for the *-*parish names? Church of Ireland Gazette?). Bank interest has almost tripled due to a change of rate. Expenditure includes a reissued cheque from lost correspondence in 2015/2016 (for Web services). *Ainm* expenditure just short of £3000 (£1367 previously). Around 300 copies of *Ainm* were printed (CRM print and design). MÓM indicated the back copies were lying in the department and should be sold at a reduced price. GMcC indicated a particular interest on Rathlin Island for copies of *Ainm*. The possibility of having a sale alongside a lecture should be explored. Finances are down overall by £1600 as of August 31st. Other costs not included in the report include £170 in speaker charges, £230 for web charges, £75 for postal charges. £150 has also since come in. Cash in hand £8200 when current cheques are cashed. Current finances dictate that we can publish 2 more editions of *Ainm* in the current format (as noted earlier). MÓM suggested Foras na Gaeilge as a funding source for *Ainm*, as they have a separate account for publications. DMacD said that any change of signatories had to be done electronically with Ulster Bank. Electronic access had also been granted to society accounts with no need now to go into the branch.

**6: Charity Commission Report**

GMcC indicated that the Charity Commission Reported needed to be signed off by committee members if everyone agreed to changes. Some minor typos discussed and agreed on.

**7. Election of Secretary**

Following GMcC’s decision to step down, FK indicated interest in taking the position, but with one year left on her contract at QUB she could only commit for one year (possibly longer, if circumstances permit). FK was nominated by MÓM and seconded by KM.

**9. Election of new committee members**

MÓM indicated that Ruairí Ó Bléine and Dónal Ó Baoill were at the end of their term; as neither of them were present, two more ordinary committee members were required. The terms of Ciarán O Duibhín and Fionnuala Carson-Williams will end in 2020. KM was nominated by PMcK and seconded by MÓM. Anne-Marie Faulkner (AMF) was nominated by MÓM and seconded by DMacD.

**9: Co-option of PRO**

PMcK was happy to stay in the role and nobody else expressed an interest. PMcK was nominated by MÓM and seconded by KM. Committee wondered if Pat might be assisted by Brian Devlin (absent).

**10: Lecturers for the year 2020**

GMcC said that Dónal Mac Giolla Easpaig had indicated that he would be available for 2020 but MÓM thought that we would need to go back to him on that as he had other commitments. PMcK suggested Seosamh Watson who recently published a book on Glencolmkille. KM suggested Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill (Brainse Logainmneacha). Geraldine Parsons (Glasgow) was also mentioned as a possibility by MÓM. KM suggested possibly Anne Connon but indicated that she might be too far away. MÓM suggested Carole Hough (Glasgow) in the medium term.

**11: Any Other Business**

Squarespace login details were shared:

Username: townlands.upns

password: aitainm1

1. AP1- Prepare application for Foras na Gaeilge [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. AP2- Google UPNS for search confirmation [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. AP3-MÓM to follow up on online publication [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. AP4- Membership of NICVA [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. AP5- Contact Tour Guide Association [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. AP6- Copies of Ainm and LNP to be delivered to *An Ceathrú Póilí* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. AP7- explore possiblities for selling society publications via website [↑](#footnote-ref-7)