

AGM 2020

MINUTES

Held as a virtual meeting on Thursday 29 October 2020

Introduction

Matt McDonald (Communications Officer) opened the meeting and summarised meeting protocols. He indicated that the meeting was being recorded and will be shared with all attendees and those that gave apologies.

Attendees

There were 35 people in attendance including Transform Scotland staff and Board Members.

The meeting was quorate.

Emma Margrett (Fundraising Manager) was appointed as minute-taker.

Apologies

A number of apologies for the meeting were received.

Discussion

Minutes of the 2019 Transform Scotland AGM

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved by the AGM as a good and accurate record of proceedings. There were no matters arising.

Financial report

Stuart Hay went over the annual accounts for 2019/20 (ending March 31 2020). The 2019/20 annual accounts were noted by the AGM.

Stuart gave special thanks to all of Transform Scotland's partners, funders, members and supporters.

Board of Directors

None of the existing Board Members are due to step-down until 2022 so there were no re-elections. However, Phill Matthews will be stepping down as Chair following the AGM. Transform is currently looking for a new Chair and there is also potential for further co-options to the Board.

2020 Annual Report and 2020-21 Plans

Phil extended a huge thank you to the staff team, Board, volunteers, Policy Forum, Transform Creative creatives and Transform Consulting associates for contributing to such an exceptional year & report.

Staff members proceeded to outline the main areas of the Report:

Elsbeth Wray (Enterprise Manager) updated the meeting on membership, fundraising and social enterprise. In 2019/20, Transform had really strong representation across the public transport market and attracted new members. Transform Creative and Transform Consulting have continued to grow

working with new partners, including the Port of Bergen, Norway in developing an Environmental Ports Index. Elspeth thanked all of Transform's partners and clients for their collaboration.

Matt McDonald (Communications Officer) updated the meeting on communications, events, website and newsletters. Due to COVID-19, all events since March 2020 have been online, however this has proven to be very successful and more accessible to Members across Scotland. Transform's communications strategy has also changed to reflect the requirements of the ongoing pandemic.

Marie Ferdelman (Policy Officer) only joined Transform at the end of March 2020. In June, Marie helped coordinate the 'Corona Recovery Series' reports and associated videocalls. Marie also manages the Policy Forum which contributes to consultation responses. Over the next six months, she will be working on influencing the 2021 Scottish elections and investigating the true cost / impact of road-building which is at odds with the Climate Emergency and Green Recovery.

Jess Pepper (External Affairs Manager) explained how work had been progressing on climate-related action including #lovemybus (which at the time of writing was being re-profiled for the coming year to reflect COVID-19 restrictions), Scottish Parliament / Government work (including submitting written and oral evidence to many consultations), working with the Just Transition Commission, and figuring out how Transform would move forward in terms of creating a 'Vision for Bus 2030'.

Colin Howden, Director of Transform summed up by asking whether 2020/21 would see either a 'grey' or a 'green' recovery, as it was clear that there were many forces out there who were still advocating for the former to continue to have priority for investment.

Q&A

The members of Transform Scotland asked questions on the following topics:

Finances: Why did membership income decrease in 2019/20? A small number of organisations did not renew their membership, for a variety of reasons; however, we are confident that most of them would rejoin in 2020/21.

Electric scooters: What did the people present think of electric scooters and their merit? In response, it was indicated that the Policy Forum had considered this item, and have found a variety of views, from those who thought that they did not mix well with either pedestrians, cyclists or general traffic through to those who considered that they could work alongside segregated cycle routes. In general, this item had not been high in our priorities.

Scottish Government capex projects: Will Scotland get a share of the £25 billion allocated to projects over the next five-ten years? At present this is unknown, however this could be included in the scope of the road-building research that Marie is currently working on.

A96: building this road will contribute to 75% of the whole carbon budget until 2030. Does this mean that there is no other money to spend on other things? In response, we said that this was an important message to relay, particularly in the run-up to an election, as the Government needs to make choices where to spend the money.

Electric trains: Scottish Government has been consistently funding road infrastructure and even though rail is becoming more electric there seems to be a move away from discussing these changes to the network - is this the case? Paul responded that decarbonisation of the railways is to be welcomed and that spending on road building is depressing.

Thank you

The AGM was concluded with a thank you to all of Transform Scotland's volunteers and staff and particularly to Phil who has served as Chair for the past seven years (he indicated that he had only meant to stay for three) and is stepping down following the AGM.

Phil was presented with a Eurostar voucher to go wherever he wishes once travel restrictions are over.

Minutes prepared by Emma Margrett, 6 November 2020.