



Minutes Of The Caithness Broch Project Annual General Meeting Held On 16th November At The Pultney Centre, Wick

In Attendance: CBP Board of Directors and Committee Members

Kenneth McElroy (Chairman)
Sarah Cowe (Treasurer)
Robin Herrick
Joanne Howdle (Secretary)
Iain Maclean
Marion O'Brien
Lisa Poulsen (Membership Secretary)
Jennifer Robinson

Apologies: CBP Board of Directors and Committee Members

Alex Groves

In Attendance: CBP Members and Other Interested Parties

Chris Aitken	Dawn Mackay
Val Ashpool	Councillor Willie Mackay
Ricky Coghill	Scott McLean
Mark Gibson	Ben Nicolson
Ian Giles	Councillor Karl Rosie
Kathrin Haltiner	Craig Ross
Logan Henderson	Gail Ross MSP
Joan Lawrie	Julian Smith
Ian Leith	Carol Whittaker

Apologies: CBP Members and Other Interested Parties

Councillor Raymond Bremner	Councillor Matthew Reese
Alison Cook	Rachel Smith
Ian McElroy	Rosemary Smith

Annual General Meeting called to order at 7.10pm by CBP Chairman Kenneth McElroy.

1.0 Welcome

1.1 CBP Chairman Kenneth McElroy welcomed everyone to the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

2.0 Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

2.1 Kenneth McElroy asked those present at the meeting to read through the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting, which were issued to them on arrival.

2.2 Kenneth McElroy explained that the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting can be obtained by members of the public by e-mail request to: caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com

2.3 Kenneth McElroy asked those present at the meeting to note that some of the activities listed in the Plans and Projects 2018 section of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting did not happen as CBP had been slightly misled by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority regarding the amount of funding which CBP was able to access.

2.4 Kenneth McElroy asked if someone would like to propose and second the Minutes as being a true and accurate record of the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Proposed By: Iain Maclean

Seconded By: Sarah Cowe

3.0 Annual Report 2018

3.1 Kenneth McElroy gave an overview of the activities carried out by CBP in 2018 contained in the Annual Report, which was issued to those present at the meeting on arrival.

3.2 Robin Herrick explained that the Broch Symposium held at the Engine Shed, Stirling in January 2018, which was attended by archaeologists, craftspeople and heritage professionals from across the UK had been a very useful day.

3.3 Iain Maclean who also attended the Broch Symposium explained that there was no academic consensus on the design of brochs, which probably evolved overtime. Iain stated that whilst this means that CBP will be guided by the archaeological evidence wherever possible the design of the replica broch as a visitor attraction will not be constrained by trying to create an authentic broch.

3.4 Robin Herrick explained that the attendees of the Broch Symposium were excited about CBP and wanted to get involved with the replica broch build.

3.5 Kenneth McElroy stated that whilst on paper 2018 didn't look as busy as 2017 there had been lots of work going on behind the scenes.

- 3.6** Kenneth McElroy explained that whilst John O’Groats was still the preferred site for the replica broch and associated visitor centre that CBP were currently looking at other sites to determine the most suitable location.
- 3.7** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that CBP were talking to other groups interested in promoting the archaeological heritage of Caithness such as Yarrows Heritage Trust to determine the best way of working together rather than everyone chasing after the same sources of funding.
- 3.8** Kenneth McElroy explained that CBP had been offered in principle £170,000 towards the conservation of Ousdale Broch. Kenneth said CBP hoped that work on Ousdale would begin in early 2019 and be completed by mid-late 2020.
- 3.9** Kenneth McElroy explained that all but one of the Caithness schools entered the CBP colouring competition in May 2018.
- 3.10** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that whilst the Caithness Broch Festival had been a great success but CBP were not entirely impressed by the University of the Highlands and Islands, Archaeology Department. Kenneth explained that CBP felt that the Caithness Broch Festival had played second fiddle to UHI’s Orkney excavations.
- 3.11** Kenneth McElroy explained that the Thusater Burn excavation that was part of the Caithness Broch Festival had been a great success turning up some interesting finds and a hearth, which may have been part of a broch. Kenneth explained that CBP were currently trying to secure funding to explore the Thusater Burn site in more detail. Kenneth urged all those present at the meeting and their friends and family to vote for this project before 21st November 2018 to enable CBP to secure funding from the Aviva Community Challenge Fund.
- 3.12** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that as part of the Caithness Broch Festival in 2018 that Dan Lee from UHI’s Archaeology Department and CBP’s very own Iain Maclean had delivered archaeological workshops to over 350 pupils at Wick High School.
- 3.13** Iain Mclean stated that he felt it was very important to enthuse pupils about the archaeological heritage of Caithness and encourage them to participate in excavations.
- 3.14** Kenneth McElroy explained that CBP’s excavations had been mentioned in both Current Archaeology magazine and Archaeology magazine, which raises the profile of both CBP and Caithness to a wider audience of people interested in archaeology.
- 3.15** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that in June 2018 CBP finished a project it was awarded funding for from the participatory budgeting funding scheme “Your Cash, Your Caithness” run by the Highland Council in 2015. The funding was to design and install three interpretation panels at broch sites across Caithness as part of the Broch Trail. Kenneth explained that this

project was CBP's first one and it took much longer than anticipated, but much was learnt from this experience.

- 3.16** Kenneth McElroy explained that in June 2018 a collaborative project with Dunnet Bay Distillers came to fruition which resulted in the development of the archaeologically themed Broch Rose Gin. Kenneth stated that the proceeds of the sales of Broch Rose Gin were being donated to CBP and that he and the Board of CBP can't thank Martin and Claire Murray, Owners of Dunnet Bay Distillers enough for their generosity and support for CBP.
- 3.17** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that in July 2018 he had the pleasure of meeting HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay again when Kenneth was invited to attend Caithness Chamber of Commerce's "Young Entrepreneur and Young Business" presentation.
- 3.18** Kenneth McElroy stated that in August 2018 CBP acquired two new Patrons in the form of Gail Ross, MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross and Jamie Stone, MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross.
- 3.19** Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that in September 2018 he had been recognised by Glasgow University where he is studying as one of its thirty "Future World Changers" for his work with CBP.
- 3.20** Kenneth McElroy explained that in October 2018 that CBP were nominated for a "Scottish Heritage Angel" award for "Best Heritage Recording/Interpretation Project" for the Caithness Broch Festival. Whilst CBP did not win the award Kenneth stated that accolades like this one not only helped to raise the profile of CBP and Caithness within the wider archaeological and heritage community but also demonstrated to funders that CBP were committed to delivering projects which made archaeology accessible to all and showed best practice in the field of heritage interpretation.

4.0 2019 Plans and Projects

- 4.1** Kenneth McElroy stated that he was hoping that 2019 was going to be a big year for CBP kicking off with the conservation of Ousdale Broch. Kenneth explained that CBP also intended to apply to the new Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which aims to support projects that encourage visitors to experience more of the unique nature and culture of the Highlands and Islands. Kenneth stated that CBP intended to apply to this fund for a large excavation project.
- 4.2** Gail Ross asked Kenneth McElroy if there were any brochs that CBP was particularly interested in securing funding to excavate. Kenneth explained that preferred sites were Knockglass, Things-Va and Westerdale. As part of this discussion Kenneth explained the difficulties of accessing funding from the Halkirk and District Benefit Fund.
- 4.3** Councillor Willie Mackay stated that on behalf of the Highland Council he had met with the new chief executive of the Halkirk and District Benefit Fund and they need to revise their constitution which at present states only Halkirk groups

can benefit. Willie Mackay explained that the Highland Council were working with the Halkirk and District Benefit Fund to try to make this funding accessible to groups based outside Halkirk.

4.4 Robin Herrick explained that CBP had taken the first step towards achieving its goal of building a replica broch and visitor centre as it had invited architectural firms to tender to develop a project design brief. Robin told those present at the meeting the CBP Board members were meeting on 17th November 2018 to select a preferred tenderer.

5.0 Audited Accounts

5.1 Sarah Cowe gave an overview of CBP's audited accounts for the year ended 31st October 2017, which were issued to those present at the meeting on arrival.

5.2 Sarah Cowe explained that audited accounts can be obtained by members of the public by e-mail request to: caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com

5.3 Kenneth McElroy asked if someone would like to propose and second the audited accounts for the year ended 31st October 2017.

Proposed By: Joanne Howdle

Seconded By: Iain Maclean

6.0 Retiral and Election of Appointed Directors

6.1 Kenneth McElroy informed those present at the meeting that Lisa Poulsen was stepping down as a Director but was staying on as Membership Secretary. He also explained that Sarah Cowe was also stepping down as a Director but was going to carry on as Treasurer on a temporary basis. Kenneth thanked Lisa and Sarah for all the hard work they had done to date on behalf of CBP.

6.2 Kenneth McElroy explained that this meant CBP were two Directors short. Kenneth asked if anyone present was interested in becoming a Director to see him or Robin Herrick at the end of the meeting.

6.3 Kenneth McElroy stated that after four years and since he was now away studying at Glasgow University he was stepping down as Chairman. Kenneth said that he would like to propose Robin Herrick as the new Chairman of CBP.

Proposed By: Kenneth McElroy

Seconded By: Iain Maclean

- 6.4** Kenneth McElroy explained that as the current longest serving Board Member that CBP's constitution stated he needed to step down as a Director. Robin Herrick proposed Kenneth be reappointed as a Director.
Proposed By: Robin Herrick
Seconded By: Joanne Howdle

7.0 Any Other Business

- 7.1** Gail Ross MSP stated that she would like the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting to record her thanks for the honour of being asked to become a Patron of CBP. Gail explained that she hoped to promote CBP within the Scottish Government and had written to Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary of Culture, Tourism and External Affairs about hosting a meeting with CBP in the Scottish Parliament. Gail also said there were two exhibition spaces in the Scottish Parliament and that she would like to utilise them to promote CBP. Kenneth McElroy suggested the Lego broch might make an interesting exhibit.

- 7.2** Carol Whittaker stated that whilst it was good that CBP posted lots of information about its activities on Facebook she was worried that some members were not being kept up-to-date as everyone does not use social media. Kenneth McElroy said that he was aware he had been lax in sending out newsletters, but the website software used by CBP was not user-friendly in terms of creating e-mails. Kenneth explained that CBP was trying to upgrade its website, but it was proving difficult to get someone to take this task on as a project.

- 7.3** Robin Herrick said that it was very important for CBP to keep its members up-to-date and assured Carol Whittaker that CBP would investigate the best way of communicating using a variety of tools not just Facebook.

- 7.4** Val Ashpool asked whether the redesign of CBP's website could be given to UHI computer studies students as a project. Sarah Cowe explained that CBP had looked at this option but UHI was very constrained in terms of the curriculum and by examining bodies regarding the types of projects it can give students.

- 7.5** Chris Aitken offered to have a look at CBP's website.

- 7.6** Kathrin Haltiner referred to Kenneth's early comment about seeking funding from SNH for a possible project to excavate Westerdale Broch and stated that as a Westerdale resident she was concerned about the impact such a project might have in terms of increased tourism on the small community. Councillor Willie Mackay stated that as Westerdale Mill is already the most photographed landmark in Caithness he doubted that Westerdale would be overrun by tourists if CBP were to excavate the broch.

- 7.7** Iain Maclean asked those present at the meeting to note that in the past CBP had been criticised for planning excavations without having first thought about the research questions it wanted the excavation to answer. Iain stated that one of the reasons for wanting to excavate Westerdale Broch is that it is thought to be a prime Iron Age site of national importance and it is also under threat of erosion from the river. Iain informed Kathrin if funding was secured to excavate

the broch that access to the site could be gained from the A9 rather than from Westerdale.

- 7.8** Carol Whittaker suggested that CBP should undertake community consultation regarding any future projects it plans in order to seek people’s views and gain approval and ensure that where possible local people in areas where projects take place get involved and become advocates for CBP. Kenneth McElroy explained that CBP were currently carrying out community consultation to inform its Business Plan but would also build it into the planning stage of any future project work.
- 7.9** Ian Giles from Yarrows Heritage Trust asked if CBP were in dialogue with Caithness Archaeological Trust (CAT) about its plans for the replica broch and visitor centre. Iain Maclean stated that CBP had reached out to and worked with most groups in Caithness, but CAT was not one of them. Kenneth McElroy explained that relations between CAT and CBP were challenging.
- 7.10** Ian Giles asked if CBP had any thoughts on the need to appoint a County Archaeologist. Kenneth McElroy stated that CBP were constantly being asked to start-up and run Young Archaeologists Clubs (YACs) in both Wick and Thurso and were currently trying to raise the funds to employ a part-time Communities Officer to take this project forward. Kenneth suggested if enough local groups thought employing a County Archaeologist was important that funding could perhaps be secured to create a full-time post which encompassed the County Archaeologist’s role and setting-up and running the YAC’s.
- 7.11** Iain Maclean asked that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting record CBP’s thanks to Kenneth McElroy for all his hard work as Chairman.
- 7.12** Kenneth McElroy closed the Annual General Meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

Annual General Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm.

Minutes Approved By:

Kenneth McElroy,
Outgoing Chairman

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Robin Herrick,
Incoming Chairman

Signed: _____

Date: _____