



# AGM 2025

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Sutherland Association  
held at 7pm on Tue 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - by Zoom call.**

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Steven Anderson, Secretary, noted that apologies were received from:

Rachel Haworth  
David Mackay  
David Morrison  
Robin Sutherland  
Christine Smith  
Morven Sutherland  
Andy and Maureen Sanders  
Shonagh Morrison

He recorded that those present were:

Andrew Mackenzie  
Steven Anderson  
Willie Macintosh  
Anne Macintosh  
Joan Mackay  
Lynne O'Brien  
Lorraine Smith

## **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

SA proposed the previous minutes – Lynne seconding.

## **3. ESA AGM 2025 President's Remarks**

Andrew Mackenzie said:

### **2025 Remarks (for AGM – held January 2026)**

We have had another successful year at the Edinburgh Sutherland Association.

I am very grateful to all those who have assisted with our fundraising events and donated. I am particularly grateful to David Mackay, who raised around £2,400 for our charity with his Four Peaks Challenge in July. Thanks also to David Morrison, our Patron, who has again supported us with generous donations.

Thanks to Lynne and all involved in organising a very successful ceilidh in Skerry in the summer.

Thanks also to Anne and all involved in organising the Annual Loanhead Ceilidh in October, which was another great event.

We also enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner event in December, with entertainment from Sandy Brechin.

In terms of donations, the association's committee decided to donate funds to the following good causes earlier in 2025:

- Fèis air an Oir - £300 towards transport costs for the Ceilidh Trail Project
- Historylinks Young Curators Club - £250 towards costs for storage space
- Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust - £439.50 to fund the Perennial Plant Project
- Sutherland Adventure Company SCIO - £500 towards the Sutherland Girls on Paddleboards
- Culrain & District Community Hall - £379 to purchase of a new cooker for the hall
- East Sutherland Canoe Club - £450 towards winter pool sessions
- Golspie Primary School Parent Council - £720 to purchase a tin whistle for every pupil
- Peter Wardhaugh - £500 towards the purchase of a new accordion
- Go Golspie Development Trust - £225 towards winter restock of the Community Food Larder
- Bettyhill Mod Committee - £500 for five Mod workshops for the local junior Gaelic choir

So, we donated over £4,200 to charities and worthy causes in Sutherland in 2025. We are proud that over the past 15 years the association has donated around £40,000 to good causes in the county.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work this year, especially Anne and Steven.

#### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Steven asked Anne Macintosh, Treasurer, for her report.

Edinburgh Sutherland AGM 20012026			
Treasurer's Report			
Balances as at 30 04 25		Current balance at 311225	
Treasurer's Account	3746.09	5458.80 *	We are waiting on bank details from Peter Wardhaugh to donate the £500 for accordion, so this figure should change.
National Savings	3077.57	3077.57	
Total	<u>6823.66</u>	<u>8536.37</u>	
<b>Income</b>			
Store Ceilidh	600.00	Xmas Dinner	1505.00
Less Expenses	<u>0</u>	less expenses	<u>-1038.7</u>
Surplus	<u>600.00</u>	Surplus	<u>466.30</u>
<b>Donations Received</b>			
David Morrison	2000.00	National Saving	<u>30.55</u>
Sandra & Stewart Chalmers	400.00	Interest	
Mr & Mrs McAlpine	150.00		
Neil Robertson	320.00		
	<u>2870.00</u>		
New memberships	<u>100.00</u>	Mr & Mrs Massie	
We made donations of	<u>£4,165.00</u>		
End report by thanking Gordon Black for examining the accounts.			

Andrew noted that we should acknowledge when individual make charitable donations to the association – as sometimes we don't know who these people are or have contact details.

#### 5. DONATIONS

Andrew Mackenzie covered this in the President's Remarks. (Section 3.) And also please see Treasurer's report (Section 4)

#### 6. FUNCTIONS 2026

- Loanhead Ceilidh - Anne to investigate dates and circulate.
- We discussed whether we should do 2No. ceilidhs this year, one with Sandy Brechin and the other with Carol-Anne etc, possibly in October. Possibly both at Loanhead.
- Catriona and Carol-Anne and Rona are keen to come along to a ceilidh in Edinburgh. Joan Mackay to investigate available dates and let Anne know.

- Potential for another Summer Ceilidh in Sutherland – perhaps another one in Skerry – Lynne keen to look at how we could refine this – she will investigate and feedback to the group. Discussed location would either be Skerry or Strathnaver.
- Joan noted that is important that we have these as we are raising awareness, potential membership and support in the north of Sutherland, Andrew agreed.
- Trad Mod medallist from Bonar Bridge – someone to consider to involve as he is from Sutherland.
- Andrew stated he might be able to arrange another Summer Ceilidh in Drumbeg this year – he will look into this.
- Andrew raised that sponsorship type events like the one David Mackay did are a good idea but we should perhaps try these every other year – he asked for suggestions from the group. He has a contact in Durness that may want to challenge David’s Sutherland munro challenge!
- Online events – potential for Astronaut with links to Sutherland/ Professor David Bell. Interview type event. Andrew will look into this.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

It was agreed that the following office bearers would remain in their current positions:

President – Andrew Mackenzie  
 Vice-President – Willie Macintosh  
 Treasurer – Anne Macintosh  
 Secretary – Steven Anderson

Rachel Haworth, Christine Smith and Lorraine Smith, Lynne Obrien, opted to remain on the committee.

- Morven Sutherland has messaged to say that she is happy to remain on committee.
- It was noted that Gordon Black would remain as Honorary Auditor.
- Sandra Chalmers remains the Honorary President.
- David Mackay was absent but remains on the committee.
- Joan Mackay will think about joining the committee and get back to us.

As always, we look to expand new members of the committee.

## **8. AOCB**

- Chris – apologies for not attending dinner – Christmas dinner was better food and better organised.
- Calendar meeting and 2026 diary draft out to committee – Steven to organise.
- AGM should ideally be around May time.
- Committee meeting perhaps end of June.

**Steven Anderson thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.**

**Close of meeting**