



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 9th June 2013 at 2 pm
in Dundee Synagogue, St Mary Place, Dundee, DD1 5RB

Papers are also available online at <http://www.scojec.org/members/council/council.html>

Agenda:

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 24th June and Council of 10th March 2013
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Cooptions and confirmation of membership
 - Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh) Neil Livingstone (Glasgow)
 - Nicola Livingston (Glasgow) Simon Dover (Glasgow)
 - Judith Sischy (Edinburgh) Paul Spicker (Dundee)
5. Report from the Chair
6. Financial Report and adoption of accounts
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Reports from Director
9. Election of office-bearers:
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Hon Secretary
 - Hon Treasurer
10. Reports from Communities
11. AOCB



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24 June 2012
at Glasgow Jewish Community Centre

Present: Hilary Rifkind (Chair), Ephraim Borowski, Gerald Gordon, Edward Green, Stephen Kliner, Sharon Levy, Neil Livingstone, Philip Mendelsohn, Paul Morron, Gillian Raab, Bill Shackman, Garry Wayland.

In attendance: Leah Granat.

Observers: Jonathan Arkush (BoD), Ellen McCance, and several members of the public.

Apologies: Micheline Brannan, Daniel Clapham, Simon Dover, Fiona Frank, Frank House, Edward Isaacs, Nicola Livingstone, Judith Sischy, Debby Taylor.

2) Minutes of meeting of AGM of 26 June 2011

These were proposed by Sharon Levy seconded by Gillian Raab, and adopted without dissent.

3) Matters arising from Minutes

7) SCoJeC is grateful to the Board of Deputies for its contribution of £5,000 covering the past two years, and the promise of future annual donations of £2,500.

9) SCoJeC has now incorporated as a SCIO. Dundee, ELJC, and EHC have also applied.

4) Cooptions and confirmation of membership

Gerald Gordon and Nicola Livingstone's names had been erroneously circulated as potential cooptees. Gerald remains a consultant to SCoJeC, and Nicola is an ex officio member of Council representing chaplaincy.

The following cooptions were agreed unanimously:

Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh)	Neil Livingstone (Glasgow)
Sharon Levy (Dundee)	Simon Dover (Glasgow)
Judith Sischy (Edinburgh)	Paul Spicker (Dundee)

5) Chair's Report

Hilary Rifkind summarised her report, which had been circulated in advance, She thanked Ephraim and Leah for the long hours they work for SCoJeC, and, presenting her with a havdalah spice holder, said that she is delighted that Leah will continue to work for SCoJeC as Research and Publications Officer after her aliyah.

6) Financial Report and adoption of accounts

Neil Livingstone reported that, in line with agreed policy, SCoJeC has managed to build a small surplus of unrestricted funds in the region of £24,000 during the last five years, and that Scottish Government funding, which has been awarded for a further three years, will allow SCoJeC to maintain its current level of activity.

He reminded the meeting that the Annual accounts had been presented and accepted at the March Council meeting, but the accounts were formally proposed by Neil Livingstone, seconded by Hilary Rifkind, and adopted without dissent.

7) Appointment of Independent Examiner

The reappointment of Lewis Osborne was proposed by Neil Livingstone, seconded by Hilary Rifkind, and agreed unanimously.

8) Reports for Director and Deputy Director

Ephraim thanked Leah for her hard work on behalf of SCoJeC, wishing her well for her forthcoming aliyah, and welcomed Ellen McCance who has been appointed to the post of Public Affairs Officer. Fiona Frank will continue to work for SCoJeC as part-time Outreach Worker.

He referred to his report, which had been circulated in advance, particularly highlighting the *Being Jewish in Scotland* project, which has been extremely successful, including amongst other activities, the first Jewish event in Inverness for 50 years. Ephraim commented that the expectations raised by BJS activities must continue to be met, and new groups supported by more than one-off events. SCoJeC has repeatedly pointed out to politicians and civil servants that localism does not work for small and scattered minority communities that are completely invisible at the local level, but, in order to feel included, these need to be supported by national networks such as SCoJeC.

9) Election of office-bearers

Ephraim thanked Hilary for her work as Acting Chair during most of the past year. He reminded the meeting that SCoJeC's Constitution has changed since the last AGM, so that Council must now elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, and asked for nominations. The following were proposed, and, there being no other nominations, were declared elected:

Chair:	Hilary Rifkind	Proposed: Philip Mendelsohn, Bill Shackman
Vice-Chair:	Gillian Raab	Proposed: Hilary Rifkind, Garry Wayland
Hon Treasurer:	Neil Livingstone	Proposed: Hilary, Sharon
Hon Secretary:	Nicola Livingston	Proposed: Ephraim, Gillian

As Chair of Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, and President of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, Edward Green and Edward Isaacs are both ex officio members of the Exec, but may send alternates to meetings. Sharon Levy was elected to the Exec to represent the small communities.

Frank House, who stepped down from the position as small communities representative, was thanked for his long and supportive membership of the exec.

10) Reports from Communities

Reports were circulated from Dundee (Sharon Levy), Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation (Hilary Rifkind), Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Communities (Gillian Raab), and Chaplaincy (Paul Morron). These appear in full at http://www.scojec.org/members/council/2012/12vi24_minute.pdf

11) AOCB

There was no other competent business, and the meeting was therefore closed.

Jonathan Arkush, Vice-President of the Board of Deputies, then spoke about the work of the Board. He praised the strong and close relationship that exists between SCoJeC and the Board of Deputies, and said that he has an enormous admiration for all that SCoJeC achieves with exceptionally limited resources. He also presented two books about the Board to Leah, and wished her well for her forthcoming aliyah.

Hilary thanked Jonathan for attending the AGM, and enlarging Council's understanding of the Board's activities.



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

DRAFT

Minute of Council Meeting

**Sunday 10th March 2013
at JCC, Giffnock, Glasgow**

1. Present: Hilary Rifkind (Chair, EHC), Gillian Raab (ELJC), Bill Shackman, Sharon Levy (Dundee), Edward Isaacs, Paul Morron, Philip Mendelsohn (Glasgow), Nicola Livingston (Chaplaincy), Paul Spicker, Judith Sischy (co-opted), Ephraim Borowski.

In attendance: Fiona Frank, Conrad Cohen.

Apologies: Edward Green, Neil Livingstone, Frank House, Micheline Brannan, Daniel Clapham, Paul Edlin, Gerald Gordon, Simon Dover, Yossi Bodenheim, Linda Martin.

2. Minutes of Council meeting of 16th December 2012

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Paul and Nicola, and agreed without dissent.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered in the circulated papers.

4. AOCB

There was no business other than listed in the agenda.

5. Governance and Staffing

Ephraim reiterated that he was currently working unacceptable hours, but still not dealing with everything that requires his attention. In reply to Paul S, he said that Leah was carrying out almost all the PAO functions entirely satisfactorily, including not only all the monitoring and publications, but also dealing with almost all contacts with politicians and others, including arranging meetings.

6. Finance

The unaudited outturn for 2012 was noted, and in Neil's absence, Ephraim reported that the accounts are now ready for the independent examiner.

With regard to the budget for 2013, Nicola pointed out a figure had to be agreed for joint working with student Chaplaincy.

Ephraim also reported that the bank had now introduced a system to allow two signatories to approve on-line payments. Neil's suggestion that he and Ephraim operate this initially and if it is successful extend it to the other cheque signatories was agreed.

7. Parliament and Government

Nicola reported that she is working on a response to the East Renfrewshire development plan and had consulted relevant communal organisations.

Israel in Parliament

Paul S objected to the inclusion of this topic the report on the grounds that it conflicts with our policy of not commenting on matters solely relating to the Middle East. Ephraim responded that this had been a regular item for report at previous meetings, and also that the *Being Jewish in Scotland* project had shown that this disproportionate criticism does have an effect on the feelings of well-being of Jews in Scotland. Paul M said he disagreed strongly with SCoJeC refraining from comment and that this should be part of our remit. It was agreed to discuss this later as part of the strategic review.

Death certification

Ephraim reported that Leah had followed up a Parliamentary Question by an MSP on these matters, and that he had now arranged to meet him to explain our concerns.

Holocaust study centre

Paul M said that if this goes ahead in Glasgow, discussions must involve Representative Council.

8. Interfaith and Community Relations

Judy commented that almost all reported external relations activities were carried out by Ephraim. He responded that that is why he regards the appointment of an Community Relations and Education Officer to be a priority, and had asked Executive for agreement to proceed, but others had preferred to await the conclusions of the strategic review.

9. Internal Community Matters

Glasgow Community Futures

Paul M thanked SCoJeC for support and in particular for seconding Fiona and the two interns to assist with the project. The work was now complete and the report will be on line within two weeks.

Clarkston synagogue

Bill thanked Clarkston for the offer of a silver Torah breastplate said that Dundee would be pleased to give it a home.

10. Administrative matters

Philip said the Representative Council website only cost £200 per annum to maintain, and not £800 as stated.

11. Dates of next meetings

Proposed dates of meeting for 2013 are:

AGM: Sun 9 June, possibly in Aberdeen

Sharon said that Aberdeen would like to host the AGM, and he had hoped to discuss arrangements with them at their joint Purim event, but the bus broke down and they had had to turn back, but that he would continue to follow this up.

Council: Sun 6 October

Council: Sun 15 December

Other items were noted without discussion. The business meeting ended at 1.30 pm, and was followed by a discussion of the report from the Executive on the Strategic Review.

Discussion of Report from Executive on Strategic Review

Nicola spoke briefly to the circulated report. Judy commented that the paper was excellent, but contained too much to discuss at one meeting. A wide-ranging discussion followed during which the following points were made:

What we do now:

- 60% of what we do is not explicit in our constitutional objectives or mission statement.
- There is a good match; and it is all to the benefit of the Jewish Community in Scotland.
- The constitution is not restrictive – we “may do such lawful acts as may be necessary or desirable to the attainment of [our] primary objects”.
- There has been a shift of focus to Outreach. Everywhere except Giffnock, Jewish people are more dispersed and isolated, and what we need for the future is the kind of network SCoJeC has been building.
- There is a need for physical resources: not just shuls, but welfare organisations.
- The issue is how to manage decline – outreach in Glasgow too to those disaffected and alienated.
- SCoJeC has shown itself good at raising funds.

Restructuring:

- Separating East and West would be the end of SCoJeC.
- What was suggested was not an E/W split, but an additional Representative Council.
- The E/W model is only one possible structure; there could be others.
- SCoJeC’s success is in part because it is national: that is what attracts the attention of MSPs, funders etc. We can’t do one without other.
- The question is how best to manage the organisation and use of resources. The intention is not to disperse SCoJeC, but to look at its core functions.
- A “Rest of Scotland” Rep Council would be excellent, help them interact. Too much resource goes into outlying communities; there is a need to spend money in Glasgow too on people with tenuous links. We may not end up with this model, but it is a good starting point.
- Outreach is important for Glasgow too, but an East of Scotland Council would not be viable or sustainable: it would be Edinburgh-based, and just another meeting to attend.
- It is difficult to form an opinion without seeing the current review of the Glasgow community.
- There was a proposal some years ago to merge SCoJeC and the Glasgow Rep Council into a single organisation, but that did not find favour: there is too much to do, and there is also merit in being able to support one another, and the possibility of disagreeing.
- This proposal is not for one organisation or two (East and West), but three: SCoJeC and two geographically based, either East and West, or Glasgow area and rest of Scotland.
- SCoJeC and the Glasgow Rep Council do different things.
- If Glasgow is distinct, there has to be some formal body to manage the rest of Scotland.
- Some things are best done at a national level; some better at a local level.
- Glasgow is shrinking and relies on volunteers; SCoJeC has paid staff. We need a community development approach with the best of both.

- Glasgow could follow the Dundee model: rely on SCoJeC, but bring more to the table: people come for food, but join in when effort is required. Likewise Jewish Care is national, but mainly in Glasgow; if there is a need in Tayside, they phone Jewish Care and they out-source to Tayside.
- There are not enough people to do what is needed in Glasgow; the majority do not belong to a shul or any other organisation.
- Everyone is struggling to maintain provision; organisations are at breaking point, and rely on the same handful of people.
- People do work outside their own communities, e.g. to help with funerals across Scotland. Geographical boundaries make matters worse.
- SCoJeC does not hear much about Glasgow, and perhaps a better resolution would be to give the West of Scotland a higher profile in SCoJeC.
- At the Board, the demand for regional structure is from the tiny communities wanting to come together for mutual support. All need outreach, and all need volunteers.
- The relationship with the Board's Community Partnership Project needs clarification.
- Dundee say they get maximum impact through SCoJeC; why could Glasgow not too?
- The EoS communities are satisfied; Glasgow is dissatisfied with the gap in provision.
- It's not SCoJeC's job to replicate what already exists in Glasgow.
- There is an imbalance: Glasgow has more infrastructure than all the rest, and Trusts see themselves as Glasgow, and are reluctant to fund outside.
- We need a structure that accommodates, e.g., that SCoJeC policy is not to advocate on Israel; Glasgow Rep Council takes a different view and is not silenced by SCoJeC policy. What matters is not rights and wrongs but a structure that makes that possible.
- The discussion comes back to objects and powers: how best to serve Scotland and the Jewish Community of Scotland.
- There are different missions: outreach and in-reach. SCoJeC is hugely successful, and local communities also need to feed in on the Dundee model.

Staffing:

- SCoJeC could appoint someone to work with EoS communities, and someone for WoS based in Glasgow.
- ... or someone with responsibility for small communities.
- If resources were not an issue, the ideal would be 3 staff: a Public Affairs Officer, and two outreach/community development workers.
- If all staff employed by SCoJeC, it would need to be clear whose policies are they bound by – e.g. the Chaplaincy model with a national employer and local management.
- All these proposals still rely on Ephraim continuing to work in a voluntary capacity.
- The present staffing doesn't cover all the work, so we need hugely increased resources.
- If proposals are determined by provision for interfaith and education, core thinking is directed away from greatest need as again there is no benefit to Glasgow. A community development model would work differently in urban and non-urban settings.
- This may not be much more expensive, taking account of paid CEO.
- It might be possible to attract more volunteers for specific tasks.
- There are just not enough people for all the community needs, and unfortunately volunteers are often unreliable, so this digs a bigger hole.

- Sometimes it is easier to do oneself than to have to check everything.
- Volunteers do not offer a viable way forward; it is more important to consider how to finance staffing needs.

Resources:

- Can SCoJeC afford what we'd like to come out of this review? We need to qualify what we need.
- Efficiency is as much about what goes in as what comes out.
- What matters is not efficiency but effectiveness.
- There is a case for a "national subscription", but that would have to be resourced from the larger population centres.
- Not everything needs to be done by SCoJeC itself; there could be distinct organisations dealing with education, Israel, etc, as with Chaplaincy.
- SCoJeC's role is to facilitate.
- One of the sources of our success is that we are a single organisation, so when ministers or civil servants change roles they still recognise us.

General:

- We would all be worse off without SCoJeC. Glasgow has its own issues, but SCoJeC should concentrate on its own aims and priorities.
- The report focused on what SCoJeC does well. The discussion has been about other things, which implies that everyone is generally satisfied.
- Chicken and egg: we can't go forward without adequate financing.

Next steps:

- The next 5 years is an appropriate planning horizon.
- We need to draw up a strategic paper and take it to potential funders.
- It could be useful to seek advice and support from the JLC.
- There are possible models for joint initiatives between the Board and JLC.
- Any external collaboration must preserve SCoJeC's independence from any one faction within the community.
- A number of Council members offered to assist with the next steps.

Summing up, Paul Morron said there were broad areas of agreement: on SCoJeC's core activities; on the need for some element of localism; that not all staff need have a Scotland-wide remit; that the status quo not sustainable. There was some sympathy, though not unanimous, for some form of division of East and West; core functions have to be paid for on any model, so this would not be significantly more expensive. Given that shared perspective, we should not delay; the question is how to manage transition.

Judy commented that with broad areas of agreement the precise structural model is less important than our priorities.

Edward proposed that the Executive take this discussion back to their next meeting and bring a proposal to Council. He added that we need to discuss the possible effects of independence, particularly because of foreign affairs.

Ephraim said that while this discussion is valuable, his priority is to make an appointment to the Education Officer post. Paul M said that our core business is our priority, so the strategic review should not preclude filling a vacancy.