

BYRES ROAD & LANES BID COMPANY LIMITED

NOTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2024 AT 18.00 AT HILLHEAD LIBRARY

PRESENT

John Turner	Janet & John
Chris Finnieston	DiMaggio Restaurant Group
Angela Dickson	Nam Amor
Derek McNeil	Trios
Paul Morrison	Kat's Korner
Melanie Paterson	Pattison & Co
Ciara Rogers	Pattison & Co
Julie Hattie	The Aragon
Hugh Hattie	The Aragon
Cllr Martha Wardrop	Glasgow City Council
Mhairi Galbraith	Brett Nicholls Associates
Deborah Murray	Byres Road & Lanes BID

1. Welcome address by the Chair

John Turner, Chair of the BID, gave a warm welcome to the Annual General Meeting. He introduced Chris Finnieston of the DiMaggio Restaurant Group, as his fellow director. He noted that Robert Fletcher of Vision Express had also served as a director but was standing down.

He thanked the directors for their work and support throughout the year.

2. Note of the AGM held on 24 October 2023

The note of the meeting held on 22 October 2023 had been posted on the e BID website.

Chris Finnieston moved the proposal to agree the note of the meeting and it was seconded by Derek McNeil. The note of the meeting was agreed.

3. Annual report for the financial year 2023-2024

John Turner presented the annual report to 31 March 2024, which had previously been posted on the BID's website, along with the accounts.

John noted that it had been a year of recovery after Covid and the post-Covid uncertainty. He welcomed the return of foreign tourists and was pleased that the BID's events portfolio could be

resumed, with the second post-Covid Byres Road Book Festival, the Vinicombe Street Christmas event and the support of West Fest. The BID's social media activity had been audited by an external agency and been given an excellent report.

Closer links had been developed with the University of Glasgow. John recognised that there was no public space available for events in Byres Road south and it was hoped to be able to stage events outside the Clarice Pears building.

The City Deal works on Byres Road were ongoing; funds had been agreed from Glasgow City Council to support a liaison officer role and an 'Open For Business' marketing campaign.

Parking remained the number one issue for businesses, with charges rising to £4 an hour since April and the price increasing in the Hillhead Parking Zone. The BID team continued to lobby Glasgow City Council against further price rises, in collaboration with Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses.

John thanked Deborah Murray, Kitty Lambton, Eleanor Plackett, Jessica Stafford Cameron and Hannah Moore for their work throughout the financial year.

4. Annual accounts for the financial year 2023-2024

Mhairi Galbraith presented the annual accounts to 31 March 2024, along with income and expenditure figures for the previous three years. She confirmed that the directors had approved and signed the accounts.

She noted that the levy collection figure did not tie in with the income and expenditure amounts, and that the BID had been using balances to fund activity. The levy collection rate was below that before Covid.

Paul Morrison asked what Glasgow City Council was doing to pursue the unpaid levy. John advised that the Council was actively pursuing the outstanding levy.

Hugh Hattie queried an amount for IT spending. JT confirmed that the figures would be investigated and we would respond to him in due course.

John thanked David Nicholls and Mhairi Galbraith for their assistance with the finances throughout the year.

5. Adoption of annual report and annual accounts

John Turner proposed the adoption of the annual report and annual accounts, which was seconded by Chris Finnieston. The report and accounts were adopted.

6. Appointment of directors

The existing directors agreed to continue in that role and were re-elected. The proposal to re-elect was moved by Angela Dickson and seconded by Melanie Paterson.

John Turner noted that the board was actively looking for new directors.

7. Appointment of accountants

Brett Nicholls Associates were re-appointed as the company's accountants. This was proposed by John Turner and seconded by Paul Morrison.

8. BID re-ballot 2025

John Turner noted that the re-ballot period would open in March and close in April. The business plan would be available early in 2025. Following our surveys of BID businesses to date, the top three issues concerning businesses were parking charges, the lack of CCTV and speaking as a unified voice on behalf of businesses. Social media, events and the potential use of the area in front of the Clarice Pears building were also important. John advised that it would be good to hear other ideas for that space.

Hugh Hattie proposed that the BID footprint for 2025-2030 should exclude all businesses south of Highburgh Road / University Avenue and that those businesses would have the opportunity to become voluntary members. He asked that there should be a meeting with businesses in part of Byres Road.

John said that he was not sure if the voluntary membership proposal would be possible under the relevant legislation. The Board would examine the issue, and take advice on the legislation from the experts at Scotland Towns Partnership. The issue would be discussed by the Board in the context of a wider review of the BID Levy, including whether to continue with the current banding system or to switch to a system based on the percentage of a property's rateable value.

He confirmed that he would write to Mr Hattie once those enquiries and investigations were complete.

The meeting closed at 18.54.