

SPOKES AGM – June 15 2015 6.00 – 6.30 pm
At St Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

1. Reports from Subgroups:

Short reports about all groups were tabled. Reports were very briefly spoken to and key people coordinating them were introduced. Members were informed that these reports are also on our website, together with contact details of the coordinators. Questions were invited.

Q: Do only Planning Group have meetings?

No: Rides obviously also meet, though planning of rides is informal. Resources Group meet regularly to plan many activities, meetings, mailout preparation, etc. Any member is welcome to speak to any of the group contacts [names in AGM papers] with a view to getting involved.

2. Paul summarised SPOKES' financial status:

Q: Expenses are reported separately for stationery. What other 'Office' expenses does SPOKES have?

Office rent, Dave's honorarium, postage, ... Paul also provided breakdown of income.

3. Appointment of Treasurer: Paul was nominated. (Paul had served to date as treasurer for about 18 months, was chosen to have most relevant previous experience out of 6 people who volunteered when Rosemary stood down). No objections were raised, so his appointment was ratified.

4. SPOKES change of status: Paul introduced the notion that we are proposing to change SPOKES' status to a SCIO, to protect ourselves from being sued, and other minor advantages. It was noted that the claim back on donations might generate £2000 in additional income.

Q: Would we need a shared secretary or could the SPOKES groups operate as present? *We might need secretary, treasurer and chair, but the groups could still operate separately as they do now.*

Q: Will maps become part of the SCIO? *This is still to be discussed.*

Q: Will SPOKES current political activity be threatened by this move? *No, we are non-party-political and will always remain so.*

Q: When we wind up: what happens to our assets? *For a charity the assets go to another named charity. Not clear what happens in a SCIO – group to find out.*

Other comments in discussion on SCIO status:

- We have charitable donations, not subscriptions (when change in status we can claim back on these donations.)
- We would have protection as a limited company, but we would still be liable if we were seriously out of order. (We also already have insurance which covers us for events.)
- There will be additional reporting to the Scottish regulator.
- There will be AGMs in future. Currently SPOKES has a constitution on the website (we needed to have one to open a bank account, if anything. The maps also have a separate account/organisational status, as this was best suited at the time.)
- We will need to put forward some objectives that fit with their requirements, but it is not foreseen that this will cause us any problems, in that their objectives do not significantly diverge from our existing objectives.
- In the event of us being sued, the amount claimed could not exceed the amount we have in the bank as an organisation or up to an additional £1 contribution from each member.
- Other charities and voluntary organisations are also becoming SCIOs.
- SPOKES is affiliated to or is a member of other organisations. None of this will be affected. They can be listed on the website. The groups are all in line with our objectives, provide useful information, and help to make Spokes better known and respected.

It was agreed that a small group [Paul Ritchie, Sandy Scotland, Ian Maxwell, Dave du Feu] with the power to co-opt others if necessary, will take this forward. The group will email all members to inform them of proposed revised Spokes objectives and other major steps.

Thanks were made to the previous treasurer Rosemary for her many years of service to SPOKES. Thanks to Dave du Feu was also noted.