

Kirkcowan Community Development Trust
Annual General Meeting for the Year Ending December 2024
20th January 2025 7pm
Kirkcowan Village Hall

Present: Philip Colville, Mary McKenzie, William Harkness, Vivienne Bradley, Robert Drysdale, Dave Edwards, Andrew Gladstone, Bill Harkness, Lynne Marshall, Hazel Matthews, Charlie McNeill, Hazel McWhirter, James Rae, Janice Somerville, Helen Marsh, Martin Marsh, Mary Murdoch, Liz McMillan, Amelia McAdam, Kevin Dean, Wendy Baird

Apologies: David Baird, Douglas Bannister, Moira McDonald and Jemma McNeill.

In attendance: Rosie Dobson and Suzy Mercer, Foundation Scotland

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting, which was noted to be quorate. Apologies were noted.

It was noted that there were 38 members able to vote, present in person or by proxy – and that 20 were required for a majority.

2. Approval of 2023 KCDT AGM Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair gave his report for the year. Points of note were as follows:

- Implementation of the playpark plan, with construction now complete and signed off. There will be an official opening in the Spring once elements of basic landscaping are completed (being weather dependent). An agreement has been reached for D&G Council to maintain the playpark area.
- Local groups and clubs have received financial support, including the Rainbows, the Autumn Club, the Primary School and more.

- Winter Fuel Payments of £200 have been made to approximately two thirds of the residential properties, leaving around 100 still to claim before 31st March 2025.
- The Education & Training Fund has provided funding support for a range of educational and vocational courses to residents, as well as supporting with costs of driving and theory tests.
- In the Autumn of 2024, Foundation Scotland took over the role of administering the Development Trust fund and grant-making capability, following the closure of Machars Action earlier in the year.
- Charlie McNeill stood down from his role as Chair having served his term and expressed his thanks to the residents and board for their support in furthering the work of the Trust.

4. Election of Directors

Suzy Mercer of Foundation Scotland explained the process of electing Directors. Of the existing Board of Directors, six are elected Directors and two are appointed by Kirkcowan Community Council. One third of the elected Directors must retire at the AGM.

The two Directors who stood down were Charlie McNeill having reached the end of his term of service and by reason of the next longest-serving Director, Bill (William) Harkness.

Two candidates stood for election, Bill Harkness and Vivienne Bradley, whose expression of interest in the role had been circulated to Members previously.

The Articles of Association set out that voting is against vacancies and not candidates. As the number of candidates and the number of vacancies was equal, members were asked to vote against each vacancy, with one of the two candidate names randomly assigned to each.

Vacancy one, the candidate assigned is Vivienne Bradley

With everyone present plus 17 proxies votes in favour, Vivienne Bradley was duly elected to the first vacancy on the Board.

Vacancy two, the candidate assigned is Bill Harkness. For clarity, it is permitted for Members standing for election to vote and in this case necessary as Bill also stands as proxy for some other Members.

With everyone present less one vote, plus 17 proxies votes in favour, Bill Harkness is duly elected to the second vacancy on the Board.

5. Fixing of the Annual Subscriptions

A formality of AGM business. There are no annual subscriptions for KCDT.

6. Consideration of the Annual Accounts

The outgoing Chair provided an overview of the annual accounts for the financial year 2023-2024 as prepared by Montpelier Accountants.

A discrepancy was noted from a member, relating to the Management Charge and the 2022-2023 accounts. The incoming Chair and Foundation Scotland will follow this up with the accountants.

A Member raised a query regarding the Post Office costs and whether there would be a salary increase in line with inflation. The Chair confirmed any rise would only be in line with any national minimum wage increase.

The playpark and equipment were listed in accounts as a Fixed Asset and a Member queried if it would remain a KCDT asset once transferred to the Council under the Service and Maintenance Agreement. The outgoing Chair will clarify this with the Accountants and D&G Council.

A Member queried the use of 'Resigned' for a previous Director, who had in fact passed away. Foundation Scotland explained that this was just the official terminology used unfortunately.

7. Any Other Community Business

- a. Martin Marsh presented Charlie with a gift of thanks for his hard work, dedication and positive approach to supporting the Trust and the community.
- b. The Directors encouraged Members present and the wider community to speak with them and share ideas about what they would like to see funding support for. It was noted that the previous Community Action Plan needs review and updating, and Foundation Scotland will be supporting KCDT to tender for delivery of a new community consultation exercise in Spring 2025.
- c. Dave Edwards shared an update of minibus use since it was acquired with £68,000 of funding from KCDT. Fourteen trips had been taken by various user groups in the community, and included: Rainbows, Change Mental Health, Fibromyalgia days out, a support vehicle for the Riverside Centre, and wedding transport. It will soon be possible to find booking information and submit enquiries via the www.kcdt.uk website. The minibus can accommodate one wheelchair user and is accessible for those with mobility issues with a ramp and grab-rails.

- d. One Member questioned whether the Winter Fuel Grant amount would be raised to reflect the rise in the cost of living. The Directors explained that even a small rise would impact significantly on the amount of funding available for other community projects, given the number of residents within the community council boundary.
- e. Consideration is being given to longer-term solutions to support residents with heating costs by addressing heat-loss in older properties. This might include heat-loss cameras and professional advice, and targeted support for improvement costs.
- f. One Member asked if original plans for landscaping and seating areas around the park could be revisited in future, having been too costly to pursue alongside the playpark installation. This idea will go forward for discussion and would be an example of what the community consultation exercise could draw out as a potential priority.
- g. One Member suggested joint meetings between the Community Council, Village Hall Committee and KDCT. Hazel Matthews explained that the two CC representatives (herself and John Drysdale) act as a conduit between the CC and KDCT. Depending on what arises from the community consultation the suggestion of a wider forum could be explored.
- h. One Member asked if public toilets near to the playpark could be considered – this was explored in the past but there are prohibitive planning and cost implications unfortunately.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm