



# Dollar Community Development Trust

Company Number: 563463 Charity Number: SC047335

## Minutes of 2nd Annual General Meeting

held on Thursday 20th June at 7.30 pm in the Captain's Room, Dollar Academy

**Present:** Francis Allan, Hector and Kate Brodie, Margaret Duncan, Mike Laing, Linda Lawson, Stephen and Lynn Leitch, Janette McMillan, Kenny Mitchell, Nick Poett, Ken Pratt, Ford and Catherine Shaw, Martin Smith, Margaret Stephenson, Dennis and Val Toon, Neil Upham, Angharad Wollensack-Kotlewski, Stephen Roe, Rebecca McFarlane, Fiona McGregor, Chris Hudd, Donald Malcolm, Jean Davison, Lesley Baillie, Kathleen Creegan, Eleanor Fenwick, Tony and Sarah Herdman, Richard and Moragh Dunning, Norman and Di Dunning. Patricia Deans.

**Apologies:** Mick and Linda Rice, Judy Hirst, Mike and Elizabeth Walsh, Ron and Christine Malcolm, Andre Sarafilovic, Mick and Shirley Bwye, Boyne and Jane Stewart, Christine Hogg, Iain Campbell, Gemma Toon, Alan Lawson, Fiona Roe.

### 1. Welcome

Fiona McGregor, chairperson of the Trust, welcomed young performers from Dollar Dance who gave a wonderful display of their talents.

Thanking them, Fiona noted that the Trust is delighted that Dollar Dance are one of the most regular users of the Hive.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were noted (as above)

### 3. Minutes of 1st AGM 23rd May 2018

Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by Keir Downie, seconded by Tony Herdman and agreed by all present

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### 5. Trustees' annual report

Fiona presented the trustees' annual report pointing out how the initial plans which the Trust had outlined a year ago had been overtaken by acquiring the

Civic Centre, now renamed “The Hive”, from Clackmannanshire Council on a 3 year lease. A wide range of community activity has now been developed including regular keep fit, exercise and dance classes, club meetings and one-off events such as a litter pick and BBQ and a roller disco. When the Council closed the library, the Trust set up a community library run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers which is not only well used by local people but also by Strathdevon School whose classes attend regular storytelling sessions. All this activity at the Hive has been supported by volunteers who have helped with maintenance and a “spring clean”, repainting many of the walls.

Fiona also drew attention to the volunteer driver scheme. This assists members of the community who might otherwise have difficulty keeping appointments and generally getting around. To date, over 30 people have benefited, and more than 100 lifts have been given. The scheme was recently recognised by receiving the CTSi 2019 Enterprising and Innovation award. Three of the volunteer drivers present, Janette McMillan, Hector Brodie and Tony Herdman, explained how the scheme worked and gave examples of its benefits. They asked members to ensure that even more people found out about the scheme and, of course, encourage more volunteer drivers.

Fiona mentioned many of the ways in which the Trust has been trying to raise its profile by contributing to the summer gala, winter festival and through its own newsletter and items in the Dollar News. The Trust also has a website and Facebook page.

Finally, Fiona expressed thanks for all the support the Trust has received during the past year. Financial support has been given by the EDF Burnfoot Trust, the Big Lottery, Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP Innovation Scheme and the Co-op Community Fund. Many individuals have made significant contributions such as Barbara Pratt regularly testing fire safety systems, David Duffus doing a sterling job on health and safety requirements and Simon Williams of Gillespie MacAndrew who acted for us on a pro bono basis in protracted negotiations with the Council over the lease of the Hive. Others have made generous donations of furniture and computer equipment which has done so much to enhance the library provision.

## **6. Adoption of annual accounts**

Chris Hudd presented the annual accounts. He drew attention to the first few pages of narrative which gives a flavour of all that the Trust has been involved in during the year. Turning to the figures in the Statement of Financial Activity and the Balance Sheet, he highlighted the contrast between this year and the previous year: a turnover now of £36,000 compared to £1,200 a year ago. Much of this has been achieved through acquisition of the Hive (income of £13,100) and the assistance of the grants (£20,300) mentioned by Fiona and listed in note 7. However, the Hive is expensive to run at around £1,300 per month and, whilst the development worker’s cost will be met by grants for now, her costs will need to be met from other sources in the future. The Trust finished the financial year in a

sound position but there is a need to encourage even greater use of the Hive, make best use of the marquee recently acquired with the help of the Community Council, and develop fund-raising and events such as the planned beer festival.

Chris thanked the members whose donations over and above the membership fee provided much needed unrestricted income, as did the volunteer drivers who donated back much of their expenses; both were boosted by gift aid. The grant from the Co-op was also particularly beneficial as it too was unrestricted.

Finally, Chris thanked Stephen Leitch who has done so much to help secure the grants and Ken Pratt for his assistance in preparing the accounts.

There being no questions, Hector Brodie proposed adoption of the annual accounts, seconded by Dennis Toon and agreed by all present.

## **7. Appointment of independent examiner**

Chris thanked Ellen Cook who has acted as independent examiner of the accounts for the past 2 years but who has indicated that she will not be available next year. A new independent examiner will, therefore, be appointed

## **8. Election of Trustees**

Fiona pointed out that the constitution allows for up to 5 elected trustees and 3 co-options. 2 elected trustees have stood down in the year - Stephen Leitch and Fiona herself who is standing down after this AGM. The other 3 trustees - Stephen Roe, Nick Poett and Norman Dunning have served for 2 years and are eligible to continue which all 3 have agreed. There are, therefore, 2 vacancies.

Fiona then announced the results of the ballot: Chris Hudd and Kenny Mitchell were duly elected.

Fiona thanked all who had put their names forward. She explained that co-options are for 1 year and the new board will decide these with a view to balance the skills and experience of the board as far as possible.

## **9. Resolutions**

There were no resolutions

## **8. AOCB**

Fiona asked for any further questions or points from the meeting though there was an opportunity for more in depth and informal exchange to follow in the members' forum

Stephen Roe mentioned a less obvious part of the Trust's role in the past year has been its engagement with the proposals for future housing development.

Representatives of the Trust together with representatives of the Community Council have built a good relationship with Council planning officials and engaged in detailed discussion about the development plans. Whilst not expecting that all of the Trust's ideas and criticisms will be taken on board, there was a feeling that the Trust had been listened to and its views taken into account. The effectiveness of this arrangement has been recommended to Scottish Government as part of the Council's performance assessment.

Stephen, on behalf of the trustees and members, paid tribute to the enormous contribution made by Fiona as a trustee and, over the past year, as chairperson. She has driven forward and brought to fruition many of the achievements mentioned in this year's report. Fiona, in turn, thanked her fellow trustees for all their hard work and wished the new board well.