

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Lochwinnoch Golf Club

3rd November 2022



LOCHWINNOCH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

1 Attendance and Apologies for Absences

The meeting was attended by 14 members in person and 4 members by zoom. Apologies were received from a further 4 members. 3 absent members, having completed proxy forms, were included in those entitled to vote.

Since there were fewer than 20% of the membership (135) present, the meeting was not quorate. However, it was agreed to continue the meeting and to ratify any decisions by emailing the membership.

2 Chairman's Report

Diarmid Harris (acting chair) reminded members about the objectives and structure of the Trust and introduced various members of the board who described the projects achieved over the previous year.

Lochhead Community Garden

Lucy Cunningham, from the Garden Working Group, described the current use of the garden, including a Wildcare group and the Lochwinnoch Toddlers and the Larder. The cabins used by the Larder have now been clad in larch and water and electricity connections installed, thanks to a grant from Renfrewshire Council. We have commissioned a Landscape Garden designer (Rachel Bailey) to produce a design for the garden and this will be the subject of a community consultation on 19th and 22nd November. We were pleased to note that Turnberry Homes have just agreed to remove the contaminated soil in one of the raised beds and the spoil heap and we hope to move forward on testing the underlying soil on the site.

Muirshiel Regeneration Project

Martin Mansell outlined progress on the project, which seeks to restore the peatland, carry out tree planting, restore two derelict farms and to develop sustainable leisure and tourism. The group has had positive discussions with Renfrewshire Council, the tenant farmer and the Scottish Land Fund and others. We are in the process of applying to the Land Fund to support various feasibility studies including agricultural advice and a community consultation which will provide input to a business plan with a view to a potential Community Asset Transfer.

Lochwinnoch Force for Nature

Raef Dewar introduced the group which had recently joined LCDT. Their immediate work is to provide nesting boxes for swifts as well as organising nature walks and encouraging people to record nature sightings in and around the village. LFFN fall under the auspice of LCDT.

Lochwinnoch Parish Church

Jamie McNamara, who recently joined the board, is a historic building conservator and surveyor, with has a particular interest in the parish church. He would like to form a group to look at the possibility of community ownership of the building.

Warm Spaces Project

Pam Shaw, our Development Officer, outlined the proposed project which aims to provide a Warm Spaces Network for people over the winter period, thus decreasing social isolation and supporting various establishments in the village. Applications have been made to various bodies for support for the project which is estimated to cost around £22,000.

Park Restoration

Kirstin Innes described the project to replace the play equipment in the recreation ground and provide extra benches etc. The project was initiated by LCDT, which raised £9,000 through crowd funding, but has now been taken over by Renfrewshire Council and is nearing completion, although it suffered a recent setback with the theft of a container with some of the equipment.

Future Plans

For the future the trust will be involved with the completion of the **Park Renovation Project** and will be looking at further developments in the **Lochhead Garden** with an aim to make it more income generating. We are also planning a community consultation about the **Muirshiel Regeneration Project** in early 2023. We hope to complete the fund raising and implementation of the **Warm Spaces Project** and will continue to assess interest in a possible community buyout of the **Parish Church**.

The chairman mentioned that a number of working groups have been established to develop the above work and invited people to join these groups, as well as to bring forward ideas for other projects.

3 Guest Speaker Rachel Bailey

Rachel who was engaged by LCDT to provide a design for the Lochhead Garden, described her proposals and how she took account of the nature of the site, group's ideas and the needs of local residents. We were very impressed with her presentation and her proposals and look forward to the community consultation later in November.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Martin Mansell, shared the balance sheet for 2021/22 as below.

PAYMENTS (£)	Year End 31/03/2022	Year End 31/03/2021	RECEIPTS (£)	Year End 31/03/2022	Year End 31/03/2021
Admin Expenses	25.00	362	Opening balance	588.56	1,522
Public Consultation	-	2,832	Donations	-	860
Feasibility Studies	-	1,080	Village Garden	4,999.00	7,600
Village Garden	583.84	960	Park Project	12,654.09	
Community Food Project		3,072	Development worker	13,202.00	
Park Project	3,996.00	-			
Development Worker	-				
Grants to LCC		5,000			
Total Expenditure	£4,604.84	13,306	Total Receipts	£31,443.65	9,982
			Less Payments	£4,604.84	
			Final balance	£26,838.81	

Since we have a limited turnover, we are not required to have an audit of our accounts (unless requested in writing by 10% or more of the membership), but the accounts have been inspected by Steve Banks, secretary of the Community Council and he has raised no problems.

The formal accounts for submission to Companies House are more limited as below.

	31st March 2022 £	31st March 2021 £
Fixed assets	0	0
Current assets	26,839	589
Prepayments and accrued income	0	0
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS	26,839	589
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	26,839	589
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
NET ASSETS	26,839	589

These accounts were approved by those present, subject to ratification by email with the wider membership.

5 Minutes of previous AGM on 10th November 2020

These were approved, again subject to ratification by email with the wider membership.

6 Change of Articles

The treasurer reported that in order to be eligible to submit a Community Asset Transfer Application, a minor change to clause 30 of our Articles of Association is required. The existing clause states:

30 The minimum number of members is 20; and at least three quarters of the members must, at all times, be Ordinary Members.

The proposed new clause 30 states

30 At least three quarters of the members must be Ordinary Members and the minimum number of Ordinary Members, at all times, is 20.

This change was unanimously agreed by those present and subsequently ratified by email contact with the required number of members.

7 Election of Board

Ann Kerr Friend, Jamie McNamara, Raef Dewar and Diarmid Harris, having joined the board since the last AGM are required to retire, but have all indicated they are willing to be re-elected. Of the members elected at the last AGM, (Tori Bell, Carolyn Roger and Martin Mansell), the longest serving member (Martin Mansell) is required to retire. He has indicated he is willing to be re-elected, as have Tori Bell and Carolyn Roger. Those present agreed that Ann Kerr Friend, Jamie McNamara, Raef Dewar, Diarmid Harris, Tori Bell, Carolyn Roger and Martin Mansell be elected to the Board as Directors, again subject to ratification by email with the wider membership.

8 Any Other Competent Business

LCDT are to meet with LCC on the 8th November to re-establish links to work collaboratively together.

9 Date of Next Meeting

This will be determined by the board.