

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Strathblanefield
Community Development Trust held in the Village Club on Wednesday
28 May 2014 at 7.00pm**

Present: Robert Davy (In the Chair)
Dai Hutchinson
Sue Graves
Margaret Vass
Gordon Ash
Alan Hutton
Jude Gregor
Anne Balfour
Richard Begg
Graham Sim
Alan Dickson
Apologies: Ian Hamilton

Members Present:	Blair Armstrong Elizabeth Normand Sarah Bridge Willie Oswald John Gray Claire Lanigan Alan Morris Gary Nicol Deborah Nicol Roano Pierota Edward Pickard Alastair Smith	Calum Craig Keith Vass Iain Bain Jaquelin Bain Pat Davy Viv Young Pete Young Eleanor Forrest Lorna Ash Fiona Murray Charles Murray Connie Mackenzie
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Minutes EGM and AGM - 23 October 2013

The Minutes of the AGM were proposed by G Ash and seconded by A Smith with no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman R Davy gave a detailed report on the activities of the Trust,([See report for details](#))

R Davy expressed his thanks to the board members for their hard work and continued support.

Accounts

Sue Graves reported to the AGM on the accounts to 31st January 2014. After detailing the various aspects of the accounts, which were also displayed on a screen, the Chairman asked for them to be officially approved. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by J Gray and seconded by K Vass. As is usual, the Chairman asked for an endorsement of the re- appointment of the Independent Examiner and this was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Matters arising:

- W Oswald: Clarified that the deficit is owed to SCDT by LEADER not the allotments group. What proportion of houses in the village are members of the SCDT? Chair's response: ~150 households. Population is ~2,500, therefore ~15% of people in the village are members.
- J Gray: Are donations sought for individual projects or do they donate to the SCDT generally? Chair's response: Either are possible and S Graves will write to donators to ask them if they would consider Gift aiding their donation.
- E Forrest: Pointed out previous members subscriptions could count towards Gift Aid and this could be backdated.

Business Plan and Targets for approval

The business plan has been updated and was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Matters arising:

- No comments were made or questions asked.

The business plan was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Elections to the Board

Two new Directors G Sim (Lead Director for Craigend Castle) and A Dickson were proposed and seconded by members of the trust and this was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The two Directors who were eligible for re-election to the Board, namely R Davy and G ash, and were unanimously endorsed by a show of hands.

Matters arising:

- E Normand: Suggested that the online membership form is revamped to remove the 4 colour pictures to make it more appealing and economic to print out.

R Davy and the Board expressed their gratitude to Jude Gregor who is retiring from the board.

AOCB

With no matters to be discussed the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Informal Presentations

Craigend Castle Working Group

Gary Nichol: Chairman of Craigend Castle Working Group, a sub-group of SCDT gave a short talk at the beginning of the AGM about the project.

A sheet was handed out to those present about the vision and plan

Questions and comments:

- E Forrest - Which council(s) are involved? The park is funded 90% by East Dumbartonshire and 10% Stirling. Stirling own the property and will transfer ownership to the Trust for £1.
- E Normand - What will be done about parking? There will be a detailed survey done as part of the feasibility study.
- A Balfour - Have any other parties shown interest in developing the castle? Yes others are interested and one has been refused planning permission. Their proposal was deemed not to be a feasible project as they were planning to bring the castle back into its original use.
- I Bain - What would you do with the property? Ideas will be kept open until completion of the feasibility study (which will cost approximately £20-£30K). The castle is a Grade C listed building and the group have met with Stirling Council conservation officer and have discussed retaining the front and side wall (the rest will be new build). Stirling Council will be satisfied if the property is developed in a way that creates an income stream.
- E Normand - Could the document be posted on the website? This possibility will be explored given copyright and confidentiality issues.
- Additional comments by R Davy and G Nicol:
 - o G Thom, D Hutchison and G Sim will be the SCDT members assigned to this project to ensure maximum benefits to this community.
 - o Architects have to be assigned according to strict guidelines according to the Lottery Funding requirements.
 - o Members will be kept updated through BVB and mailshots etc.
 - o Timescales: ~2-3 years. Much depends on the timescales of getting the initial application in and the feasibility study will probably not start until next year.

Strathblane Out of School Club (SOSC)

Claire Lanigan gave a short talk at the end of the meeting about the SOSC social enterprise. She described how the SOSC came about and the journey they have taken from charitable status to a not for profit organisation.

Questions and comments:

- J Gregor - How many children attend SOSC? 25 on a busy after school day, ~40 during holidays (including children from other areas).
- M Vass - How are the fees and wages set? SOSC is a not for profit organisation and wages are in line with other out of school clubs in the

Stirling Council network. Anything left at the end of the month goes back into the club (e.g. trips, events).

- Alistair Smith - Do the parents pay? Yes and there has been no rise in fees for 5 years. Prices are kept in line with private out of school care prices. Parents have access to working tax credits and voucher schemes through their work.