

**Tighnabruaich District Development Trust.
Minutes of AGM – 19:00 9th December 2024**

1. Attendance.

Fifteen members were in attendance including seven of the existing directors. The directorial candidates were present. One member was represented by proxy making a total of sixteen effective attendees. The majority of members were resident members. The conditions for a quorum were thus met.

Apologies had been received from Ronnie Irvine, Chris Trainer and Graeme Hogg.

2. Last AGM

The previous annual general meeting had been held on 5th December 2023.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM had been read and approved.

3. Chairman's Report.

The chairman, having welcomed everyone to the AGM and reminded the gathering that the 2024 AGM was the tenth to take place since inception, proceeded to review some of the aspects of the local community and its surrounding social and environmental factors. Significant differences were evident in comparing the circumstances prevailing over the community plan of 2024 and its counterpart in 2014. The changes that have taken place over the decade of the Trust's existence tell a story of improvement in many aspects of life in the community while some of the background events such as Covid, Brexit and rising living costs had presented challenges. The TDDT had been part of that story.

Some of the conditions under which life carries on in the district can be categorised as strengths and weaknesses.

In the former category we have the following:

- The natural beauty of the environment
- A thriving primary school
- A first class medical centre
- Interesting history and culture
- Accessibility despite apparent remoteness
- Good sport and leisure opportunities
- Access to the sea and mountains

Weaknesses included the following:

- Distances to travel in order to access secondary and tertiary education
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of economic activity with dependence on tourism exacerbated by the short season
- Ecological degeneration

It was a matter of some satisfaction that some of the perceived shortcomings and deficiencies of 2014 had undergone improvement or transformation during the ensuing decade with dramatic results. For example, technical communication infrastructure and mobile connectivity had improved markedly: a demographic transformation was underway as evidenced by the primary school roll growing from having been half empty to full capacity today.

The Chairman mentioned that national guidelines had suggested a list of qualities to which communities might aspire including the desirability of healthy, active and educated populations with opportunities for work living in welcoming, confident and vibrant communities that placed fairness, caring and inclusiveness at their heart while looking to sustainability and good environmental stewardship.

Against all of this background, the TDDT had itself specified its own aims and objectives as follows:

- Improvement of amenities and facilities for all ages, both for residents and visitors.
- Environmental improvement addressing sustainability, ecology, wildlife and carbon footprint
- Education, health, social care and childcare provision
- Sustainable economic development, job creation and promotion of the area
- Citizenship connectivity within the community

2024 had been an active year once again for the Trust. Among the Trust projects realised were the acquisition of the Heritage Centre and adjacent shop thus helping to secure the character of the village centre while providing a physical presence for the TDDT. Work was afoot to investigate the possibility that the Trust might feasibly take on the filling station upon the retirement of the owners. The Kyles Ten Miles event had once again been staged successfully. Management and maintenance of the village pontoon continued. The refurbished tennis court was now in active use. Support had been provided through grants to various groups locally to help them with matters as disparate as hall rendering and school hostel study support, by way of example. The chronicle of items initiated by the TDDT or supported by TDDT grants continues to grow.

The chairman pointed out that future applications for funding would be welcomed in relation to projects that were likely to be of benefit to the community. Potential applicants for grant funding were encouraged to look at the criteria for access to TDDT funds and to be aware of the existence of guidance material within the TDDT website www.tddt.org.uk

Finally, the Chairman thanked the board and the members for their work during the past year and for helping in the running of the organisation. A major development had been the appointment of the Development Officer whose hard work and dedication had made many things possible.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is presented in full as an attachment to the minutes.

Highlights:

The treasurer alluded to the annual accounts for the situation to 28 February. The accounts could be inspected by visiting the website or by requesting a copy from the secretary. Net assets had stood at nearly £95K including a reserve of £46.5K in TDCR to meet loan obligations. A single instalment remained to be paid to REIF after which this burden on windfarm income would disappear.

Overall income had risen by almost £30K. Revenues from Srondoire were again higher compared to the performance during the preceding year. Other projects entailing substantial inflows consisted in the Kyles 10 Miles event and the refurbishment of the tennis court carried out with the help of grants and donations.

Outgoings stemming from grant awards had risen by approximately £36K compared to the figure reported for the 2023 year-end. Expenditure on Trust projects and the cost of a part-time Development Officer are detailed in the report. Overall expenditure had increased by around £44K. The net surplus for the year had amounted to just under £20K.

5. Election of Directors.

The constitution dictates the retiral of one third of the directors at each AGM these generally being drawn from those longest served since last elected. Tony Bryce stood down at the end of six years and was not eligible for re-election. Janie Boyd and Alastair Barge also stood down but, having offered to continue were placed on the ballot for re-election.

Six directors remained in post with a maximum of four vacancies available to be filled.

Two new candidates had offered to stand for election.

A secret ballot was conducted with the result that all of the four candidates standing for election or re-election achieved votes in excess of the threshold for confirmation as directors. In point of fact the endorsement of the meeting was unanimous in all cases.

The directors elected at the meeting were confirmed as follows:

Alastair Barge

Janie Boyd

David Mitchell

Fiona McPhail

Ronnie Irvine, Chris Trainer, Sheena Currie, Steve Williamson, Andrew MacDonald and Euan Stirling had remained in post.

Although far from being a stranger to the business of the Trust, a warm welcome was extended to David Mitchell upon his appointment to the board. Fiona McPhail was also warmly welcomed as a member of the board.

The following officers were reaffirmed or appointed:

Chairman: Alastair Barge

Treasurer: Euan Stirling

Secretary: Janie Boyd.

It is noted that the ballot in respect of the election of directors was supervised, managed and coordinated by Rev. David Mitchell for whose expertise and punctiliousness we are most grateful.

6. Project Status

Several projects remained current at the time of the AGM:

- Dunoon Grammar School Hostel Parents Group Tuition Grant – Support had been provided during 2024 and would continue to an amount of £1,500 payable in two instalments for 2025.
- Jetty maintenance – the jetty was located at its winter anchorage to the north of Rhubaan Point. A maintenance programme would resume in the spring.
- Kyles 10 Miles – Plans for the 2025 event would be brought forward in due course
- Shop Premises – A programme of improvements to the Heritage Centre and adjacent property would be scoped out in due course. Roof repairs had already been commissioned.

- Feasibility work was ongoing in relation to the possibility of retaining the filling station for the community.
- Assistance to Peter McBride was in hand in relation to his initiative in restoring the local milestones.
- Supporting the Heritage Group in its endeavours continued as a core activity. The current project to produce a publication entitled 'Then and Now' was of particular note.

7. AOB

NTR

8. Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the ongoing schedule would adhere to the current policy of meeting on the third Monday of every second month.

The provisional schedule is therefore as follows:

20th January

17th March

19th May

21st July

15th September

17th November

9. Thanks.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the Chairman, Treasurer, Development Officer and to David Mitchell for the successful administration of the AGM and for the informative content provided. Appreciation was also expressed by the Chairman in recognition of the hard work contributed throughout the year by the committee at large including the directors, Development Officer and all de facto committee members. The Chairman was generous in his thanks to the outgoing secretary who had reached the end of his term.

10. Attachments:

Treasurer's Report