

**Tighnabruaich District Development Trust.  
Minutes of Meeting of Directors, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

1. **Attendees:** Alastair Barge, Andy MacDonald, Sheena Currie, Euan Stirling, David Mitchell, Andree Hawke, Fiona McPhail, Janie Boyd, Mick Eyre, Chris Moss, Graeme Hogg

**Apologies:** Ronnie Irvine, Steve Williamson

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025** – approved
3. **Directors** – Confirming that Chris Trainer has stood down although is happy to continue to provide support in some projects, and Chris Moss joins as resident director.
4. **New Kilfinan Community Council** –

Convenor Ed Pybus attended to represent the newly resurrected Community Council with a general consensus that the CC and TDDT can work together to benefit the local community. Still early in establishing its remit, KCC seeks to liaise with other agencies to raise queries and concerns of residents, and take forward the Local Place Plan for which TDDT are invited to join a steering group. The community assets of village jetty and local defibrillator network which were previously within the remit of KCC prior to its dissolution, were discussed with no clear agreement for a return to past arrangements.

5. **Treasurer's Report** –

Current position: Cash balance at 15 March £29,906.97 down slightly from £30,100.41 at 18 January 2025 - very limited activity since previous meeting with main income relating to repayment of unused cycling project grant from the school PTA and rent for the retail unit. Main outgoings were for spare parts for the jetty, replacement pads for a defibrillator, and the kitchen renovation at Millhouse Hall. Pending payments include Development Officer fees and rent to Crown Estate for the jetty and moorings. Pending receipts a capital repayment from SWF with a dividend to come.

Forecast: n/a

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Wind farm: With the final capital repayment to REIF, some legal work will be required which will be completed in tandem with Tarbert. Wind generation has had variable performance.

6. **Development Officer's Update** –

Kyles 10 Miles: The new website is live and social media coverage to boost numbers will follow. No progress in recruiting a 'younger influencer' to develop broader social media reach.

Website: Mick reports the designer of K10 website has quoted £1k to design general TDDT site and update for initial year. The project attracts a discount for charities via the host's social charter.

Filling station: Discussions with BC now allow for progressing with the project. This will initially be on a pared back basis to include continuation of fuel sales, installation of charge points, developing rentable workspace for which there is local demand, and this plan has had a fairly positive response from Philip Coghill at HIE, who is liaison for the Scottish Land Fund. Agreement to aim for the end of month deadline which allows for the project to develop in stages starting with remedial roof repairs and partitioning. A written valuation is required but may be submitted after the deadline, and Mick has contacted appropriate providers of this service. Further development may qualify for further grant support as it evolves.

FLS land at tank slip: Valuation was agreed via email and legal process now needs completed. Euan MacDonald of Stewart & Bennett will be engaged to advise the Trust. Mick has taken a closer view of the area and reports services are nearby to support development of more viable spaces within the area.

High Brenfield status etc: groups local to the site have formed an alliance to indicate interest in investing in the project. TDDT interest has been noted but, given the different nature of the project and the more fragile economic landscape compared with when previous investment in Srondoire took place, there is no clear indication at this point whether investment would be wise. Meantime, await progress and encourage the Community Council to lobby regarding the visual impact on Kilfinan parish areas on Loch Fyne shores.

Foodbank: Work progressing to identify volunteers to help facilitate a local pick up of goods to reduce the need to travel to Dunoon.

## **7. Heritage Centre**

A basic outline from Robert McPhail considering how the existing building structure can be renovated and developed to improve the Heritage Centre was shared. The requirements and aims of the Heritage Group now need identified to clarify how to progress.

Insurance – It was agreed to accept a proposed three year deal with insurers to combine cover for buildings, Heritage Centre contents and public liability.

## **8. Paths**

Andree awaiting response from Donald McVicar regarding post supply and placement plus replacement wire on boardwalks on Green Road pathway. An overall plan for developing and maintaining paths, possibly requiring a subgroup, would benefit this local asset including addressing issues at Ostel Bay, where a defined path would benefit both users and the land. Initially need to contact land owner Carol Jagielko of Portavadie Estates to request permission

## **9. Jetty**

Instruction passed to Paul Anderson requesting preparation of new moorings. Replacement parts now ordered for ongoing maintenance of the jetty ahead of the coming season. Rental to be paid to Crown Estate to secure moorings.

## **10. Status of Grant Applications**

**Current** – final payments for study support

RNLI station defibrillator

**Future / Potential** – the continuation of the study grant for pupils at the hostel has been requested.

The possibility of educational grants for young people progressing to further / higher education was discussed. Allt Dearg Education Trust offers funds, but these could be augmented although alerting students and parents to availability and uptake appears to be the hardest aspect.

## **11. Residual Ardlamont Estate Land**

Euan MacDonald has made a start on looking into the titles following on from his having received late last year a large amount of material from Ronald Inglis of Mitchells Robertson. Euan expects to be able to report back to us around the end of this month after which he will be able to kick things off more definitively with Ronald. Tony Brice has been keeping Andrew Watson in the loop.

Given that Euan has taken on the preliminary exploratory work free of charge, we are not quite at the point at which we will need to commit to legal fees; but that stage will not be far off.

## **12. V.E.T.S. Update**

Review has established that current facilities and the VETS system are not as effective in boosting local resilience as they could be with a more cohesive approach. Research aided by Lindsay Thompson – see appendix – has identified that promoting locations of defibrillators, highlighting Heartstart training and developing a first responder team in conjunction with the Scottish Ambulance Service is desirable, the best method for which is being sought. Public defibrillators are currently registered online under KCC.

## **13. AOB**

Email circulated from Iain Waugh requested consent to take forward investigation into funding for energy resilience projects for local community buildings at Kames, Millhouse and Kilfinan. Grants may be available to support provision of solar and battery storage to reduce energy costs and boost resilience during power loss, for which TDDT support would be requested. Consent for taking forward investigation agreed.

## **14. Timing / Schedule for 2025 meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 May 2025.

Thereafter proposed dates are 21 July, 15 September and 17 November.