

KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

MINUTES of the Meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust at 3pm, 6th April, held via video conferencing call.

Present:

Lesley Garbutt (Chair)
Colin Maclaine (Vice Chair)
John Johnson (Treasurer)
Helen Henderson
Colin Wyper
Gordon Cowan
Neil Picken
Allan Ross
Sean Orms
Debbie Craig

Apologies:

Andy Campbell
Andrew Ward
Rob Asbridge

Apologies: As above

1. Minutes of the meeting 2nd March. Approved by Allan Ross and seconded by Neil Picken.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Reports

Silvercraigs (CW)

CW reports that he had applied to D&G Council Covid-19 fund for £10000.

There is currently £550 in the bank account and there's credit of £1200 with EDF, which given that there is next to no electricity usage, should last quite a while. He also reported that he had cancelled the DD for EDF which was currently £1100 a month and had written to EDF explaining situation.

The site has been closed for more than two weeks now and there is a form on the website that allows bookings to choose an alternative date, 'bank' their booking or, if necessary, a refund. Refunds would have to wait until any funding came in and there had been only two requests for refunds so far.

Any extension to the pool etc would have to wait and he did not expect any funds from the caravan park to go towards the pool extension.

He also reported that the site had received a 100% charity exemption for water charges, which was good.

Alex Kinnell asked if any costs were being incurred?

CW replied that there were none, and since electricity usage is down to the bare minimum the EDF credit should stand the site in good stead for some time. nothing.

Funding (AW/DC):

DC reported that the outcome of a funding application to Holywood Trust (£20k for DSVC manager) was expected within the next couple of weeks.

An application to the Corra Foundation (£16K) had also been submitted to cover costs for Silvercraigs/Johnston School/office/TIC over the next three months while the lockdown restrictions were still in place.

There had also been an application submitted (£1100) by the KDT on behalf of the KBT Covid-19 committee. This would help with food parcels etc within the community.

Finally, DC had received confirmation of the next year's ICF funding, which was good news. DC and AW would continue to look for funding streams for DSVC staff.

LG then reported that she had contacted the elected members regarding the charges for legal fees regarding SOSEP, CGFund and RCGF grants.

Building (AK): AK reported that there had been no building work for 2 weeks and at this point, no one had any idea when we can recommence. He also reported that he was working with the QS as to why costs have gone up more than budget.

It was also reported that the heating bill for the past two months (to keep the building warm and dry out the paint work) had been £1300. AK has asked the architect and QS, but they did not think it was down RH Irving to pay for this.

Colin Maclaine reported that Andrew Ward said those costs could go against a Lottery claim under capital.

It was agreed that there needed to be a security procedure for the gates, as even when they were closed, there was still a gap at either side. It was agreed that John Johnson, Eilean Parker, Alex Kinnell and Colin Maclaine discuss the best procedure.

Dark Skies (CMac): CMac reported that the dome was under construction and was two weeks away from being shipped from the Ukraine to UK. It had been agreed that it would be stored in Leicester and we would be informed of any additional shipping costs. Other than that, everything was progressing as it should be given the circumstances.

KSF: Colin Mac reported that John Blaikie had written offering a loan of £10k to the KDT. It was discussed that KSF would be offered a 3 year lease, but with a suggested repayment over five years with £2k reduction each year on the rent, thereby repaying the loan. The cost of the concrete floor in the KSF area was £13.5k.

It was agreed that Gordon Cowan draw up a letter stating these terms and that it would be sent out from the Chair.

Tenancy agreements (LG): LG reported that these were in hand and having had informal contact with the Pottery and Nursery, we would email these out this week.

LG then asked if any contact had been made with Andrew Clark Hutchison AK reported that he had emailed him and had not had a direct reply, although there had been contact through Rebecca Cadie the architect.

Finances (CMacL): Finance reports had been circulated. There were no questions, but it was noted that the Trust was in the middle of an audit and we were still working on items for the accountants regarding grant applications.

Youth work (AR): It was reported that while everything had been physically closed, Eilean Parker and her team had been doing a fantastic job of keeping the project going online with new and inventive ideas every week.

It was also noted that the Trust had made a conscious decision NOT to furlough the Youth Work staff and to keep paying them as usual.

Barrhill Woods (RA): In the absence of RA, LG reported that a conscious decision had been made to close the squirrel hide and outdoor classroom in the current lockdown situation.

TIC (HH): There was an issue of trying to find a meter reading from when the Trust took over the TIC. It was agreed that DC email VS regarding this.

Communications: Q&A challenges had been drafted and would be sent out to members. Facebook and website had also been updated.

AOB:

Marketing: It was agreed that the marketing sub-group (LG, HH, GC) would decide on which firm to choose following the marketing proposal.

AGM: it was also noted that the AGM be postponed until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Secretary: it was noted that a secretary should be appointed as a matter of course. AK agreed to look at the constitution regarding this matter.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4.15