

## KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

MINUTES of the Meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust at 4pm, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, held via Zoom

Present:

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

Apologies:

Andy Campbell

1. Minutes of the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Amends – AK (done). Seconded by CMacL.

2. Matters arising

EDF – CMacL reported that the EDF bill was still being sorted out.

DTAs conference – CMacL reported that the Trust had received great feedback from the presentation for the conference.

3. Reports

### **Silvercraigs (CW)**

CW had sent the following report out by email:

“As predicted we are well down on last November (£2776 to £1009), with December not looking too bad. Still waiting on prices to replace the old electricity boxes and removing the grass at the top level pitches.

We have £4,466 in hand and around £1,000 credit with EDF, bills for the winter are fairly low so we should be in good shape for next year, Covid permitting. I have attached a copy of a letter from the Beckfoot trust and would stress that I only asked for costs involved with the transfer and that the KDT board would need to agree same, though I did say that it only seemed fair for the KDT to pay these if agreed upon.”

Everyone had read his report and the letter regarding Seaward. It was then agreed that LG would speak to Andrew Ward regarding this and it was agreed that it had the potential to be a great project for the Trust and the community and it was something that would be given consideration.

CW also reported that, with Silvercraigs now entering its fourth year of trading, running the site for £20k was not feasible and is something that should be looked at in the New Year. LG asked CW to put together a 5 year business plan which could be discussed ahead of any decision being made.

### **Funding (AW/DC):**

DC reported that the final LEADER submissions and reports had been done and the final £18k of funding would be drawn down when LEADER allowed.

Funding applications had been submitted to:

Robin Rigg - £10k DSVC exhibitions. Waiting to hear.

Scottish Power - £61k – staff and exhibits. Waiting to hear.

Esme Fairbairn - £48,296 – this was recently turned down, which was disappointing but expected.

Community Capacity - £44k – 4 part time staff – again this was turned down and had been heavily oversubscribed.

Hollywood - £20k staff. Waiting to hear.

Grass roots - £5k marketing and the launch. Waiting to hear.

New funds were being sourced for staffing (Costal Benefits) and Cycling Scotland (bike sheds for The Johnston).

DC also reported that she was still chasing up payment from Visit Scotland for the electricity as well as feedback regarding the business plan for the Information Centre.

**Building (AK):** AK reported the pavement and roadworks at the front of the building had been finished and the work in the car park was due to be finished shortly while the work needed at the rear of the building would be done as well.

The gin distillery had one out of four licences and was progressing.

There had been a few problems with the heating controls, but it was quite an elaborate system and would be fixed.

The QS and architect were busy working the final costings and it was hoped this would be available early January.

Work was also being done on the building management document and this was going to be finalised once everyone was back working in the office.

Alan Ross asked if there were to be gates at the front of the building.

AK replied that there were not going to be gates as it would become an issue for HES and also would involve management of the gates for opening and closing them.

**Dark Skies (CMac):** Everything has been installed, with a few finishing touches to be added, but it was agreed that everyone who had seen it was suitably impressed and it certainly has the WOW factor.

#### New company

CMacL had had a meeting with Professor Hammond (Patron) which went well.

It was also reported that the formation of a new company for the DSVC was needed and it was proposed that the accountant be approached regarding the Kirkcudbright Dark Space Limited. This was agreed.

A board had been organised with Colin MacLaine as Chair, John Johnson as Treasurer and Ruth McMorrnan as Secretary.

A constitution was going to be drawn up as well.

A written agreement was also going to be written up between the Trust and the company and if everyone was happy these matters would be progressed. This was agreed unanimously.

With regards to opening the centre, funding was needed for the recruitment of staff and it was hoped that this would be confirmed in the New Year.

Helen Henderson asked what was happening with regards to the display board inside the lobby.

Ruth McMorrnan said that she had spoken with Paul Tebay and the art teacher from the Academy and they were waiting for a convenient time for the teacher to visit the DSVC to get an idea of the project for the pupils to get involved.

It was hoped, LG continued, that the young people come up with a design and it would be passed onto a designer to fine tune and finalise the idea.

She would, she continued, be more than happy to use Artibrand again as they have been excellent in the work produced for the project so far.

It was also agreed that the same branding be used for the DSVC as for The Johnston.

#### Visitors

It was agreed that, in the short term, visitor access to the DSVC would be limited, with a planned visit for the youngsters coming in to test the exhibits.

**Youth work (AR):** AR commended Eilean Parker and her team on the work that had been done to get the indoor space ready for the first youth activity later this week.

He also reported that the Wee Centipedes had finally been wound up and it was expected that the £5k would be accessed early in the new year.

**Barrhill Wood (RA):** RA reported that the Primary School and the Johnston Nursery had been using the outdoor classroom again, which was great and he was hoping to establish a forest school next year.

The calendar had sold out already which would mean another £300 into the account.

**Harbour Stage (RA):** A decision on planning was expected mid-January. It was also reported that a lease for the staging area was still being pursued with Ingrid Gemmell.

**KIC (HH):** DC reported that she was still pursuing VS regarding the electricity bill and for feedback on the business plan.

HH reported that preparations would start for the reopening of the centre in the new year, hopefully in March.

**Branding:** Final brand guidelines and an action plan were being worked on in the run up to the opening of the DSVC.

Exterior signs had been decided on and after looking at various quotes, Signet Signs from Kirkcudbright had been selected.

Website: [darkspaceplanetarium.org](http://darkspaceplanetarium.org) - a meeting was due to be held regarding putting together the specifications for the site.

The name would start to be teased out from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.

It was also agreed that there should be no advertising allowed on the outside railings and a notice board would be better positioned at the KIC.

AK asked about the size of the sign. LG said that it had gone to pre-planning to see if the size of the sign would be acceptable.

HH also agreed that working with Artibrand had been a hugely successful and professional experience.

**Leases (LG):** These had been finalised and were in the process of being signed by the tenants.

**Finances (CMac):** Reports had been circulated ahead of the meeting, which everyone agreed with.

There had been a positive response to the Gift Aid letters, with between £4k-£5k expected back as a result which would be ringfenced for The Johnston.

**Communications(HH & RMcM):** The latest newsletter had been well received and it was decided not to produce one for December but wait until January.

Facebook posts had been well received and there had been a lot of Facebook traffic over the Remembrance weekend and the lighting of The Johnston.

RMcM also reported that they were looking at the benefits of joining the South of Scotland Alliance which everyone thought was a good idea.

**AOB:**

**Squash Club:** It was agreed that the Trustees help the squash club look for potential funding to upgrade the building.

**Post code:** JJ reported that he had been in touch with the Post Office regarding keeping the original postcode of DG6 4EG.

**Bike sales:** JJ reported that permission had been granted from the Scottish Government to allow the sale of the bikes from the bike project.

**Biosphere:** There were no objections to Rob Asbridge's request for Barrhill Wood to join the Biosphere.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 5.30pm

