

# KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, in the small meeting room at The Johnston.

## **Present**

Lesley Garbutt (Chair) (LG)	Helen Henderson (Treasurer) (HH)
Ruth McMorran (RM)	Jenny Milby (JM)
Neil Picken (NP)	Anne Stoddart (AS) Minute Taker
Alex Kinnell (AK)	

Apologies

Hollie Mitchell (HM), Rob Asbridge (RA), John Blaikie (JB), Andy Campbell (AC)

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

LG welcomed all to the first meeting of 2024. Apologies are listed above.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

The Minutes were proposed by RM and seconded by HH. There were no matters arising.

## **3. Clock Tower**

AK provided an update. This was further discussed by the board.

## **4. Reporting**

### Silvercraigs

JM reported that only a few seasonal visitors remained. There had been problems contacting one of the seasonal visitors whose contact details had been incorrect. Positive feedback had been received over the festive period about the caravan park but mention had been made of dim lighting. Additional solar lighting had been installed but in discussion concerns regarding trip hazards and problems for reversing vehicles were highlighted.

### Harbour Square

LG informed the Board that the Harbour Square lease required three signatures and this was being dealt with.

### Seaward

LG reported that all electricals and water quality had been tested and the intention was that the Bothy would be opened by Easter.

### Funding/Claims

Funding had been received from Robin Rigg to cover the cost of new flooring in the Community Room as well as an electric car charging station in the car park of The Johnston. Gowans had been contacted and the lead time was 6 weeks. DC would draw down further funding towards office salaries from the Scot Government award.

### Office.

JM reported that there had been a steady demand for Foodbank throughout December and Christmas parcels had been issued. The office had been closed for two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period. Adrian and Craig had each taken one week's leave to ensure cover at Silvercraigs and The Johnston was maintained during this time.

#### Building.

AC was still to look at the 'blown' windows in the Pottery and Youth Project. These had not been replaced during the renovation and so were out of warranty. Quotes would be obtained for durable metal door labels to replace the stickers.

#### Dark Space Planetarium

RM reported that the state of the clock tower and potential closure of the DSP remained the biggest concern for the DSP. When Michael had been promoted to Manager last summer his position in the planetarium had been covered by Matt on a zero hours contract basis to save costs in case of closure. Matt would be returning to further education in September but hoped to continue to work part-time at the DSP.

#### Marketing and Communication

No report had been prepared for this meeting but RM noted that Amy had posted 'What's on at the Johnston in January' on New Year's Day. HH proposed that marketing and communications be ramped up in 2024 and be considered at the Strategy Day in February.

#### Tenancy Agreements

There was nothing to report.

#### KDT Finances

HH reported that figures for the month had been circulated and end of year finances were being prepared. Silvercraigs income had made a contribution to overheads and staffing costs.

#### Youth Project.

RM reported that, further to a lottery award, Eilean Parker had been interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland and featured on the local news. Other funders including Kirkcudbright Development Trust had been mentioned. The following week Eilean had been interviewed by Stuart Gillespie of The Galloway News and appeared on their social media.

#### Barhill and Harbour Stage

There was nothing to report.

#### KIC

HH reported that work was still to start on the roof repairs. Volunteers had been encouraged to take more responsibility and sub-committees had now been formed to manage the community noticeboard, shop displays and volunteer training.

### **5. Strategy Day**

The Trust Strategy Day run by Sleeping Giants would take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Eilean Parker (Youth Project) and Hayley McMillan (Youth Project and Johnston Cleaner) had been

invited to attend. LG would send out a letter outlining the programme for the day and the importance of Board attendance. It was proposed that Board membership should require attendance at an agreed number of meetings each year.

**6.AOB:**

6.1 NP updated Board on the Galloway National Park Association bid for National Park status. Neil reported there are currently 10-11 bids competing for National Park status. Borders Council had recently decided not to support the bid for their area. GNPA have held over 150 meetings and have the support of the three local councils in the area – Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire – as well as local MSPs. The GNPA needed members and donations and NP asked if the KDT could help.

6.2 NP informed Board that he had an acre on his farm that he would like to offer as a community market garden. There would be a ready market at his campsite for the produce. Neil asked if there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> sector way of promoting this. Debbie Craig would be asked to make contact.

6.3 NP had three bikes in his possession from The Trust and asked if he could donate them to Wheels of Fleet. This was approved.

6.4 NP mentioned that an individual had raised concerns about the Board. They had been asked to put these in writing and a meeting could be arranged to discuss.

6.4 LG confirmed to JM that the KDT Office would continue to provide administrative support to the Swimming Pool in 2024.

**Next meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

LG thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.