

KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

MINUTES of the meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust
held on Monday 2nd June 2025 in the Meeting Room at The Johnston.

Present

Lesley Garbutt – Chair (LG)
Rob Asbridge (RA)
John Blaikie (JB)
Hollie Mitchell (HM)
Andy Campbell (AC)
Jenny Milby (JM)
Debbie Craig (DC)
Deborah Firth (DF Minute Secretary)

Apologies
Helen Henderson
Derek Smith
Neil Picken
Brian Thomson

1. Welcome & Apologies

LG welcomed all to the meeting with a reminder of the declaration of interest. The following

Declarations of Interest were made: -

HM – Johnston Nursery / DSP
LG – DSP/Silvercraigs / Swimming Pool
RA – Silvercraigs / Festivities
AC – Swimming Pool / Festivities
JB - Festivities

Minutes of last meeting held in November 2024

The Minutes were agreed by HM and seconded by RA. There were no matters arising

2. Reporting

Silvercraigs & Hut

RA

Orchard planted and plan is for youth group to be involved in the running and maintenance. Plans for the allotments are progressing RA has had brief discussions with the Council and it seems that Planning Permission may be required, in which case it could well be into 2026.

LG

A resignation letter from Craig Nash has been received today giving two months' notice. All expressed their disappointment but agreed that an advert for a replacement be drafted/ posted as soon as possible.

The Hut – enquiries are being received, and local Guides / Rangers leaders have visited recently. They are fully aware of the parking situation and despite this feel it would be ideal for local groups. They also offered to spread the word more widely. With regards to the parking, the council have confirmed that the next lay-by along constitutes part of the highway and as such parking cannot be stopped.

Funding/Claims

DC Very successful workshop for the Meeting Centre in April and the project had received funding. Further funding is being looked into and it is hoped that the project will be up and running in August / September following the required staff training.

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be visiting once a month until August and after that it is hoped the sessions will be fortnightly. Funding is also being explored to extend this,

The IT classes running in conjunction with the IT Centre in Castle Douglas are proving very popular and again it is hoped these can be continued with funding,

A very successful BSL class was held for staff and the plan is to run a 10-week course in September.

We have signed up to Fareshare and get daily collections of food from Tesco. The focus is on anyone, not just those in need, to help themselves thus cutting down on food waste. The hope is to expand the quantity and variety of produce with deliveries from the Glasgow warehouse once funding is secured.

The Eco Refill station is operational and is making slow but steady progress as people find us. Resonate asked for our help in a joint funding application and recently they have successfully acquired the old police station in Kirkcudbright.

We have assisted both the pool and the forum with recent successful funding applications.

Also in talks with DGWGO for advertising on their social media page.

Office & Building

JM The main change is that Eilean Parker is back in the office with set days and times which returns the small room to KDT and allows for a confidential space for calls, meetings etc as well as additional bookings.

The full maintenance programme is progressing with the help of Andy Campbell, and he asks that a meeting be set up with Craig / Adrian. DF will arrange this. Weekly window cleaning is now being done by KDT staff.

Room enquiries continue to be received and the July advert for the Bulletin will be highlighting not only the admin services available but also the Eco Refill station, Social Supermarket and EV chargers. Adverts are quarterly going forward so the focus can be changed with each one.

Copies of the updated advert will be distributed on notice boards etc. in town.

RA raised the question of the tower and any developments. **LG** confirmed that this was still in the hands of the solicitors with Alex Kinnell in regular contact and **JM** confirmed that any leaks that are reported and referred immediately to Campbells

Tenancy Agreements – look at DC copy for this

JB Asked if there would be any possibility of reducing the proposed rent increase with the new lease and stated that Festivities would be moving out if not. He also raised the question of the

electricity and standing charges again, and questioned the addendum found but not included in the final lease.

Again highlighted amounts contributed over the years to Harbour Stage and felt it “a kick in the teeth” AC and RA both felt that drastic action was needed in favour of Festivities staying. **LG** stated that all tenants would be receiving increases, Festivities were not being singled out in any way and this conversation would best be continued with Treasurer Helen Henderson.

KDT Finances

HH circulated information prior to the meeting

Youth Project.

HM reported she is working with EP in accordance with HR / Peninsula guideline.

Barhill and Harbour Stage

RA reported that he has an anonymous donor willing to put up the full amount to buy the woods, as well as purchase swift boxes and complete the hide repairs. He is behind with Forest and Land Scotland but will catch up – **JM** reiterated that support was available if needed. It was noted that there had been a successful concert on the stage with Kate Pickens choir.

3. AOB:

Hand over for the skatepark has been agreed. This has been slightly delayed – their AGM is on 14th June – and once this has taken place and the outstanding minor repairs have been completed “official” hand over can take place. The Youth Project will take on responsibility for the skatepark.

A question was raised regarding the shelter by the Harbour. **DC** confirmed that there is still a problem with confirming exactly who owns it and enquiries are ongoing.

AC raised the matter of the flags and their current condition. **JM** advised that this was already in hand and we are looking to replace them with a more substantial fabric finish. The existing flags will be taken down and the matter raised in the Tenants Meeting on 4th June.

Next meeting with be 7th July 2025 at 4pm in the small room at The Johnston

LG thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.00pm