

KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

MINUTES of the meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust held on Monday 3rd March 2025 in the Meeting Room at The Johnston.

Present

Lesley Garbutt - Chair (LG)
Helen Henderson - Treasurer (HH)
Jenny Milby (JM)
Rob Asbridge (RA)
Brian Thomson (BT)
John Blaikie (JB)
Hollie Mitchell (HM)
Neil Picken (NP)
Andy Campbell (AC)
Deborah Firth (DF Minute Secretary)

Apologies
Derek Smith
Debbie Craig

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
BT- DSP
RA - Silvercraigs / Festivities
AC - Swimming Pool / Festivities
JB - Festivities

Minutes of last meeting held in November 2024

The Minutes were agreed by NP and seconded by BT. There were no matters arising

2. Reporting

Silvercraigs & Hut

JM

Bookings are at the same level as this time last year. August is looking particularly good and for the Hut. Painting is about finished, and a lot of very positive feedback has been received about how neat and tidy everything is looking. EDF is still ongoing but has been referred to Finlay Carson and EDF have confirmed he has made contact, and the matter is now with their high-level complaints department.

RA

Has raised £1K to plant an apple orchard along the top ridge, he is also keen to establish allotments. It was agreed by all that there would have to be very strict rules regarding upkeep,

and the procedure if someone needs to be removed etc. Agreement would have to be obtained from all local residents in the immediate vicinity and he has agreed to take this on and hopes it is seen as something positive for the community. RA also has the possibility of 300 hedging plants from the Rotary and having discussed this with CN agreed a good place for them would be between the park and the playground and asked that funds be made available if additional plants were needed.

JB queried the minimum number for a hut booking - confirmed this is a min of 4 persons. All is OK on site but no further forward with resolving the parking issue. It is being marketed highlighting no parking, but the adjacent driveway used to unload (with driver remaining with vehicle) and then moving to Dhoon. The electricity supply has recently changed to a cheaper tariff with Jellyfish.

Funding/Claims

HH A report on current projects was read out and discussed. HH gave more information on the Meeting Centre - there is to be a meeting at the Johnston on 22nd April and the response has been very positive so far, Unfortunately, there has been no interest in the Local Place Plan but **DC** is discussing with Sleeping Giants the possibility of using the funds for a one-off event.

Office & Building

JM The full maintenance programme is still to be drawn up with Andy Campbell's help. The still has been removed from the car park.

Room enquiries continue to be received and an advert highlighting the admin services available is in the Bulletin for March and April with space booked quarterly thereafter. This is more cost effective than the previously considered flyers. Copies of the advert have been distributed throughout the town for noticeboards etc.

The EV chargers are now up and running and these will be promoted via social media and possibly flyer in the future.

IT online is being planned in partnership with the IT Centre in Castle Douglas. They are supplying 2 laptops and 1 desktop for a donation to The IT Centre -. Bookable 1-2-1 sessions will be available in blocks of 6 weeks starting at the end of April. This will be run by IT Centre staff

An Eco refill station is planned- repurposing the staff toilet. Craig & co will remove toilet, rails etc and we are awaiting a quote for shelving. It is hoped that we will be able to get a fridge freezer also and reestablish the pantry. DC has applied to Fairshare.

There have been issues with hand towels in the toilets with multiples coming out of the dispenser at once and many being wasted. Therefore, they have been removed leaving the hand dryers to be used.

The door for the outside notice board was damaged in the last storm. AC has confirmed that he has done the repair and is waiting for the better weather to install.

Francis Kearney has agreed to help CN with staff appraisals.

Dark Space Planetarium

HH has spoken to Alex Kinnell, and it is anticipated that we should recoup majority of costs and more. The main issue will be the cost of closing the Planetarium while the work is being done **BT** reported that following on from their recent meeting it was felt that things were going in the right direction, and the new management structure was working well, with more interns being taken on for the season. Lots of educational bookings are coming in, including from Cumbria. The Science club is busy, and they are looking at other options including sensory sessions with the nursery under the dome. The major concern is the reliance on funding, and concerns for the future cash flow.

Marketing and Communication

Most have already been covered in DC report. Continue with social media coverage - there are still people who do not know what KDT do or about the Youth Project. It was suggested that the van be used to advertise - by highlighting each "branch" of the Trust.

JB confirmed that flyers including the Planetarium and Distillery were now being distributed into Cumbria and NE England.

Tenancy Agreements

LG The building has been valued by an independent surveyor: Meeting are being arranged with all the individual tenants to discuss changes to rents, and a tenants meeting is being held this week.

KDT Finances

HH circulated information prior to the meeting

Youth Project.

HM reported she has taken over as line manager for the YP and child protection officer. She - has had a meeting with the manager to go through everything.

Barhill and Harbour Stage

RA reported that the hide went over in the recent storm, but this is being rectified. The issue of fallen trees has been reported and is in the hands of Forest and Land Scotland.

KIC

HH The KIC will be opening for the season on 28th Marc, opening from 11am - 3pm for the first few months. There is a volunteers meeting arranged for 18th March. More volunteers are needed. TV screens to be used again this season.

3. AOB:

RA: Asked for the Boards opinion of possibly siting pods at the far end of the park. NP felt the market for such was already oversaturated.

HM Asked permission to site an indoor classroom at the end of the car park where their van currently parks. This would be used as extra space for those with additional support needs. It would be available to KOT in school holidays etc. The general feeling was it was a good idea but would have to check with Historic Scotland etc, She also asked if the building could be lit up pink for Brain Tumor awareness as the children at the nursery would be taking part in "wear a hat" day on March 28th

The matter of the skate park was deferred until the next meeting.

Next meeting with be 5th May 2025 at 4pm in the small room at The Johnston

LG thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting 5.20pm