

DUNBLANE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Monday, 11th January 2021 at 7.00 pm

1. Welcome

The Trust's Chairperson, Barbara Allan, welcomed 35 ordinary members and 4 nonmembers to the meeting. It was noted that an additional 29 proxy votes had also been authorised by ordinary members of the DDT. As membership currently stands at 447 the Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate in line with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 October 2019

The minutes of the previous AGM had been previously circulated to members and made available on the website. One change was noted in respect of Item 4 - Dougal Thornton will continue to work with the Midweek Group and not Dunblane in Bloom. This change has now been made.

The minutes were proposed by Paul Nelson and seconded by Dougal Thornton subject to the above correction being made.

3. Chairperson's Report

Barbara opened the meeting by stating that 2020 has been a difficult year for us all personally, and for DDT as an organisation. However, the DDT has made significant achievements and the groups have had to change the way they operate. It is thanks to the commitment from the Board, the membership and the all-important volunteers which has allowed this. Dunblane would be a poorer and less welcoming town if it were not for the efforts of Dunblane in Bloom, Environment Group and the Paths Group. These groups have ensured that the places we all walk through are well maintained and colourful which has helped lift our mood this last year. Local people have indeed commented on the good work being done. The Midweek Group have maintained railings and benches and have converted the Braeport Centre garden into a Sensory Garden which is being enjoyed by those with dementia and local people. Our thanks go to them all for their hard work.

This year we welcomed Dementia Friendly Dunblane (DFD) as a new working group of DDT. Although it is not possible to run the Memory Café during these difficult times, DFD have run a soup and scone run which has proved very successful along with other activities. This has kept people connected and provided much support to those living alone.

As many residents have become more active during lockdown, there has been an upsurge in the use of our e-bikes. Funding has been secured for another 3 e-bikes which will be available by the spring.

The DDT is also able to support local activities sometimes at a distance, and this year they have supported the stabilisation of Glen Road, and a group was formed to examine ways that the Burgh Chambers could be maintained as a community asset bringing new life to the building. Dunblane Community Support was formed in response to Covid-19 and DDT has recently welcomed them as a working group.

Barbara went on to talk about the Braeport Centre which had been doing very well prior to lockdown with bookings increased along with income. The Centre had to close in March due

to Covid-19 and the Board took the decision to re-open the Centre as soon as we were permitted, and it was heartening to see people keen to come back to the Centre. Obviously, changes had to be made in the way the centre operated - decreasing the usage and increasing staffing and cleaning along with investing in additional supplies in order to meet Government guidelines. Clearly this has had a negative effect on income, but we have benefited from funding to support business recovery which has ensured the negative financial impact has been lessened.

Barbara explained that the Board had spent considerable time discussing the redevelopment of the Braeport Centre following the feasibility study but had concluded that the cost of the proposed plans was unsupportable. The Board was now looking at a more minimalistic approach. This has had to be put on hold due to Covid-19 but will be a priority in 2021.

Barbara explained that communication had to be adapted during lockdown with more focus on MailChimp and Facebook both of which were working well. They will remain a focus during the following year.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of providing services to older people and those in need of support. The Board will look at how these services are developed in the future.

Barbara concluded by thanking volunteers, Board members and staff for their contribution. She also thanked Sue Harley, who stepped down as Secretary during the year, for her hard work and to David Warburton for his contribution, especially to communications.

There were no questions.

4. Treasurers Report

Ian Gill, Treasurer, confirmed that the final accounts had been prepared and approved by the accountants, French Duncan. The full draft accounts were on the website and a summary had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Any member wishing a full set of the accounts should contact Ian.

Ian provided an overview of the Trust's total income and expenditure during the last financial year in comparison to the previous financial year. Income is significantly higher than the previous year due mainly to donations and grants. The increase in donations was mainly from two online campaigns – one for the Glen Road stabilisation project and the other for the new Braeport Sensory Garden. The Trust was also awarded a number of significant grants for the Glen Road project, the garden and for Dementia Friendly Dunblane.

It was noted that membership income had increased despite the actual number of members having reduced by 13 to 420 at 31st May 2020. Following a data cleansing exercise, 37 members were removed from the database – some having moved away, died or deciding not to renew. However, since financial year end the numbers have increased and at the end of November 2020 membership stood at 447.

Ian commented that expenditure was significantly down on last year due to a break in the funding for the Dementia Friendly Dunblane Co-ordinator's post and lower legal and professional fees which had been inflated the previous year due to the Braeport redevelopment feasibility study.

A look at the balance sheet which showed total assets (less liabilities) of £494,143

(compared with £214,659 for the previous year) confirming that the Trust's finances remain in a healthy position. He explained that this year's figure was exceptionally high due to the transfer value of the Braeport Centre which legally transferred to the DDT in June 2019. The formal value in the accounts represents an independent valuation, undertaken by DM Hall, of £350,000 less the value of capital expenditure which the DDT had incurred prior to the transfer (£92,428) for double glazing, insulation and new doors, leaving a transfer value of £257,572 which shows as a donation in the DDT's income for the year.

It was noted that the Board were confident that the DDT was in a good position financially to weather the financial impact of Covid-19. The Board had prudently decided to increase the Reserves Policy in the summer from 3 to 6 months' running costs (£28,000) in light of the ongoing impact of Covid-19. The DDT has been awarded a number of grants to cover overheads as a result of the Braeport being closed and a cash flow forecast is reviewed at each Board meeting.

The Board recommended the accounts for approval by the membership.

Question from William Maclean regarding the working group accounts. Ian stated that working group accounts balances are available on request at any time, that they are all treated as Departments within the Sage accounts package and are amalgamated for the purposes of the DDT Annual Accounts.

The accounts were proposed by William MacLean and seconded by Dave MacPherson

5. Election of Directors

It was noted that Barbara Allan and Alan Booth were required to stand down under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Both wished to be re-elected. Two new Board members are seeking election, namely Angela Fraioli and David Young.

All Directors were elected by over 97% of the vote by DDT members at the AGM.

6. Any Other Business

Heather Bovill asked if there was anything that could be done for those living alone and in need of company. Perhaps people may like to contact one another for a chat etc. and a way to meet new people. Dunblane Community Support (DCS) offer help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and will also phone those wishing company. Paul Nelson gave the telephone numbers out for DCS and Dementia Friendly Dunblane (DFD). As the elderly are less likely to use social media and emails it was suggested that simple posters were produced with these phone numbers and distributed to various locations in Dunblane. It was also suggested that these numbers could be published in The Wire.

Barbara Allan welcomed Stewart Strathdee as the new leader of Dunblane in Bloom.

Graham Houston expressed thanks to the Board for their hard work and contribution.

7. Chairpersons concluding remarks.

Barbara Allan concluded by thanking everyone for attending via Zoom and thanked the working group leaders and their volunteers for their work. Although 2020 has been a

challenging year she concluded that it has been a creative and successful one. She hopes that videos of the working group activities will be produced and soon made available via social media.