

# DUNBLANE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Braeport Centre, Dunblane on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 2pm.

### 1. Welcome

The Trust's Chairperson, Sandy Fleming, welcomed 47 ordinary members and 1 non-member to the meeting. It was noted that an additional 4 proxy votes had also been authorised by ordinary members of the DDT. As membership currently stands at 431 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 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The minutes of the previous AGM had been previously circulated to members and made available on the website.

*The minutes were proposed by Stewart Strathdee and seconded by Monica Cessford.*

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters brought up.

### 4. Chairperson's Report

Sandy opened the meeting thanking members for attending the Braeport Centre. As always this has been an incredibly busy year with volunteers and staff going above and beyond to serve the community and are a great asset to the DDT which is appreciated by the businesses, visitors and residents of Dunblane. He went on to explain that times are still challenging with budgets being cut and regulations changing. However, the groups worked hard to make Dunblane look fabulous. During COVID, families and visitors explored Dunblane using maps, ebikes, and paths. No matter where you go in Dunblane, you will find something that has been made better by the DDT volunteers and for that we should be extremely proud. He then went on to explain that every week we look at ways to fund the work we do. Kirsty Cathrine plays a vital role in the DDT to help secure funding, looks for new funding and ways to attract volunteers. She also manages events, updating of vital records that are needed for us to operate. We have some exciting events planned for the forthcoming year involving families in the community.

He then went on to explain that we now have QR codes in place which allow people to join the DDT or make donations simply using their mobile phones. The codes can be placed beside planters, taken on site where groups are working. As we are now living in a cashless society, it is important that the DDT keep up with technology and trends. Sandy hopes this will be a good way to increase donations over time.

He then moved on the Braeport Centre mentioning that a new heating system is required and that we are still in need of £7500 funding. He thanked Ian Gill and Dave MacPherson for their work in securing the rest of the funding, the research and planning required to make this happen. This has taken months of planning. He explained that we were fortunate to receive a grant from Foundation Scotland allowing us to buy AV equipment for the Braeport making the centre more attractive for hall letting and for events.

Sandy thanked Paul Nelson for his work with communications as he has now moved on to other projects. Sandy, Kirsty, Tim Hughes, Bernie Beattie and David Young will now run communications making the most of social media, the Community notice board, The Wire and newsletters. He thanked the team for their hard work. Paul was thanked for his work with the communication team.

He mentioned that the DDT is needing to increase memberships to allow the DDT to grow. We also need more funding which is proving tricky during these times, new equipment, more volunteers. We have been fortunate to find new tenants for the Riverview building giving us needed rental income.

At this time of year, people decide to move on. Dave MacPherson, our 'go to guy' for the Braeport or building advice has decided to move on. Sandy thanked him for his hard work. Helen Cowan, our former Company Secretary, is moving out of Dunblane and will be missed on the Board as was always reasonable. Angela Fraioli, our Treasurer, is moving on. Thanks to all for their contribution to the running of the DDT.

He also mentioned Bill Maclean who has run the Mid Week Group for 19 years 'or so. Bill was thanked for his commitment to the DDT and presented him with a bottle of whisky. Bill made a short speech thanking his team. He still plans to be part of the Mid Week Group, however.

He mentioned the sad passing of Rhona Peet who was a real character in Dunblane and is missed by all.

Sandy ended his speech thanking fellow Trustees, in particular Ian Gill, who has been his right-hand man during the last year. He then went on to thank all the staff for their contributions.

## **5. Questions and Answers**

There were no questions from the floor.

## **6. The Accounts of Dunblane Development Trust for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

Angela Fraioli, Treasurer, confirmed that the annual accounts for the DDT have been approved by the accountants, A9. The draft accounts are on the website and a summary has been circulated to members. Any member wishing the full set of accounts should contact the office.

Income is showing an increase in £65K which is due to receiving a grant of £100K grant from Legacy to allow us to open further meeting centres for those living with Dementia. There is an increase in expenditure mainly due to the increase in staff costs which has been necessary to run the DDT. Most expenses (84%) are covered by grant funding but there is a £29K deficit in unrestricted funding. It is therefore vital to find ways to increase membership and income in the coming year.

Angela then thanked all who worked hard in securing the grants.

She mentioned that the accounts could not be approved as we are awaiting the accounts from DDTPL. Angela asked for a vote allowing the Board to approve the DDT accounts once the DDTPL accounts have been returned and the result was unanimous.

## **7. Election of Directors**

It was noted that Paul Nelson was required to stand down under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and wished to be re-elected. Four new Board members are seeking election, namely Stewart Corbett, Malcolm Dougall, Scott Williamson and John Knight (Co-opted).

All Directors were elected unanimously by DDT members at the AGM.

## **8. Any Other Business**

A question was raised from the floor regarding fundraising and what events were planned. Sandy mentioned that a Ceilidh is organised for 26<sup>th</sup> November which hopefully will attract younger member of the community and that we have car boot sales, book sales etc in the pipeline. How much was the DDT needing to raise and what were the plans for the Braeport? There is a need to increase the unrestricted funding which is provided through fundraising and membership. A lively discussion took place regarding membership and how to get people to join. Should membership be paid monthly rather than annually? Perhaps now is the correct time to move memberships to a monthly direct debit? Do we need to go out and talk to more people on the street, we need to use more signage and also need to go out to speak to younger members of the community. There appears to be confusion in what the DDT does and that the subgroups perhaps confuse matters. Perhaps the time is right to start again with a new name. What do people actually get from becoming a member – can we look at getting discount in certain shops etc? Do the subgroups need to contribute more to the running cost of the DDT. Sandy agreed that all these issues need to be addressed and that this is a priority for the forthcoming year.

## **9. Working Group Presentations.**

### **Environment Group**

Monica Cessford commented that the big event was the new edging to the host border which was completed in 2021. The new border is 250m long and the work done should last 20 years. She then went on to summarise the other work done by her group and thanked them all for their commitment and hard work.

### **Dementia Friendly Dunblane**

Breda Seaman commented that the Memory café is now 5 years old, and it became a formal working group of the DDT in 2020. It is a safe place to meet and socialise for those living with dementia and their carers. The DFD is now part of the wider community and during lockdown provided soup and cake, fish suppers etc. This service is assisted by the pupils from the local schools and many children choose to help out as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. She then thanked all her volunteers and staff for the commitment they have shown.

### **Dunblane in Bloom**

Stewart Strathdee described the work done on the High Street roundabout and that it had taken 2 years planning to get this work done. He thanked Discover Dunblane to allow them to do this. He also mentioned the good relations between DIB and Queen Victoria school as many help out as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. They worked with them to create recycled planters. He described other tasks the group had worked on during the year and thanked all his volunteers for their work.

### **Mid-Week Group**

Tim Hughes explained that they concentrate on the Christmas light, seating, railings around the town and maintain the Braeport Centre. They try to make themselves noticeable when they are out and about. They need to clarify what Stirling Council do and what MWG do. Tim thanked his volunteers for their commitment and commented that they are always looking for new members.

### **Paths Group**

Peter McGregor introduced himself as the new leader and told the meeting that they worked on 23 jobs last year. Some of his team go out and walk the paths to identify work needing done on them. One of the big jobs last year was clearing the weeds at the paddling pool in the Laighills to expose the wall. He is looking for weekend projects in the hope he can attract some younger volunteers. Again, he thanked his team.

### **10. Chairperson's concluding remarks**

Sandy concluded that Stirling Council do recognise the work carried out by the DDT and that they are committed to working with us, but this will take time. They have mentioned that perhaps in the future they may invite some of the volunteers to a management training course. He commented that there are exciting things in the pipeline. Sandy did mention that there are vacancies on the board. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.