

DUNBLANE DEVELOPMENT TRUST LIMITED

Approved Minutes of the DDT Board meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 7PM at Creative Dunblane, Burgh Chambers

<p>1. Present/Apologies/in Attendance</p> <p>Present: Stewart Corbett (Chair), Paul Nelson, Anthony Delleur, Alf Scambler Apologies: Malcolm Dougall, Scott Williamson, David Storrie, Bob Stainton In Attendance: Kirsty Robertson, Rhona McInnes</p> <p>The Chair noted that the meeting was not quorate. Therefore, any decisions or matters requiring approval would be referred to the full Board for ratification.</p>	
<p>2. Approval of minutes from Board Meeting held on 26th February 2026:</p> <p>The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 26th February 2026 were reviewed and approved by those members present. Final approval will be sought from the remaining Board members.</p>	Board Members not present to vote
<p>3. Appointment of Rhona McInnes to Board:</p> <p>The Chair presented Rhona McInnes' application for appointment to the Board of Trustees. All members present voted in favour of her appointment, with the decision referred to the remaining Board members for confirmation.</p> <p><i>The proposal was circulated to the remaining Board Members by email on Tuesday 10th March, and all remaining Board members confirmed their agreement. Rhona McInnes was therefore duly appointed to the Board.</i></p>	
<p>4. High Street Traders Committee – Stewart Corbett:</p> <p>The Board discussed the potential formation of a High Street Traders Committee. It was noted that DDT would act in a facilitative role, similar to a chamber of commerce with smaller groups (e.g. High Street traders, tourism groups, or NFU/Farmers groups) forming under this wider structure.</p> <p>Stewart also proposed replacing the current community notice board with a mural highlighting key points of interest in Dunblane. This could be presented both as a physical mural within the Braeport Centre and digitally via an interactive notice board. The Board supported the concept of an interactive board incorporating advertising space for local businesses and organisations, with potential to generate income.</p> <p>It was agreed that Stewart would develop a proposal for the notice board, which could also support the establishment of the High Street Traders Group. It was noted that up to £9,000 may be available through BID funding to support the project.</p> <p>The potential development of a Dunblane app was also discussed.</p>	Stewart

5. Stirling Council Community Growing & Park Wellbeing Fund 2026:

Monica Cessford as filled out an application to the above fund, which was due to close on Friday 6th March. Part of the application process was approval from the Board of Trustees in support of the application.

As the initial deadline was before tonight's Board Meeting, the Board was sent the application previously, and all members voted in support of the application. The vote was ratified at tonight's Board Meeting.

It was noted that the deadline has now been extended to Friday 13th March and that Peter McGregor (Paths Group) and Breda Seaman (Dementia Friendly Dunblane) were now also looking to apply to the fund.

Both applications were reviewed and the board agreed that they were in support of both applications.

6. DDT Small Community Grants Fund – Recipients:

The Board was informed that the Small Community Grants Committee had met to determine the successful applicants for this funding round.

Kirsty provided an overview of each project and the corresponding awards. A total of £16,596 was distributed to the following groups:

- DDT DIY Group – Workshop Project
- DDT DIY Group – Town Centre Christmas Lights Project
- DDT Environment Group
- Dunblane in Bloom
- Newton Families Together (Newton Primary School Parent Council)
- Dunblane Boys Brigade
- Family Drop-In at Dunblane Free Church
- Weigh Ahead Community Gardening Group
- Craft Central CIC
- Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane
- Three Rivers Festival
- Dunblane Community Speed watch
- Dunblane Primary School Parent Council
- St Mary's Episcopal Church Repair Café

It was noted that the Committee should ensure applicants have an appropriate constitution in place. Concerns were raised regarding funding to CICs; however, it was confirmed that CICs have previously been supported through Windfarm funding.

Paul advised that the Small Community Grants account currently holds £24,851, with a further allocation expected at the end of March.

7. DDT Large Community Grants Fund:

The Board discussed whether unsuccessful applicants from the Small Community Grants Fund could be considered under the Large Community Grants Fund. It was agreed that funding should not be awarded to individuals, as this would not provide wider community benefit. Large grants should instead support significant infrastructure or community-wide projects.

The potential establishment of a separate fund to support local talent development was discussed. It was agreed that this could be considered if alternative (non-grant) funding sources became available.

One project which applied to the Small Community Grants Fund was discussed as

<p>they were looking for £4000 and therefore deemed that it would be more appropriate for this to be considered as a Large Community Grant. The application was therefore reviewed and deemed ineligible, as the project had received Windfarm funding in 2025 for the same project and therefore did not meet current criteria.</p> <p>The structure of the grants committee was also considered. It was agreed that greater diversity and external representation would be beneficial. The Board agreed to invite a representative from the Community Council and to explore appointing an independent Chair.</p>	
<p>8. Volunteer Thank You Night: A discussion was held around plans for the Volunteer Thank You night. Rhona and Angela are organising a quiz which will have six rounds of ten questions and will be split into three rounds, a break then the final three rounds.</p> <p>It was agreed that Anthony will do a thank you speech on behalf of Stewart.</p>	
<p>9. Laigh hills project – Stewart Corbett: Stewart advised that he, Paul and Anthony are scheduled to meet with Alistair Tollemache on Thursday 12th March. Alistair has secured £50,000 from Stirling Council towards toilet facilities at Laigh Hills and is also exploring additional funding opportunities.</p> <p>Anthony reported discussions with Dunblane Soccer Club, who highlighted a significant need for additional football pitches, particularly astro-turf, due to increased demand. They expressed strong interest in developing facilities at Laigh Hills, including both astro-turf and grass pitches.</p> <p>Anthony also met with the Scottish FA, who are supportive of a multi-use development and are exploring potential funding avenues. It was agreed that a formal group (e.g. “Friends of Laigh Hills”) should be established as a working group of DDT. Kirsty will create a draft copy of the terms of reference for group which Stewart can share with Alan Booth.</p> <p>It was confirmed that no formal commitments have yet been made. The funding identified must be utilised by March 2027.</p>	Kirsty
<p>10. Braeport Centre: Work has commenced on wall repairs and gate installation; however, it remains unclear what actual work is taking place.</p> <p>Bill Carman has engaged with St Andrews Botanic Gardens regarding future garden management. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday 13th March with representatives from the Gardens. Kirsty will invite relevant group leaders to attend and hear what is being proposed.</p>	Kirsty
<p>11. H&S: Bob submitted his apologies and provided an update for the Board. No Health & Safety incidents have been reported since the previous meeting.</p> <p>Refresher training for the DIY Group is being arranged for mid-April.</p> <p>Works to install a gate and pillar at the wall have commenced; however, communication with Bill Carman has been limited. Bob has inspected the wall and noted areas of concern. He is seeking advice from local stone specialists on appropriate remedial action.</p>	

<p>Bob also noted that contrary to a recent communication noting that he was now the chair of the Braeport Management Committee that this is not the case. Bob feels it would be unfair of him to take on the role, even for a short period, as he is considering stepping down from the DDT as a Trustee and Board Member before the end of this year. Having said that, he would still be available as a volunteer to assist DDT with H&S matters, in addition to Avensure input.</p>	
<p>12. Finance – Paul Nelson: Paul presented the accounts. Restricted funds remain in a strong position, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Community Grants Fund: £83,000 • Dunblane in Bloom: £18,554 • Dementia Friendly Dunblane: £100,551 (£99,500 restricted) <p>It was noted that DFD has sufficient funds to operate until at least the end of 2028, even without further grant income.</p> <p>Across the two unrestricted funds, a net deficit of £11,543 was reported, primarily due to delayed cleaning invoices, increased premises costs, higher maintenance expenditure, ongoing consultancy costs, and additional staffing.</p> <p>A year-end surplus of approximately £13,000 - £14,000 is projected, representing a third consecutive year of surplus and an estimated cumulative surplus of £64,000 over three years.</p> <p>Paul reiterated the importance of including a 10% uplift in grant applications (where appropriate) to cover DDT administrative and overhead costs associated with the grant. This should apply to grant applications over £10,000 but not to private donations. The Board agreed that we should continue this approach.</p>	
<p>13. AOB:</p> <p>Memorial benches: The DIY group/DIB have been contacted by Stirling Council regarding a couple of families who are interested in placing memorial benches around Dunblane. Unfortunately, there is no space for additional benches around Dunblane. However, there are currently 14 benches that require refurbishment. It has therefore been suggested that, instead of installing new memorial benches, families could be invited to make a £350 donation to refurbish an existing bench and have a memorial plaque installed.</p> <p>The board members present voted that in favour of this proposal and the remaining members to vote on this.</p> <p><i>The vote was put out to the remaining Board Members via email on Tuesday 10th March and all other board members voted in agreement.</i></p> <p>DIB: The board were informed that the cost of the Hanging Baskets in the High Street is increasing to £75 each. It was also noted that FES are no longer going to be donating their old vans to DIB as they are now leasing their vans. It was agreed that when it came to replacing the current van, which would be owned by DDT, we would look at putting DDT branding on the van.</p> <p>Braeport Centre Painting: A £400 donation has been agreed for the DIY Group in recognition of painting works undertaken.</p>	

<p>Extravaganza 2026: Rhona advised that she has spoken with Becca and Lizanne regarding setting a date to meet and discuss the lessons learned from last year's Extravaganza. A couple of dates and times in April were proposed, and Rhona said she would speak to Becca and Lizanne to see which suited them best and would also advertise it on the High Street Traders Facebook page.</p> <p>It was suggested that the committee should consist of Alan Chandler, Rhona, Kirsty, Alf and Stewart from the DDT along with Becca and Lizanne. Kirsty suggested asking the leaders of the Dunblane Scouts to join as they are a key component of the Extravaganza. It was agreed that Kirsty would reach out to them.</p> <p>HR provider: A query was raised around if we were locked into a contract with our current HR provider, Avensure. The board did look into this recently due to similar concerns, and we are in contract with them until 2027. It was agreed that we do want to look into an alternative provider at the end of the contract.</p> <p>DFD: DFD held a steering group today, and a few issues were raised which felt appropriate to bring to the Board Meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the disabled toilets are being used as a changing room by users of Base Fitness, which is having an impact on users of the Memory Café. It was agreed that this should be raised with Base Fitness.</p> <p>It was also queried if there had been any developments regarding the improvements to the toilets and kitchen area. It was agreed that a meeting between Stewart and Anthony should be held to get a proposal in place.</p> <p>Paul Nelson noted that DFD have expressed their wishes for him to stay as chair of DFD once he steps down from the DDT Board. Paul is happy to do this and has looked at the Terms of Reference (TOR's) for DFD which says it is OK for him to do so, but he has concerns that the TOR's may be incomplete and we should look at the TOR's for all groups.</p>	<p>Kirsty</p> <p>Stewart/Anthony</p>
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NEXT MEETING: Monday 20th April, 7PM, Braeport Centre