



**Kincardineshire Development Partnership
AGM – Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7 pm
Dickson Hall, Station Road, Laurencekirk, AB30 1BE**

Minutes

Attendees:

Ron Sharp – Portlethen Town Association (Chair)
Ian Hunter – Stonehaven Community Council
Sandra Davison – OMTA
Isabella Williamson – Arbuthnott Community Council
George Cruickshank – Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Marion McNeil – Crathes, Drumoak & Durris CC
Walter McMillan – Portlethen Men's Shed
Eeva-Kaisa Arter – Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Robyn Campbell – Drumoak & Durris Community Council
Councillor Alison Evison – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor George Carr – Aberdeenshire Council
Laurie Carnie – Candidate Councillor
Julie Gray – The Haven
Poppy Morton – The Haven
John Cruickshank – Horizon Group
Jane Cruickshank – The Bellman
Julie Lindeman – Stonehaven Town Partnership
David Lawman – Stonehaven Lions
David Johnstone – Jubilee Hall
Aileen Johnston – Jubilee Hall
Dave McFarlane – Arbuthnott Community Association
Cat Cowie – Auchenblae Pre School Group
Sophie Stephenson – Auchenblae Pre School Group
Jenna Henderson – Auchenblae Pre School Group
Jane Mitchell – Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network

In Attendance:

Mairi Eddie – Development Officer
Margo Titmuss – Windfarm & Funding Officer (Minutes)

Apologies:

Andrew Newton – Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Bridget Scott – Bettridge Centre
Paul Macari – Aberdeenshire Council
Reid Hutchison – Aberdeenshire Council
Lesley Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Bruce Steward – Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Ian Mollinson – Aberdeenshire Council



Councillor Sarah Dickinson
Councillor Dennis Robertson
Elma Whyte – Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill
Susie Brown – Mearns Community Council

1. Welcome

Ron Sharp welcomed all members, Trustees, Councillors and staff, and thanked them for attending the KDP AGM. He welcomed the return to face-to-face meetings.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the AGM of 24th March 2011 were presented. Their approval was proposed by Isabella Williamson and seconded by Walter McMillan.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Motion to Change Constitution – Board Membership

An explanation of the proposed change to the constitution was presented in the Agenda, as follows:

Due to a general decrease in attendance at meetings, the Board of Trustees propose the following alterations to the constitution:

Delete Clause 76: (An office bearer cannot hold the same post for more than 3 consecutive years without a year's break from the post)

*Amend Clause 40 : (The quorum for a members' meeting is 15% of the total membership, present in person or (in the case of members that are corporate bodies) present via their authorised representatives) **by reducing the quorum to 10%***

*Amend Clause 90: (No valid decisions can be taken at board meeting unless a quorum is present; the quorum for board meetings is 6 elected or co-opted trustees, present in person.) **by reducing the quorum to 5***

Those present voted unanimously to accept the amendments, and therefore the changes will be made to the Constitution and will be sent to OSCR.

5. Chairman's Report

With everything that has happened over the past 12 months, it is a great feeling to be able to meet face to face with our membership at tonight's AGM. At one point, it was in doubt whether KDP would be able to continue due to the funding cuts, and the removal of our Service Level Agreement with Economic Development due in March 2023. Due to this uncertainty, we also lost Jacky Niven, our Development Officer, which was a huge blow to KDP. The last 6 months have



seen us re-evaluate how we operate, and I am happy to report that there are encouraging signs for the future of KDP due to the hard work and commitment of both its board and staff members. I was sad to lose my vice-chair, Mairi Eddie, who has taken over the Development Officers job. Mairi has worked tirelessly in her new role and has helped to secure funding from various sources. I have recently signed off a Service Level Agreement with Kincardine & Mearns Area Office for the next 3 years, to allow KDP to carry out Community Planning work. This will provide around £20,000 per Annum. We have also been successful in securing funding from the Challenge Fund, Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and the Community Recovery Fund, which puts us in a healthy financial position for the coming year and will allow us to continue to support our communities to the same high standard that we have in the past. Mairi will provide more information in her report on the various projects we are undertaking. The success of KDP is determined by the ongoing commitment of its staff and trustees, and the support it receives from its member organisations. I would like to thank both Mairi and Margo for the work they have done over the past 12 months in difficult circumstances. We are now faced with new challenges and find ourselves in the fortunate position where we need to recruit a further member of staff. Due to the increased workload, Margo has taken on additional responsibilities as our Windfarm/Funding Officer, and we are looking to recruit an Administrator to assist with the more general duties. Our membership continues to grow, and we are also attracting new trustees. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Marion McNeil who is standing down after many years dedicated service as a trustee, we wish her the very best for the future. The Challenge Fund is being used to employ a consultant to look closely at how we are set up as an organisation and examine our future strategy and sustainability. These are exciting times for KDP, and all going well, we look forward to working and meeting with you in the year to come.

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts shown below are the Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2021 as certified by an independent examiner.

Covid-19 has left a trail of devastation behind it and KDP has not been exempt from the virus. We have had to curtail our 'hands-on' relationships with community organisations and learn new ways of remote assistance. One notable action was that KDP acted as administrator for a 'covid relief fund' and we dispensed £36,000 in a very short time period. None of the work done by KDP in this financial year could have been done without the hard work and enthusiasm of our staff; this is especially true as their burden increased when Kirsty Alchin departed for pastures new. Thanks to stringent financial control by all concerned KDP ended the year with assets £2,978 greater than in 2019-2020. However, due to the previously announced forthcoming reduction in the annual grant from Aberdeenshire Council the next financial year will be even more challenging, and it is imperative that KDP can source alternative funding in order to maintain our profile in the community which we serve.

In concluding my report, I must proffer my thanks to Corporate Solutions who have audited our accounts for many years. Charlie Sands has decided to retire and 2020-2021 is his last year working with us. KDP will miss his experience and advice in examining our books. Happy retirement Charlie.



7. Development Officer's Report

Mairi Eddie introduced herself to the audience as the new KDP Development Officer, having previously filled the role of KDP Trustee.

She highlighted some of the activities undertaken since joining and the funding that has been secured. In summary:

- Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning SLA
- Rural Partnership Challenge Fund – considering KDP's future strategy
- Communities Recovery Fund – support package for halls
- AVA Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund – community hub project

In addition, the Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development SLA continues until March 2023.

Mairi reiterated that KDP is still here to offer all the normal help and support to local voluntary groups and organisations, be it advice on governance – constitutions/ becoming a SCIO, etc; funding advice; help with community engagement or project planning, and so on.

8. Appointment of Board of Trustees

As per the KDP Constitution, all Community Council representatives are deemed to remain as Trustees until such time as they resign. Accordingly, the following Trustees all remain in place:

Arbuthnott – Isabella Williamson

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore - George Cruickshank

Stonehaven – Ian Hunter

Also as per the Constitution, Community Group Trustees remain in post until such time as they resign. The following Trustees all remain in place:

Portlethen Men's Shed – Walter McMillan

Portlethen Town Association - Ron Sharp

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association - Andrew Newton

The Bettridge Centre - Bridget Scott

Nominations were received for the Trustees, which were voted for unanimously.

Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council – Eeva-Kaisa Arter

Crathes, Drumoak and Durris – Robyn Campbell

OMTA - Sandra Davison

No further nominations were received.

Marion McNeil of Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council resigned.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor George Carr offered thanks to the Board and staff of KDP. He applauded the ability of staff to capture funding during challenging times. He informed the audience that he is always delighted to point groups in the direction of KDP to source support.

10. Thanks and Close of Meeting

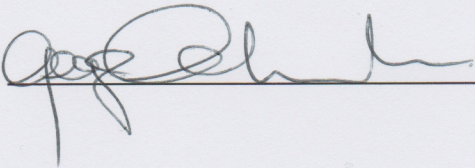
Ron thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and the formal session was concluded.



The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Minutes taken by Margo Titmuss

I, GEORGE CRUICKSHANK hereby confirm these minutes reflect a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed:  Date: 20.06.23