Kincardineshire Development Partnership
AGM – Thursday 8th June 2023 at 2 pm
St Bridget's Hall, Dunnottar Avenue, Stonehaven, AB39 2PW

Minutes

Attendees:

Bridget Scott –Bettridge Centre (Chair)
Andrew Newton – Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
George Cruickshank – Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Ian Hunter – Stonehaven Community Council
Sandra Davison – Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network
Walter McMillan – Portlethen Men's Shed
Eeva-Kaisa Arter – Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Robyn Campbell – Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council
Reid Hutchison – Aberdeenshire Council
Lesley Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Elma Wylie – Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill
Heather Hopkins - Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill
Peter Flockhart - Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Councillor Alan Turner – Aberdeenshire Council
Karen Traill – Edzell Woods Community Trust
Anne Wallace – Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Council
David Dredge – Stonehaven Horizon Group
Hilary Bell – Aberdeenshire H&SCP
Linda Duncan – Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council
Tim Stephen – Aberdeenshire Council
Starkeeper Morton – The Haven
Enid Blaikie – Braemar Sheiling
Sue Burgess – Braemar Sheiling
Gillian Grochla - Pillar Kincardine
Rose Toney – NESCAN Hub
Mark Brennan – Local Energy Scotland

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Councillor Catherine Victor
Councillor Sarah Dickinson
Councillor Alison Evison
Councillor Dawn Black
Councillor Shirley Burnett
Councillor George Carr

Julie Lindeman – Stonehaven Town Partnership
Jane Mitchell - Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network
Jane Cruickshank – The Bellman
Cherry Lawson – K&D Befriending
Chris Rushbridge – Marykirk Hall Committee
Diane Bruce – St Cyrus Community Council
Marion McNeil – Drumoak Church
Tony Peters – Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust
Danielle Dale – Sustainable Mearns

1. Welcome

Bridget Scott welcomed all members, Trustees, Councillors and staff, and thanked them for attending the KDP AGM. Apologies were noted.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the AGM of 31st March 2022 were presented. Their approval was proposed by George Cruickshank and seconded by Robyn Campbell.

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:

It is proposed that Clause 55 is amended to read:

55 The maximum number of charity trustees is 10, of which 8 must be elected under clauses 55.1, 55.2 and 55.3:

55.1 Community group representatives from the wider membership, under clause 60 and 61 (or deemed to have been appointed under clause 59).

55.2 Representatives from the 12 Kincardine and Mearns Community Council's referred to in clause 5

55.3 Individuals nominated by Community Councils

55.4 A further 2 charity trustees can be co-opted by the Board.

55.5 Trustees co-opted under clause 55.4 will have voting rights at Board Level

56 The minimum number of elected charity trustees is six.

57. A person shall not be eligible for election/appointment to the board under clauses 55.1, 55.2, 55.3 or 55.4 unless he/she is a member of the organisation or has been nominated for election/appointment to the board by a member which is a corporate body; a person appointed to the board under clause 65 need not, however, be a member of the organisation.

61 The Board may at anytime appoint any member …. To be a charity trustee in order to fill vacancies among the elected trustees defined in sub-clauses 55.1, 55.2 or 55.3. Members so co-opted will have voting rights at Board Level.

62 The Board may at any time co-opt any member ….to be a charity trustee subject to the limits stated in clause 55.4. Members so co-opted will have voting rights at Board level.

The amendments to clause 55 will mean that trustee positions are no longer reserved for representatives from local community councils. Community Councils are still most welcome to nominate a representative as a trustee, to be voted on by the wider membership, but we are looking to cut down the rather large potential number of trustees that we have at present, which is 22, to a more manageable total of 10

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. Chair's Report

I'm delighted to welcome everyone to KDP's Annual General Meeting. It's lovely to see so many in the audience today.

KDP has had yet another very challenging year - but it's been an exciting one and a positive one for the partnership - as staff and trustees have spent a lot of time working together as a team, focussing on what our priorities are and how best to achieve them.

Due to some well-written applications by Mairi, we have been fortunate enough to receive over £40,000 in grant project funding in the last 18 months, which has enabled us to carry out some important pieces of work to support the local community, and also to help KDP grow and develop.

While we were disappointed to lose our Economic Development SLA - which enabled us to carry out the majority of our core community support work over the past 9 years – we have welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with the K&M Area, Community Planning Dept.

This has enabled us to build on our considerable experience and expertise in the community consultation and place planning disciplines and has further strengthened our role within K&M as the trusted local anchor organisation which is relied upon by many small and otherwise unsupported community groups to become both sustainable and more resilient.

None of this would have been possible without our staff, whose hard work and dedication have been absolutely essential to the survival of KDP. Mairi and Margo have grown and developed together as a well-respected, trusted and efficient team, delivering above and beyond all our expectations, both for the partnership and the wider community. This is all the more remarkable given the fact that they both work in isolation from home most of the time. We congratulate them for all their efforts and achievements and hope the next 12 months prove to be less stressful.

Our biggest challenge for the coming year is to find core funding to enable us to continue to support local groups, while also growing the partnership so we have a sustainable future. The work we have done this year has provided a strong foundation for this and we are very optimistic that KDP has an exciting and productive future ahead of us.

6. Treasurer's Report

Firstly, a quick explanation. KDP holds four separate bank accounts of which only one, the Treasurer account, is reported on here; the other three accounts are ring fenced, one for each of the Wind Turbine Farms for whom KDP dispenses annual grants. KDP has no legal entitlement to these funds and separate financial reports are submitted to the relevant owner of the farms. Documents relating to the Treasurer account are now with our auditors and eventually the latter will produce a comprehensive review of KDP's finances. Unfortunately, auditor's reports are quite often difficult to understand and also the annual report may not be 'signed off' before KDP's own publication dates so I have attached an unexamined annual Receipt and Payment statement for your perusal; I do not expect any significant differences to emerge when the official audit is completed.

This financial year has witnessed the slow emergence from the last two years of covid and as expected our staff have begun to move away from working from home and re-kindling personal engagement with the community. This renewed activity is reflected in increases in travel, hire of halls, catering etc. These increases are well within expected boundaries and, strangely from a Treasurer's perspective, are welcome as it indicates that KDP is back to its primary objective of face-to-face help for our community. This renewed activity by our hard-working staff also covers seeking and obtaining grant funding for specific projects, e.g., opening community cafes, transport study etc. Overall, there is nothing in the Expenditure that gives me any cause for concern.

However, Income is different. Aberdeenshire Council made a decision three years ago to gradually stop all funding to the regional Rural Partnerships and KDP received the last trance (£22,500) in this financial year. Fortunately, KDP managed to agree a three-year Service Level Agreement with Kincardine and Mearns Area Office to provide expertise for on-going Community Planning work and the first payment was also made in this year (£19,485). Whilst this new funding is a blessing it is targeted towards a specific project and the loss of the old Economic Development SLA, and funding, means that KDP's original role of helping communities with all manners of advice, requests and general 'hand holding' has to be funded out of KDP's reserves. Obviously, this cannot continue in the long run and KDP's Development Team are now engaged in sourcing funding that will enable KDP to maintain a significant and comprehensive presence in the Kincardineshire area.

7. Development Officers' Report

Mairi Eddie, Development Officer, and Margo Titmuss, Funding & Windfarm Officer, highlighted some of the activities undertaken over the last financial year. In summary:

- Community Cafes
- Community Engagement - Edzell Woods; Inverbervie, Place Standard; Tolbooth Museum, CAT Engagement; Portlethen Jubilee Hall, Lunch Club; Oakley Information Evening
- Community Planning
- Jubilee Path Event
- Community Transport Feasibility Study
- Halls Network
- Community Windfarm Funding

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:
Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar – Eeva-Kaisa Arter
Crathes, Drumoak & Durris – Robyn Campbell
Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore - George Cruickshank
Stonehaven & District – 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:
Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network – Sandra Davison
Stonehaven Tolbooth Association - Andrew Newton
The Bettridge Centre - Bridget Scott

Nominations were received for the Trustees, which were voted for unanimously.
The Haven – Starkeeper Morton

Walter McMillan of Portlethen Mens Shed resigned.

9. Any Other Business

No AOCB

10. Presentations

Interesting and informative presentations were enjoyed by:
Mark Brennan of Local Energy Scotland
Rose Toney of NESCAN Hub

10. Thanks and Close of Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Minutes taken by Margo Titmuss

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____