Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Kincardineshire Development Partnership
AGM – Thursday 20th June 2024 at 2 pm
The Bettridge Centre, Greystone Place, Newtonhill, AB39 3UL

Minutes

Attendees:
George Cruickshank – Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council (Chair)
Bridget Scott –Bettridge Centre
Ian Hunter – Stonehaven Community Council
Eeva-Kaisa Arter – Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Peter Flockhart – TRAK
Starkeeper Morton – The Haven
Cherry Lawson – K&D Befriending
Shona Adamson – K&D Befriending
Julie Gray – The Community Collective
Morag Jamieson – The Community Collective
Elma Wylie – Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill
Heather Hopkins - Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill
Claire Jessiman – The Community Collective
Tony Peters – Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust
Sandy Noble - Auchenblae Community Association
Tim Stephen – Aberdeenshire Council
Gillian Grochla - Pillar Kincardine
Cath Allwood – Johnshaven Community Café
Carol Hutton– Johnshaven Community Café
Maria-Elisa Metson – Johnshaven Community Café
Jane Cruickshank – The Bellman
John Cruickshank – Stonehaven Horizon Group
Joanna Fraser – Friends of Denlethen Woods
Wendy Plevey – The Living Room
Chris Adam – St Cyrus Community Council
Peter Moir – St Cyrus Public Hall
Henning Wagner – Mill of Benholm
Wendy Wagner – Mill of Benholm
Julie Lindeman – Stonehaven Town Partnership
Lesley Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Lesley Cockayne – Auchenblae Cafe
David Cockayne – Auchenblae Cafe
Amanda Greig – OaKley ASN
Councillor Sarah Dickinson
Maxine McCall – OaKley ASN

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Natalie Jurdeczka – The Haven in Stonehaven
Suki Mills – The National Lottery

In Attendance:
Mairi Eddie – Development Officer

Apologies:
Andrew Newton – Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Councillor Alan Turner
Councillor Shirley Burnett
Councillor Alison Evison
Reid Hutchison – Aberdeenshire Council
Dawn Black – Councillor & K&M Youth Clubs
Jane Mitchell - Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network
David Dredge – Stonehaven Horizon Group
Andrew McDonald – Mearns Community Council
Denise Hutcheon – Stonehaven Amateur Swimming Club

1. Welcome
George Cruickshank 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 8th June 2023 were presented. Their approval was proposed by Bridget Scott and seconded by Ian Hunter.

3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report
Good afternoon and welcome to KDP's Annual General Meeting, I'm delighted to see such a good turnout.
Like many other charitable organisations, the past year has been without doubt challenging but very exciting and positive for the partnership.
We continue to pursue and attract new funding and to increase the scope of work that we undertake.
We continue to increase our membership: we now have over 100 member groups, and we strive to offer assistance and support to these groups.
There have been some highlights for the year such as the 4 community cafés in Johnshaven, Auchenblae, Inverbervie and Stonehaven which were helped to get set-

up and are all now thriving, also the volunteer recruitment event which numerous local groups supported plus the unveiling of our new branding and website.
The staff and trustees are always seeking to find new methods for supporting our communities and we foresee that in the near future we will be very much involved with climate adaptation activities, concentrating on sustainability and offering learning opportunities and assistance with these events. Our aim is to be community led and any input from our members is always welcome.
None of this would have been possible had it not been for our staff, whose hard work and dedication has been absolutely essential in the survival of KDP. Mairi and Margo have developed into a well-regarded, trustworthy and effective team generating above and beyond all expectations across both KDP and the broader community.
The trustees would like to acknowledge their efforts and successes and hope that the next 12 months will be less stressful.
Our biggest battle for the future will be to source core funding to enable KDP to continue to support groups in the area whilst developing the partnership in order for us to have a sustainable future.
The work that has been achieved this year has delivered a strong base for this and we are extremely confident that KDP has a very exhilarating and vibrant future ahead.

5. Treasurer's Report
Read by Bridget Scott on behalf of Andrew Newton, who could not attend the meeting:
As the latest audited accounts are complicated to understand, I have removed all references to the three ring fenced windfarm accounts as these are subject to examination by the relevant windfarm operators and only create confusion when examining KDP's core activities. KDP's priority is to focus on operational income and running costs.
From the outset I have to comment that it has been another difficult year for KDP. The heart of the problem is the decision made a couple of years ago by Aberdeenshire Council to taper off grants to the Shire's Rural Partnerships. The last payment received by KDP was in 2022-2023. The table shows that in the year under review we experienced a loss of £22,500 in funding. This is a significant drop in income, made all the worst as it funded the prime cause of KDP's existence, namely support to local communities. We are continuing to work with local communities by focusing more on practical support and by utilising some of our financial reserves but the use of the latter cannot continue beyond the short term.
To a certain extent the loss of Rural Partnership support has been compensated by agreeing a three year SLA with Kincardineshire & Mearns Area management whereby KDP provide expertise on community planning, food access work, community engagement etc.
The Trustees and work colleagues are well aware of the difficulties in obtaining grants for charity day-to-day running costs and Mairi in particular has been very creative in

adjusting work activities to align with funders' requirements. It is a great pleasure to record that Mairi have just received notification of a grant of £11,070 to be spent over the next 18 months. This grant will help KDP support our existing networks (halls, cafes and grassroots) and, in addition, provide funding for 4 new workshops – 2 on Place Planning and 2 on Climate Adaption. This will undoubtedly alleviate some of the short term financial pressures but given the high regard accorded to KDP, by both the general public and local government, more secure funding is urgently required to enable us to continue our core work.
I end on a more positive note. Both Mairi and Margo keep a very close eye on the finances and as a result expenditure is down considerably from the previous financial year; at the same time both are constantly monitoring the funding scene and writing applications. Sometimes with a positive result as can be witnessed by success in securing paid consultancy work on a Water Resilience Project and the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (via Mearns Academy) – the latter paying for a new website and two Volunteer Fairs.

7. Development Officers' Report
Mairi Eddie, Development Officer highlighted some of the activities undertaken over the last financial year. In summary:

- Rebranding & Website
- Community Cafes
- Community Planning
- Volunteer Recruitment Event
- K&M Halls Network
- Windfarm Community Funding
- Future Projects

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

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore - George Cruickshank
Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar – Eeva-Kaisa Arter
Crathes, Drumoak & Durris – Robyn Campbell
Stonehaven & District – Ian Hunter
Stonehaven Tolbooth Association - Andrew Newton
The Bettridge Centre - Bridget Scott
The Haven – Starkeeper Morton

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Peter Flockhart, representing TRAK, has acted as a co-opted Trustee was voted on as full Trustee. This was proposed by George Cruickshank and seconded by Ian Hunter.

9. Any Other Business
No AOCB

10. Presentations
Interesting and informative presentations were enjoyed by:
Suki Mills of The National Lottery
Henning Wagner of Mill of Benholm Enterprise

10. Thanks and Close of Meeting
George thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and the formal session was concluded.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Minutes taken by Bridget Scott

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

Signed: _____ Date: 19/06/25