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## Lanark Community Development Trust

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - 7pm Castlebank Horticultural Centre

#### Present

##### LCDT Board Members

Sylvia Russell (Chairman); Tom Anderson (Company Secretary); Graham U'ren; Loraine Swan; Eleanor McLean; Graeme McLeish; Val Barr; Jane Masters; Melissa Reilly

##### LCDT Board Advisors

Cllr Catherine McClymont (member) Cllr Richard Elliot Lockhart

##### LCDT Membership

John Russell; Margaret Seymour; David Orr; Paul Archibald; Ed Archer

##### LCDT Staff

David Dalgliesh

#### Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Julia Marrs; Niall McShannon

##### 1. Welcome

Sylvia Russell welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM and thanked everyone for coming along to the event, saying she was happy at the number of people in attendance.

##### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

##### 3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The 2022 minutes were circulated prior to the AGM. These were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Eleanor McLean and seconded by Melissa Reilly.

##### 4. Matters arising from the previous AGM Minutes.

No matters arising.

##### 5. Financial Report & Annual Accounts – Tom Anderson

The final accounts for the year to the end of June 2022 were circulated prior to the AGM. Tom Anderson said they had been filed with Companies House and the charity regulator OSCR.

Tom briefly went through the accounts and their composition. Tom said the accounts were signed off by a qualified accountant, with no issues disclosed. Tom reported that the Trust had approximately £43,000 in unrestricted reserves giving the LCDT a healthy financial cushion.

It was reported that although the Centre is generating money, the main source of income continues to be grants and donations, with staff and project costs being the biggest outlay of expenditure.

There were no questions for Tom regarding the accounts.

As the accounts had already been approved by the board, there was no need to hold a vote to approve them.

Sylvia thanked Tom for his continued hard work over the last year.

## **6. Amendments to the Articles of Association**

Prior to the AGM, members of the Trust were issued with the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association.

The first proposed amendment was to article 76 of the constitution which stated:

*The maximum number of directors shall be 11 out of that number, no more than 6 shall be Member Directors and no more than 5 shall be Co-opted Directors.*

It was recommended to members present that this be amended because the 6/5 split of elected member directors and co-opted directors complicate the smooth running of the board. The following recommendation was unanimously approved by the members present at the meeting:

*The maximum number of elected member directors shall be 11 with flexibility to co-opt additional temporary advisors as required for specific projects.*

Articles 49 and 52 were also changed to increase notice of an AGM to 28 days, and nominations for board membership no less than 14 days prior to an AGM. This was unanimously approved by the members present at the meeting.

## **7. Chairman's Report – Sylvia Russell**

The chairman's report consisted of the following items:

### **VISION FOR LANARK**

This a partnership project with Discover Lanark, New Lanark Trust and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (Falls of Clyde). *This was covered as a separate item later in the agenda.*

### **STRATEGIC PLAN & BOARD TRAINING**

Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) has run several training sessions for the board covering statutory duties, legal obligations and governance. DTAS has also granted £10,000 funding from the 'Green Shoots' fund to hire Community Enterprise to work with the board to develop a revised business plan. An additional £4,000 was awarded to help us revamp our website.

### **STAFFING CHANGES**

We received confirmation from the Lottery that they would grant us a three year extension to the educational Gardener post taking us to March 2025. However, you may remember that Stuart

Ritchie, had intimated that he wanted to leave at the end of his current contract and finished up with LCDT the day after last year's AGM.

Stuart's final job was to help us select his successor, Walter McArthur. Walter has done an amazing job over the past year. We now have a waiting list for the volunteer sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Walter has increased income considerably with his plant sales. Under his guidance, the volunteers have re-sited the beehives and are currently developing a Japanese Garden beside the Horticulture Centre. We have also taken on Zoe as a student placement 2 days a week for a year.

### **CASTLEBANK ACTIVITIES**

Bookings for the classroom have been good. Two or three businesses regularly book the centre and overall bookings are generating an income of around £700 per month. The income generated from Jan 2022 until December 2022 is as follows:

- Room hires - £8265 - £700 a month
- Courses - £7223

Plant Sales - £5403

- Workshops & Open days - £1520

This totals approximately £22,704.

The income is allowing us to contribute towards the salaries of both the Educational Gardener and our Admin Officer and reduce our reliance on grant funding.

- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bench was funded with donations from Lanimer Committee, Lanark Inner Wheel, Lanark Rotary, Lanark Roundtable, the Lord Cornets' Club and The Guildry of Lanark. LCDT paid for the Prince Charles bench with some of the money from the Prince's donation following his visit in 2019.

- Beehive Enclosure has been relocated and enlarged. The work was done by our volunteers and Community Payback.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are so fortunate to have a great group of volunteers who give us so much assistance with maintaining the gardens. They turn up in all weathers and do a wonderful job.

### **CLYDESDALE HORSE PROJECT**

Planning consent was granted to erect a statue of a Clydesdale Horse at a field adjacent to Lanark Auction Market. During the Summer term, educational talks were given to all Primary 7 pupils in the five local primary schools with the pupils given a copy of the Clydesdale Horse Booklet to take home with them. Fund raising for the overall cost of £55,000 began with successful grant applications to Levensat Trust and the Renewable Energy Fund totalling £35,000. A Crowdfunding appeal was launched, and many private donors contributed. In total we raised £57,000 for this project which included £50,000 for the construction of the horse and a further £5000 for the construction of the mound on which it stands. The horse was finally lowered into place on 19th July 2022 and we had an 'unveiling' ceremony on 23 July with major donors, invited guests and dignitaries present.

### **Visit of the Duke of Rothesay**

We were surprised and delighted when The Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire contacted us to say that Prince Charles wished to visit the sculpture in his capacity of a Patron of the Clydesdale Horse Society. The visit duly took place on 7th September and was his last official visit as Prince of Wales as he became King the following day on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

### **WALLACE HOUSE SITE**

The Wallace House Project is being developed jointly by LCDT and Discover Lanark. Discover Lanark has received funding of £20,000 from Scotland Loves Local fund and is also putting in some of its own funds. LCDT's part in the project is to take on the 5-year lease of the vacant Castlegate site. There is a £3000 shortfall in funding for the project and LCDT agreed to run a Crowdfunding Appeal to make up the deficit. Work has begun on the site and the murals are due to be painted in May when the weather improves.

### **SCOTLAND'S YEAR OF STORIES**

This was another joint project with Discover Lanark which we ran in the October Schools' Holiday week. The Elephant in the Close and Other Tall Tales was a week-long festival of walking, talking and storytelling. It featured the telling of ten Lanark stories, some well-known, some little known and some entirely new. All had a direct link to Lanark, its past and its present, and celebrated the uniqueness of the town and surrounding area. Each session ended in a café, inn or a picnic of hot chocolate and cake. Virtually every session was fully booked and was greatly enjoyed by the participants. The whole event was so successful that we are considering making it an annual festival.

### **St KENTIGERN'S PROJECT/ DEAD MAN'S LANE**

*This was covered as a separate item later in the agenda.*

### **ALVO BUILDING**

The Trust was approached by the trustees of ALVO with the offer of a free asset transfer of the building on Hope Street/ Bloomgate. ALVO is winding up and as the building was purchased with Lottery Funding the best solution for them would be to dispose of it by transferring ownership to another Trust. There are issues with the condition of the building, and we are currently carrying out a conditions survey and feasibility study before making a decision. We have applied for grant funding of £26,000 to meet the fees for the condition survey, an options appraisal, and consultants to prepare outline designs and costs for appropriate alterations and repairs.

### **CORONATION CELEBRATIONS**

LCDT has taken on a co-ordinating role for Coronation Events. We called together all interested parties and have distributed an events programme. We have commissioned a Coronation Bench which will be sited near the railway station. Most of the £1130 cost of this has already been raised with public donations. GP Plantscape are also providing planting tubs to all the local schools and nurseries which will be decorated with a coronation theme and put on display near the Tolbooth. SLC has provided a free let of the Memorial Hall and we are holding a Celebration Concert on Friday 5th May with local groups performing. This will be free for elderly people, but tickets will also be on sale at the Box Office at £5.

## **8. Development Managers Report – David Dalgliesh**

David reported that LCDT had received £4,000 from the DTAS to upgrade the Trust's website and for rebranding. Monogram Creative was appointed to carry out this work.

David ran through a presentation of the new logo and the thinking behind the new design. Taking inspiration from the current logo, the new design strengthens what worked well, whilst giving it a modern twist.

In addition, David showed members the progress that had been made on the website. The new site is easier to navigate and find information. Furthermore, it will feature more prominently the work of the Trust and be a key tool in communicating with the public and funders.

## **9. Educational Gardener's Report – Walter McArthur**

*No report given.*

**\*\*Jane Masters & Loraine Swan left the meeting at this point\*\***

## **10. Vision for Lanark Report – Graham U'ren**

Graham gave an overview of activities of the Vision over the last year, it included the following items:

- The launch of Vision Strategy in April, along with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the four partners.
- The submission of the Heritage and Place Programme application. Graham informed the members present that although ultimately unsuccessful, the National Lottery Heritage Fund is keen to work with the Trust and its partners. This is key to the heritage theme in the Vision. Graham said dialogue with South Lanarkshire will continue to establish a better working relationship.
- Graham reported that the Power-Trail application to SSE sustainable development fund was successful, and work will begin on delivering that project in the coming weeks.
- A tourism strategy has been approved by the Vision technical group, which aims to establish a relationship with rural Clydesdale and South Lanarkshire Council.
- Discussions with South Lanarkshire Council over a local place plan are ongoing which could have a big impact within the town.
- Another key priority of the Vision is to establish a new welcome centre and access road at New Lanark, one of the partners in the Vision for Lanark.

Sylvia thanked Graham for his report and work over the year on the Vision for Lanark.

## **11. St. Kentigern's Report – Eleanor McLean**

Eleanor gave background information to the work at St. Kentigern's, stating that the purpose of the work at the site is to promote and preserve the history of St. Kentigern's and Lanark in general.

Eleanor's report included the following:

- South Lanarkshire Council has stabilised the walls at St. Kentigern's thanks to LCDT highlighting the need for repair.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the roundabout was named 'St. Kentigern's Roundabout'.
- Gas and electricity substations upgraded by SP energy networks and SGN respectively.

- South Lanarkshire have cleaned the entrance to the site and removed any debris and the old gates that were at the site.
- Lanark Grammar School have been involved in the redevelopment of Deadman's Lane, which is adjacent to St. Kentigern's and will play a big role in the coming months as the work is carried out at Deadman's Lane.
- Eleanor gave a run-down of the plans at Deadman's Lane, which will be resurfaced and the fence replaced, which will have a mural painted on it by Lanark Grammar School.

Sylvia thanked Eleanor for her report and work over the year on St. Kentigern's and Deadman's Lane.

## **12. Election of Directors**

In December we lost a long term board member and generous sponsor, John Cunningham of Border Biscuits. John had been a board member since 2013 and his sudden death was a huge shock to his family and also to the community as John had been such a major player in driving forward his vision for Lanark. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Tina and his family.

Sylvia said that elections to the board would take place under the new rules as agreed in item 6 on the agenda. The current make-up of the board was outlined as below:

Elected members are as follows:

Sylvia Russell, Eleanor McLean, Graham U'ren, Graeme McLeish, Val Barr.

Co-opted members are as follows:

Melissa Reilly, Loraine Swan, Jane Masters.

Prior to the AGM, each co-opted board member indicated that they wished to stand again as a board member. It was proposed by Sylvia Russell that each of the three co-opted members should be elected to the board and have 'elected' board member status.

The membership was asked to approve this proposal.

It was unanimously agreed by those present.

Sylvia Russell reported that Bill Tennant had applied to become a board member of LCDT. Those present were asked to vote on Bill's election to the LCDT.

It was unanimously agreed by those present to elect Bill Tennant to the LCDT board.

The LCDT board now consists of the following members:

Sylvia Russell, Eleanor McLean, Graham U'ren, Graeme McLeish, Val Barr, Melissa Reilly, Loraine Swan, Jane Masters & Bill Tennant.

This still leaves two elected member vacancies on the board. There is now the option to co-opt another two members to the board should the need arise.

## **13. AOCB**

*No other business was raised.*

## **14. Conclusions and Thanks**

Sylvia thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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