

Dunlop and District Community Company

Annual General Meeting – 13th February 2019

Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting

1. **Welcome:**

Andrew Pinkerton, as Convener of the Board welcomed everybody to the meeting and confirmed that notice of the meeting had been publicised in the January edition of the Dunlop Diary, on social media and through posters displayed at three locations in the village.

Present: 24 members of the community including the following directors – Andrew Pinkerton, Douglas Bell and Sue Scott

2. **Apologies**

David Kerr, Roy & Sheila Wylie, Marilyn Bell, Carolyn Blyth, Ian & Penny Buchanan, Stephanie Craig, Anne Young, Linda Pinkerton.

3. **Minutes of the 15th AGM held on Wednesday 17th January 2018**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Alan Porter and seconded by Janette Millar.

4. **Financial report**

Abbreviated accounts were circulated to the members present and the convener introduced the Company's independent examiner Alistair Brown who reviewed the accounts.

It was noted that

- No external grants are received towards the running of the hall and that all expenses have to be met from hall lets and other company activities.
- There had been a healthy increase in the income contribution from the café & bar, cinema and art exhibitions.
- The increase in insurance costs was as a result of East Ayrshire Council recharging the buildings insurance costs for the property.
- £9,108 was added to the company reserves in the financial year.

Members were advised that copies of the full accounts were available on request and would be posted on the Company website and lodged with Companies House.

A member present asked if there was a 3-5 year strategy for investment in the property and also whether there were any plans to pursue the 'community asset transfer' of the building. The convener drew attention to the reserves that had been built up and advised that investment in the building was under consideration by the Board. He also advised that any Community asset transfer actions had been put on hold as it was felt that pursuing this while 'community ownership' initiatives relating to another village property were being taken forward would be counter productive.

The Convener thanked Alistair Brown and the Treasurer, Sheila Wylie, for their efficient management of the company's financial affairs.

5. **Trustees report**

The Convener referred to the published Trustees Report for the year ended 31 July 2018, but as this only refers to the activities of the company in its last financial year, he saw the AGM report as providing a good opportunity not just to look back on that work but also to look forward and bring to members attention some of the challenges facing the company in 2019.

He highlighted that the main objective of the company continues to be the management, operation and maintenance of the Dunlop Village Hall as an asset for the benefit of the local community. In addition, the company has a further objective to maintain the playing field and associated pavilion in the centre of the village as useful outdoor recreation facilities and to improve them as appropriate to meet community needs.

The diversity of use of Dunlop Village Hall was demonstrated by a review of the bookings calendar for a couple of typical weeks and the flexibility of the facilities was shown by the number of different types of one-off events that it has hosted, including three wedding receptions on consecutive weekends in the summer.

Attention was also drawn to the social function of the hall in providing a useful additional resource for Dunlop Primary School, and through the role it plays in bringing the community together through the café, cinema and art exhibitions.

The convener thanked the volunteers who give their time and expertise in support of the management and operation of the facilities and activities run by the company, but stressed the significant challenge of maintaining this volunteer resource, particularly at Trustee level. He suggested that it may be time to look at a different model of operation so that the load can be spread and resources used more efficiently. He encouraged everyone to consider how they might support the Trustees in all their work.

In thanking the convener for his report, a member present endorsed the concerns regarding diminishing numbers of volunteers, noting that this was wider issue facing many community organisations and suggesting that consideration may have to be given to creating paid roles. He also suggested that some co-ordination of events across the community might be helpful.

6. Election of Directors

The convener intimated that two Directors were stepping down from the Board.

David Kerr has served since 2013 and having completed two three year terms is required by the articles of association to stand down.

Andrew Pinkerton also intimated that he was stepping down as Convener and also from the Board for personal reasons.

Both were thanked for their service to the Company.

There had been no nominations received for new Directors, and the Convener advised that while technically the company could continue to operate with two Directors, this was felt to be an unsatisfactory position that could not be allowed to exist for long. It was noted that Directors can be co-opted at any time and all present were urged to assist the remaining Directors in identifying candidates who could be approached to join the Board.

7. AOCB

No items of AOCB were raised.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.