

## **Dunlop and District Community Company**

### **Annual General Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual general meeting

Chairman Peter Inglis welcomed everybody to the meeting.

#### **Present**

40 members of the community including the following directors – Peter Inglis, Andrew Pinkerton, Linda Pinkerton, David Kerr, Douglas Bell and Sue Scott

#### **Apologies**

Marilyn Bell, Jimmy Howie, Alison Howie, Jimmy Young

### **Approval of the Minutes of the 13th AGM held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Approval of the minutes were proposed by Douglas Bell and seconded by David Kerr.

Peter Inglis introduced our Treasurer Sheila Wyllie and thanked her very much for all her continued good work.

He then introduced the Company's independent examiner Alistair Brown.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Alistair Brown pointed out that the Company is a charity and the Directors are trustees of that limited Company. He stated that the full accounts can be viewed on the Company website and that we are required to register with OSCAR.

The account list all the grants that the Company have received over the years which amounts to over £576,00

Abbreviated accounts were circulated to the members present and he stated that the hall rental income is about £300 down on last year at £18415, with the biggest let income coming from PEACE. Cinema net income is up slightly at £2626 whereas the café net income is also slightly down at £7064. However, the bar net income is up at £2074.

Expenditure is down on last year mainly due to very little repairs being undertaken. The biggest expenditure continues to be utilities at £9392.

Expenditure and increase in funds show that 42% is due to 'increase in funds' which includes donations from the Gala, Burns Club, Masons and interest on bank accounts, with utilities 34%, cleaning 13%, repairs 8% and management 3%

Peter thanked Alistair very much for all his hard work.

#### **Directors' Report**

Peter introduced the Directors: Peter Inglis, Andrew Pinkerton, Linda Pinkerton, David Kerr, Douglas Bell and Sue Scott and Shiona Paterson.

He then continued ...

'Dunlop Village Hall is used by a broad range of community groups covering all ages of the local population and on most weekdays there can be activities taking place from 6:00am right through to 11:00pm. We have estimated that on average, up to 400 different people will use the facilities of the Hall during a typical week.

As in previous years, PEACE childcare provides before and after school care and the breakfast club continues to be popular with its young patrons. Dunlop Players continue to make significant use of the Hall and their annual pantomime is always a hit, enjoyed by audience and cast alike. We must admire the people who attend the early morning Keep Fit classes at 6.30am. There are further Keep Fit classes during the day and also Pilates and Yoga classes. Taekwondo is well attended by both boys and girls.

The art classes, together with a knitting and a sewing group provide outlets for those with artistic or handcraft interests. The Community Cinema continues to go from strength to strength screening both mainstream and more specialised films. Screenings are invariably well attended and enjoyed. The small band of enthusiastic volunteers who manage the Cinema deserves credit for this initiative which provides an enjoyable night out for members of the community as well as being a useful income stream for the Company. Sunday afternoon shows for children are usually packed out.

The Art Exhibitions in the Conservatory Café which change every 6 weeks or so give an opportunity to local artists to display (and sell) their work, and the commission also helps the Company.

The Masons and the SWRI also hold their meetings in the Hall.

A number of weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties and other social events have been held in the Hall in addition to dances, concerts and Christmas Fairs.

The Café continues to open on Thursdays and Fridays and on the first Saturday of the month. Our thanks are due to Lesley, our Café Manager, who has managed to ensure that it is adequately staffed.

These are only some of the activities which take place in the Hall. On the display boards, there are a couple of weekly calendars which give a flavour of typical weeks in the Hall. The diversity of these events and activities ensures that the Hall continues to be a focal point of the community, catering for all interests and ages.

The Village Hall depends on the volunteers who work in the café, help run the Cinema, open and close the building for the various user groups, or contribute to the work of the various committees. Without them, the Village Hall could not function. The Trustees would again like to put on record their appreciation of the work done by them. New volunteers are always needed and any help you could give would be much appreciated – even for a couple of hours at a time. On the display boards you can find some of the ways you could help by giving a few hours of your time. Please take time to look at them and, if you feel you could help, speak to one of the Directors.

Almost 40% of our income comes from the café, the cinema, the bar and other fundraising events. Just under 60% comes from hire charges paid by our User Groups and other Hall users. So we would also like to thank the User Groups for using our Hall. And of course we would like to thank everyone who supports the Hall in any other way – by patronising the café, attending the cinema and other events taking place in the Hall.

The Trustees are alert to the need to ensure that the building is operated and maintained efficiently. As energy costs now represent more than 50% of Company expenditure, measures are being considered to improve the thermal performance of the building fabric and address the inefficiencies of an ageing heating installation. An application for funding was made to East Ayrshire Council's Renewable Energy Fund and while a grant of £200,000 was offered this could not be taken up due to it not being possible to secure adequate match funding within required timescales. As several potential funders stipulate ownership of the asset as a condition of their support, the Trustees have opened negotiations with East Ayrshire Council with a view to transferring ownership of the building to the Company.

The objective of the improvement project is to deliver long term reductions in operating costs and ensure long term sustainability of Dunlop Village Hall as a well-used local facility for community activities.

In addition to managing Dunlop Village Hall, the Trustees have taken a lead role in supporting a number of local community groups who are pursuing a proposal to take over responsibility for the playing field in the centre of the village. The facility is in poor condition and can no longer be used for football, and subject to a lease being agreed with East Ayrshire Council, the objective is to develop it into a more useful outdoor recreation space. This project meets the objectives of the Company in that it can help to promote, protect, conserve and enhance the environment of Dunlop and District for the benefit of and enjoyment of current and future inhabitants. Following this meeting, Andrew Pinkerton will give a presentation on progress on that front, so please stay for that.’

### **Questions**

A number of questions were raised by members regarding the proposed ‘Community Asset Transfer’ of Dunlop Playing Field and Pavilion from East Ayrshire Council to the Company. The questions covered various issues including the timeframe for the transfer; the terms of the transfer; the funding and financing of the activity; and consultation with the community.

Andrew Pinkerton replied on behalf of the Board and advised that the presentation on the current status of negotiations with East Ayrshire Council being given immediately following the AGM would address the issues raised.

Peter Inglis confirmed that the transfer and subsequent management of the Playing Field and Pavilion would not be subsidised by the running of the Village Hall and that members would be given the opportunity to comment on the terms of the transfer in advance of any agreements being signed.

### **Demission and Election of Directors**

Linda Pinkerton has served as a User Group Director and Shiona Paterson as an Ordinary Director for three years and under the terms of the constitution are required to stand down. Neither is offering herself for re-election.

Peter indicated that both of these ladies has worked extremely hard for the Company and we owe them a huge thank you. He asked the members to show how much they appreciated their contribution to the community and noted that both had offered to continue to support the Company in any whatever way they can.

Peter continued, ‘Under the terms of our constitution, nominations for Directorship must be received 7 days before this meeting and we have not received any. So we are left with 4 Ordinary Directors and one User Group Director. Ideally there would be 6 Ordinary Directors and 3 User Group Directors, so we have vacancies for 2 Ordinary Directors and 2 User Group Directors. The Directors do a lot of work behind the scenes – it’s not just a case of turning up at a monthly Board meeting, so it’s really important that we fill these vacancies. If anyone here tonight would be interested or knows someone who might, please speak to one of the Directors’.

### **Any Other Business.**

There was no other business to be discussed.

### **Close**