

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Minute of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Sunday 4th September 4 pm,
In person at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld and by Zoom

Present (in person) – Provisional and Full Members: Antermony Development Trust, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative, Banchory & District Initiative, Beith Community Development Trust, Brora Development Trust, Burntisland Community Development Trust, Carluke Development Trust, Community Central Hall, Cupar Development Trust, Ekopia Social Investments Ltd, Evanton Community Trust, Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Community Development Trust, Finnerne Development Trust, Forres Area Community Trust, Fuse Youth Café, Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE), Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA), Glenboig Development Trust, Growing 21, Kirknewton Community Development Trust, Lanark Community Development Trust, Mayfield and Easthouses Development Trust, Moffat Town Hall Re-development Trust, Mull and Iona Community Trust, North West Mull Community Woodland Company, Portree and Braes Community Trust, Rosemount Development Trust, Sleat Community Trust, South Seeds, The Ardchattan Centre, The Ecology Centre, The Pavillion (Greater Easterhouse), Torry Development Trust

Present (on Zoom) – Provisional and Full Members: Ardoch Development Trust, Linlithgow Community Development Trust, The Isle of Jura Development Trust

Present - Associate Members: Jim Bristow, Eric Munro, Royal Bank of Scotland, tsiMoray.

In attendance: Craig Allan, Pamela Barnes, Anna Bavington, Audrey Dunn, Alice Duthuille, Ruth Evans, Linda Gillespie, Denise Havard, David Henderson, Katie Little, Morven Lyon, Kay Marwick, Elspeth Mathieson, Sheila Patel, Toby Sandison, Pauline Smith, Felix Spittal, Laura Worku

Reid Hutchison, Aberdeenshire Council; Ian Cooke, Acorns2Trees; Victoria Pearce, Community Enterprise; Paul Roberts, DTNI; Tony Armstrong, Alison Haskins, Locality; Barbara Kerr, Lisa Morton, Sustrans

1. Welcome and Introduction

DTAS Chair, Jim Bristow (JB), welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting which was the first one in-person since 2019, as well as those attending on Zoom. JB particularly welcomed visitors from DTNI and Locality.

JB thanked the whole Board for all of their hard work and support over the past year and especially the Treasurer and Vice-Chair. JB also thanked Mark McRitchie who had stepped in as interim Chief Executive for several months and welcomed Pauline Smith as Chief Executive.

JB introduced Eric Munro (EM), Board Trustee and Treasurer, who would give an overview of DTAS finances and Pauline Smith (PS), DTAS Chief Executive who would present the appointment of the Board of Trustees and the annual review.

JB confirmed that the meeting was quorate (quorum: 15 members).

2. Apologies

The AGM noted apologies from Burnfoot Community Futures and Woodlands Community Development Trust.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minute of last year's Annual General Meeting, held on Sunday 5th September 2021, was approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust

Seconded: Sylvia Russell, Lanark Community Development Trust

There were no matters arising.

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer, EM, presented the Annual Accounts for 2021-2022, copies of which were made available in advance of the AGM in the Members Area of the DTAS website.

In the verbal finance report, it was explained that the consolidated accounts covered both DTAS the charity, and the wholly-owned trading subsidiary, DTAS Trading. The Community Shares programme was run through DTAS Trading, while almost all the other income and expenditure went through the main charity.

The DTAS board had decided to move the Community Shares programme into the main charity as of 1st April 2022. With minimal activity taking place in the trading subsidiary, it was likely that this would be the final year when consolidated accounts would be required.

As a charity, the audited accounts were produced using the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting & Reporting for charities) framework. EM explained that SORP figures affected DTAS accounts this year, highlighting £200k of core grant funding for 2021-22 was accounted for in last year's accounts.

EM reported Reserves of £493,941 (Unrestricted total £370,173 and Restricted £123,768). EM informed the AGM that although DTAS currently has a three-month reserves policy the aim of the Finance & Resources sub-group was to increase this incrementally over the next few years to six months.

The report showed that the group had an overall deficit of £99,241 (Charity deficit £119,154 and DTAS Trading surplus £19,912), and that without SORP the Charity had a surplus of £80,846 (Unrestricted £15,748 and Restricted £65,098).

EM further explained a number of figures within the accounts and in conclusion, reported that the DTAS financial position is reasonably robust and that the current accounts are in good order.

In closing, EM thanked the DTAS finance team for their efforts.

The Chair noted that the accounts had been audited by Robb Ferguson Accountants and approved by the Board of Directors. There were no questions to the Treasurer and the AGM formally approved the Annual Accounts for 2021-2022.

Proposed: Sandy Brunton, Mull and Iona Community Trust

Seconded: Wendy Reid, North West Mull Community Woodland Company

The Chair explained that the DTAS Board was recommending that Robb Ferguson Accountants be re-appointed as auditors for the year 2022-2023, and this proposal was agreed by the AGM.

Proposed: Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust

Seconded: Mark McRitchie, Community Central Hall

5. Appointment of the Board of Trustees for 2022-23

A profile of all Board candidates was available in advance of the AGM on the Members Area of the DTAS website.

PS explained that the DTAS Constitution required that one third of the current Trustees on the Board retire at the AGM, but that they were entitled to seek re-election. This year these were:

- Full Member Trustee, Lesley Garbutt, Kirkcudbright Development Trust was standing down and **NOT** seeking re-election
- Full Member Trustee, Lindsay Wood, Burnfoot Community Futures, was standing down, but seeking re-election.
- Associate Member Trustee Eric Munro, Individual, was standing down, but seeking re-election

Seven further nominations had been received:

- Graham Black, Full Member, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust
- Sarah Compton-Bishop, Full Member, Isle of Jura Development Trust
- David Fryer, Full Member, Torry Development Trust
- Stephen McCarron, Full Member, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative
- Mark McRitchie, Full Member, Community Central Hall
- Michael Roy, Full Member (pending), Antermony Development Trust
- Tracy Thomson, Associate Member, Royal Bank of Scotland

The DTAS Constitution required that co-opted directors also stand down at the AGM but could be re-appointed for the following year:

- Reid Hutchison of Aberdeenshire Council was co-opted on to the Board for 2021-22. The DTAS Board was proposing to co-opt Reid again for 2022-23.

The AGM was therefore asked to agree the following as the proposed DTAS Board for 2022-2023:

6 continuing Trustees:

- Jim Bristow, Associate Member, Individual
- Sandy Brunton, Full Member, Mull & Iona Community Trust
- Jane Lamont, Full Member, Beith Community Development Trust
- Janet Miles, Full Member, Gairloch & Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE)
- Tom Sneddon, Full Member, Carluke Development Trust
- Alex Walker, Full Member Ekopia Social Investments

2 Trustees seeking re-election:

- Eric Munro, Individual Associate Member
- Lindsay Wood, Full Member, Burnfoot Community Futures

1 Co-opted Trustee:

- Reid Hutchison, Co-opted Trustee, Aberdeenshire Council

7 New Trustee nominations:

- Graham Black, Full Member, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust
- Sarah Compton-Bishop, Full Member, Isle of Jura Development Trust
- David Fryer, Full Member, Torry Development Trust
- Stephen McCarron, Full Member, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative
- Mark McRitchie, Full Member, Community Central Hall
- Michael Roy, Full Member (pending), Antermony Development Trust
- Tracy Thomson, Associate Member, Royal Bank of Scotland

PS noted that this was one more trustee than the DTAS constitution, but that the constitution allowed for the number to be changed at the AGM. The AGM agreed that one additional trustee should be elected.

Proposed: Wendy Reid, North West Mull Community Woodland Company

Seconded: Sylvia Russell, Lanark Community Development Trust

The AGM agreed that the 16 proposed trustees should be elected.

Proposed: Teresa Aitken, Glenboig Development Trust

Seconded: Teresa Keating, Glenboig Development Trust

The DTAS Board for 2022-23 will therefore be composed of these 16 Trustees.

6. Annual Review

PS presented the DTAS highlights of 2021-22. Membership had increased to 346 with a further 14 groups in the process.

DTAS had managed Scottish Government COVID support funding, supporting members through the pandemic and emerging issues going forward.

The Community Ownership Support Services had provided ongoing support for 315 organisations, run a CPD programme for local authorities and established facilities management support. Community Shares had raised almost £2.5m in community shares and run CPD training for community business advisors.

The Local Transport Solutions project had supported 11 pilots and had developed a range of online resources. The Vacant and Derelict Land project had worked to unlock the potential of land written off as vacant and derelict and had been shortlisted for a Brownfield award.

31 trusts were being supported by the Strengthening Communities Fund.

For the year ahead, 2022-23, DTAS would be focussing on the cost of living crisis, community wealth building, supporting community anchors and relaunching member benefits. Green Shoots and Pockets & Prospects funding would continue. DTAS would be working with the Four Nations on development opportunities. And DTAS would be celebrating its 20 year anniversary.

7. Any Other Business

JB noted that the Trustees would be hosting a stand at the conference marketplace on Monday 5th September. Members were encouraged to talk to Trustees so that DTAS can formulate a response to pressing issues and concerns being raised by the membership.

JB also thanked the DTAS staff for their work throughout the year and in organising the annual conference.

With no further business, JB closed the AGM at 4.30pm.