

# **Development Trusts Association Scotland**

## **Minute of the 2023 Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 9.30am,  
In person at Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow

**Present – Provisional and Full Members:** Alva Development Trust, Antermony Development Trust, Appin Community Development Trust, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative, Barmulloch Community Development Company, Beith Community Development Trust, Burnfoot Community Futures, Castle Douglas Development Forum, Carluke Development Trust, Community Central Hall, Cranhill Development Trust, Cromarty Community Development Trust, Eday Partnership, Ekopia Social Investments Ltd, Eyemouth Development Trust, Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Community Development Trust, Finderne Development Trust, Forres Area Community Trust, Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE), Glenboig Development Trust, Greener Kirkcaldy, Grow 73, Isle of Luing Community Trust, Kirkcolm Community Trust, Kirknewton Community Development Trust, Largo Communities Together, Lenzie Community Development Trust, Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust, Lockerbie Old School, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Possilpark Peoples Trust, Raasay Development Trust, Rosemount Development Trust, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust, Strathnairn Development Company, The North Ronaldsay Trust, The Pairc Trust, Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust, Torry Development Trust, WAT IF, Woodlands Community Development Trust

**Present - Associate Members:** Jim Bristow, Community Woodlands Association, Foundation Scotland, Eric Munro, Paths for All, Royal Bank of Scotland, The 9CC Group.

**In attendance:** Craig Allan, Errin Anderson, Pamela Barnes, Audrey Dunn, Alice Duthuille, Ruth Evans, Linda Gillespie, Katie Little, Morven Lyon, Jan MacPherson, John Main, Kay Marwick, Elspeth Mathieson, Lynn Molleson, Nick Paterson, Amy Punton, Julia Rolim, Toby Sandison, Pauline Smith, Felix Spittal, Fiona Taylor, Laura Worku

Ian Cooke, Acorns2Trees; Beth Taylor, Dunkeld, Birnam and District Community Trust; Alice Masson, Nina Joynson, Glic; Soren Hermansen, Samsø Energy Academy; Beth Mukishi, SCVO

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

DTAS Chair, Michael Roy (MR), welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. MR thanked the whole Board for all of their hard work and support over the past year.

MR introduced Tracy Thomson (TT), 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.

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

### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies to be noted.

### 3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minute of last year's Annual General Meeting, held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022, was approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**Proposed:** Graham Black, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust

**Seconded:** Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Financial Report

The Treasurer, TT, presented the Annual Accounts for 2022-2023, copies of which were made available in advance of the AGM on 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. This year, DTAS board had decided to move the Community Shares programme into the main charity as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Although there was minimal activity taking place in the trading subsidiary, it was still necessary to produce consolidated accounts.

As a charity, the audited accounts were produced using the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting & Reporting for charities) framework.

TT reported Reserves of £662,826 (Unrestricted total £329,893 and Restricted £332,933). TT 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 surplus of £168,886 (Charity surplus £232,690 and DTAS Trading deficit £63,804). The reason for the DTAS Trading deficit was a donation of £69,000 which had been made to the DTAS charity and ringfenced for the Community Shares Scotland programme.

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

In closing, TT thanked the DTAS finance team and the Finance & Resources sub-committee 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 2022-2023.

**Proposed:** Sandy Brunton, Mull and Iona Community Trust

**Seconded:** Maureen Flynn, Rosemount Development Trust

The Chair explained that the DTAS Board was recommending that Robb Ferguson Accountants be re-appointed as auditors for the year 2023-2024, and this proposal was agreed by the AGM.

**Proposed:** Graham Black, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust

**Seconded:** Sandy Brunton, Mull and Iona Community Trust

## **5. Appointment of the Board of Trustees for 2023-24**

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:

- Associate Member Trustee Jim Bristow, Individual, was standing down, but was seeking re-election.
- Full Member Trustee, Sandy Brunton, Mull & Iona Community Trust was standing down, but was seeking re-election.
- Full Member Trustee, Jane Lamont, Beith Community Development Trust, was standing down, but was seeking re-election.
- Full Member Trustee, Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust, was standing down, but was seeking re-election.
- Full Member Trustee, Stephen McCarron, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative, was standing down, but was seeking re-election as a representative of Associate Member, The 9CC Group.
- Full Member Trustee, Sarah Compton-Bishop, Isle of Jura Development Trust was standing down, but was seeking to be appointed as a co-opted director.

One further nomination had been received:

- Ewen McLachlan, Full Member, Assynt Development Trust

The DTAS Constitution required that co-opted directors also stand down at the AGM.

**The AGM was asked to agree the following as the proposed DTAS Board for 2023-2024:**

9 continuing Trustees:

- Graham Black, Full Member, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust
- David Fryer, Full Member, Torry Development Trust
- Mark McRitchie, Full Member, Community Central Hall
- Janet Miles, Full Member, Gairloch & Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE)
- Eric Munro, Individual Associate Member
- Michael Roy, Full Member, Antermony Development Trust
- Tracy Thomson, Associate Member, Royal Bank of Scotland
- Alex Walker, Full Member, Ekopia Social Investments
- Lindsay Wood, Full Member, Burnfoot Community Futures

5 Trustees seeking re-election:

- Jim Bristow, Associate Member, Individual
- Sandy Brunton, Full Member, Mull & Iona Community Trust
- Jane Lamont, Full Member, Beith Community Development Trust
- Tom Sneddon, Full Member, Carluke Development Trust
- Stephen McCarron, Associate Member, The 9CC Group

1 New Trustee nominations:

- Ewen McLachlan, Full Member, Assynt Development Trust

Plus 2 Co-opted Trustees to be appointed by the Board

PS noted that this was two more trustees than the DTAS constitution, but the constitution allowed for the number to be changed at the AGM. The proposal was made on condition that the Board of Trustees would be expanded for one year only and that the Board of Trustees have committed to undertake a governance review which will be completed in good time before the AGM in 2024. The AGM agreed with the proposal.

**Proposed:** Sandy Brunton, Mull and Iona Community Trust

**Seconded:** Eric Munro

The DTAS Board for 2023-24 would therefore be composed of these 15 Trustees plus 2 Co-opted Trustees.

## 6. Annual Review

PS presented the DTAS highlights of 2022-23. A number of new trustees and staff members had joined DTAS. A new six-month strategy had been developed, with a commitment to developing a five-year strategic plan this year.

Membership had increased to 349 with a further 74 aspiring members in the process. The Development Officer team had visited members across the country and developed new benefits, such as online drop-in sessions and community insights. DTAS continued to deliver the Strengthening Communities Programme and Pockets & Prospects funding.

Community Shares Scotland had supported the launch of seven new community share offers, collectively raising over £750k. For example, Northton Heritage Trust had raised £100k to take a visitor centre into community ownership. Over 20 groups were in the development pipeline.

The Community Ownership Support Service had assisted 84 new communities and 127 existing communities, continue to provide facilities management support and run a number of professional development training events.

DTAS was also working with Locality and other partners to support applicants to the Community Ownership Fund. Third Sector Emergency Support had been established, with other key agencies. DTAS was also involved in policy work, such as Democracy Matters.

For the year ahead, 2023-24, DTAS would focus on developing the democratic finance programme, supporting communities to take on church assets and ongoing policy work.

MR thanked PS for the update.

## 7. Any Other Business

With no further business, MR closed the AGM at 10am.