

# KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, in the small meeting room at The Johnston.

## **Present**

Lesley Garbutt (Zoom) (LG)	Ruth McMorran (RM)
Rob Asbridge (RA)	Jenny Milby (JM)
Andy Campbell (AC)	Debbie Craig (Zoom) (DC)
Helen Henderson (Chair) HH	Deborah Firth (minute taker DF)

## Apologies

Neil Picken (NP), Hollie Mitchell (HM)

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

HH welcomed all to the meeting

## **Minutes of last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The Minutes were proposed by RM, with a small amendment to wording in Para 3 (now actioned) and seconded by AC. There were no matters arising.

## **2. Reporting**

### Silvercraigs

AC reported that the site was very busy, and Craig is doing a great job. Very positive feedback is being received. New shed, doors on in place. Upgrading of pitches continues.

### The Hut

DC suggested a name change to “The Hut” as Bothy is misleading and suggests that no payment is involved. The council have confirmed that a short term let license is not applicable as they have classed it as a hostel. Staff have been working there over the last couple of weeks – a lot of painting has been done in the toilet blocks, a skip is now on site, old mattresses have been taken away. A soft opening is hoped for in mid-June, although Keighley are coming on 18<sup>th</sup> May – DC will arrange some PR for the handover.

### Funding/Claims

DC reported that an electric car charging station is going ahead in the car park of The Johnston, using funding from Robin Rigg. These 2 fast charging points will be located to the left of the Planetarium main entrance. They will be publicised via social media etc once in place. She is also looking into possible funding for solar panels for The Hut.

### Office.

JM reported that things were very busy in the office with a fair amount of time being taken up with both the KIC and pool for DF & SD. She has recently had a meeting with the Distillery which raised a couple of issues: -

- Restart the tenants’ meetings – these did take place in the past, and it was suggested by JM that they restart on a quarterly basis.

- The distillery had had a few people in looking for the Planetarium and information on the opening hours – it was acknowledged that this seems to be a general thing – RM will feedback to the Planetarium to see what improvements can be made. Also, he commented on the signage – specifically that there is nothing at their end of the building. It was agreed that a second directional sign would be a good idea. RM highlighted that some signs are not too clear, and too fussy, which HH agreed with – although all artwork was agreed by the tenants.

#### Building.

JM reported that Craig advised he had been asked for keys to meter cupboard by HM, the Nursery are having a new commercial dishwasher installed – it was agreed that the Board had no objections but should perhaps have been told. JM will email HM.

#### Dark Space Planetarium

RM reported that they had a successful Succession Planning Day, and Colin is now staying on for 18/24 months, but they need new boards members. Will continue to highlight the state of the clock tower.

#### Marketing and Communication

DC advised a recent post about the resident Kookaburras had been very popular. The Hut will have a Facebook page, and a link to Silvercraigs website and that was felt by all to be enough. DC with liaise with Amy to arrange. HH also mentioned the need for a newsletter and this will be followed up on.

#### Tenancy Agreements

There was nothing to report.

#### KDT Finances

HH circulated information prior to the meeting. Overall, all doing OK, and more staff funding to come.

#### Youth Project.

RM reported that a private donation had been received. DC suggested that perhaps the hut/shelter by harbour garage might be appropriate. Work is needed on the roof and AC will investigate further,

EP is undertaking a counselling course for 6 months each Friday – she will switch her working day and no additional funding is required.

Kavli have expressed surprise that they have not been contacted re funding as they have a pot available – this could be quite substantial ie a minibus. HH will investigate the feasibility / costs going forward as she has a meeting already arranged with director of Galloway Glen Transport Applications must be in by the end of the month.

#### Barhill and Harbour Stage

RA advised that the Community Asset transfer was going ahead, and he has had 2 recent meetings, but hindered by all staff changes. The stage has some bookings but would always like more. HH suggested more publicity and photos every time it is used so these can be promoted on social media.

## KIC

HH reported that it is quieter than previous years, and the visitor spend is down, despite the town seeming busy. Staffing and rotas in hand by KDT office staff and seem to be working well. Highlighted the need for regular collection for recycling of cardboard.

### **3. Sleeping Giants Update**

DC Second half of the strategy day took place last Thursday and a second draft report is to be prepared based on the additional information provided. The Local Place Plan will also form part of and include input from the Forum as an opportunity for community engagement. This is needed for future funding applications.

### **4.AOB:**

DC is looking into the possibility of BSL classes with dates and funding. This may just be for staff, youth group, nursery etc and RM suggested staff from local primary school may be interested.

**Next meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm**

HH thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.