

KIRKCUDBRIGHT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

MINUTES of the meeting of Kirkcudbright Development Trust held on Monday 4th March 2024, in the small meeting room at The Johnston.

Present

Lesley Garbutt (Chair) (LG)	Hollie Mitchell (HM)
Ruth McMorran (RM)	Rob Asbridge (RA)
Neil Picken (NP)	John Blaikie (JB)
Andy Campbell (AC)	Debbie Craig (DC)
Craig Nash (CN)	Deborah Firth (minute taker DF)

Apologies

Helen Henderson (HH)

1. Welcome & Apologies

LG welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Katrina Dick from the Southern Upland Partnership who gave an interesting presentation on the SW Coastal Path and the plan to create a route from Gretna to Portpatrick.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 8th January 2024

The Minutes were proposed by NP and seconded by RM. There were no matters arising.

3. Feedback of Strategy Day

Overall, it was agreed that the day was a very interesting and helpful aid to refocus the Trust, an opportunity for a “rebrand” almost. RM highlighted what a huge task ahead, but in all a very worthwhile day. There is a succession planning meeting arranged with the DSP and Russel Griggs of SOSE which crosses over in certain areas suggesting a “skills audit” before any new trustees be appointed – there was also a suggestion that the M&A be looked into to widen the postcode restrictions. AC stressed that the issue remains how to engage with the public and an overall feeling is that we need to attract younger volunteers etc, by working on projects to attract younger age groups, those families new to the area etc. The lack of understanding of the projects the Trust is involved with and the negativity within the local community remains an issue, but as stressed by Sleeping Giants we almost have to draw a line under this and move forward.

4. Reporting

Silvercraigs

CN reported that the site was going from strength to strength, with bookings coming in regularly. Maintenance continues with upgrades to shed and pitches now completed, and very positive feedback is being received. The new website is now up and running. Ways to utilise the positive reviews were discussed, with the view to highlight these more on website etc.

Seaward

NP reported that all electricals and water quality had been tested. We have access but hand over still not finalized. Still hoping to be open by Easter as enquiries are being received.

Funding/Claims

DC reported that an electric car charging station is to go ahead in the car park of The Johnston. A community pantry has also been set up as a trial in The Johnston for 4 weeks,

with surplus food being collected on Monday pm from the Co-op. The possibility of a donation box was discussed, but it was felt this may be misconstrued and make those most in need feel uncomfortable.

Office.

DC reporting that things were going well.

Building.

Adrian has now returned to work and is working with CN.

Dark Space Planetarium

RM reported that the state of the clock tower and potential closure of the DSP remained the biggest concern for the DSP who are drafting a plan for options if closure is necessary. A Saturday Science club has been set up and this has proved popular with local children.

Marketing and Communication

DC advised she planned to get a newsletter out before Easter.

Tenancy Agreements

There was nothing to report.

KDT Finances

HH circulated information prior to the meeting.

Youth Project.

RM reported that attendance numbers continued to be high each Wednesday evening. A Fun Day has been planned for 27th July, and they are looking for match funding similar to that of last year. This was agreed in principle, with the proviso that other funding options would be explored going forward including fund raising. It was noted that although the event was free of charge last year, they did raise around £600 through a donation box.

Barhill and Harbour Stage

RA advised that the Community Asset transfer was going ahead but a meeting would be required shortly. Also advised he was looking for other bookings as the nursery now had its own space.

KIC

A volunteer training day is arranged for 12th March and works are underway to ensure the Centre is ready to reopen on 25th March. JB suggested the possibility of using TV screens (he has 2 available) to provide scrolling information on events, which can be updated regularly etc and this is to be investigated. NP advised that volunteers are having a farm visit on 20th March.

6.AOB:

6.1 DC advised she has been contacted to ask if art can be displayed along the corridor during Festival. AC will look into options for hanging, but it has been agreed in principle.

Next meeting Tuesday 7th May at 4pm

LG thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.