

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Westray Development Trust (WDT) held Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7pm at Westray Parish Kirk**

**Present:** Willie Bain (WB), Philip Bews (PB), Anne Burgher (AB), Coilla Drake (CD), Alistair Harcus (AH), Danny Harcus (DH), June Harcus (JH), Caroline Kent (CK), Douglas Leslie (DL), Iain MacDonald (IM), Jo MacDonald (JM), Margo Makin (MM), Gill McEwen (GM), Sandy McEwen (SM), William McEwen (WM), Alistair McVicar (AM), Liz McVicar (LM), Angela Muir (AM), Louis Pottinger (LP)(chair), Gina Rendall (GR), Nancy Scott (NS), Kirsty Sinclair (KS), David Stephenson (DS), Jan Stephenson (JS), Kathrin Strang (KS) Steven Drever (SD), Gerorge Drever (GD)

**Attending:** Kieran Fowler (KF), Ivan Houston (IH), Neil Ratter (NR) Sarah Cowe (SC)(minutes)

**Welcome and apologies:** LP welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for William and Christine Turnbull, Edith Costie, Andy Makin, Lydia Harris, Sheena and Bill Stevenson and Helen Bain.

**Adoption of minutes from AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021:** Proposed: DL, Seconded: GM **Motion Carried**

**Adoption of minutes from EGM 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022** Proposed: AB, Seconded: DS **Motion Carried**

**Accounts Presentation and Adoption:** Ivan Houston from A.J.B Scholes Limited gave a short overview of the consolidated accounts of WDT and WRE for the financial year 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022. IH concluded that the accounts looked similar to previous years and is a healthy picture and a group doing great things.

Adoption of Accounts Proposed JS, Seconded GD **Motion Carried**

**Appointment of Auditors:**

LP thanked IH for his presentation. LP put forward that the WDT board would like to continue the appointment of Scholes Accounts for the financial year 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023.

Proposed DS, Seconded DL **Motion Carried**

**Election of Directors:** Gill McEwen, Steven Drever and Douglas Leslie were stepping down from the Board as per the Articles of Association and all stood for re-election. WDT member Peter White stood for election to the board.

MM took the ballot box around the room and each member was invited to submit their vote on their voting slips, most members had done this as they came into the building. IH and IM counted the votes, all nominees had greater than 50% of the votes cast in favour and therefor they were all elected to the Board.

**Presentation by Kieran Fowler, community Garden:** KF began by introducing himself and his role at WDT over his 12-month HIE funded placement, this included the Garden open days, community consultation, writing the garden report, helping Margo, getting funding for the community fridge, plans for the Sand O'Gill picnic area and producing the Annual Report.

KF explained that the Garden was now in its 5th year but that Covid had made it slip slightly. He held a consultation with locals to see what they would like from the garden, he had a great and positive response and some of the main priorities were affordability, variety and providing local fresh fruit and veg.

KF went on to say that some of the problems that the Community Garden had were not enough outdoor beds, high labour/low retail which all contribute to a small loss. He said this could be helped by developing a vertical farm test site at the Gallow Hill site, having more structures and more produce going off island.

KF went on to talk about his dissertation in which he wrote about assessing the "Heat or Eat" dilemma across the outer isles. People are Food insecure and Fuel insecure, he found that most people cut back on fuel not food. He said that this is why WDT's fuel grant is so important to everyone on this island. He also spoke about the importance of affordable transport, housing stock and subsidising ferries.

KF concluded with thanking everyone on the board and in the community and especially Margo for making him feel so welcome.

**A year in Review - Project Team**

GR began the presentation by introducing herself and gave us some highlights of the Trust this past year this included Bayview, Fuel Grants to 253 households, funding for extra library van visits, Graduate placements, lots of grants being approved and

launching the Media Library. The Bargain Box raised an amazing £4345 in sales and that was with months of closure due to a leaky roof.

GR went on to speak about where the Development Trust are now with staffing, at the last AGM Lena Pottinger left as YSW and Janice Kirkness left as AFO for WRE. Margo and Clare split Janice's hours between them. We then had a few folks leaving us Isobel, Clare and Kieran have all left the Island. Gina then started as Ops Manager in August with Mhairi Noble and Sarah Cowe joining the team as Admin Assistants.

Lena's position wasn't advertised until August but we have a full quota of YSW. Maggie Drever and Nick Wood join Margo and Edith, with Kim Gibson as relief. We are now just waiting for paperwork to come back before our new YSW can begin, hopefully in January.

**Bayview** – Has power. We are waiting for flooring, tarmac, relevant testing and all certification and after that we are good to go.

**Bins** – The bins are on their way

**Community Fridge** – WDT has secured 10k for our Community Fridge, this will cover the cost of installation and running costs for a year.

**Wellbeing co-ordinator**- GR has done some investigation into the Wellbeing co-ordinator, unfortunately this hasn't progressed as there are funding delays at VAO, we should know by April what is happening. In the meantime, a meeting is to be held in the new year to get feedback on what's needed and opportunities of running a Man's Shed in Westray.

**SRLP**- GR has been to a few sessions already and will be away again in January. GR has found it interesting and hopes the one-to-one coaching will benefit WDT along with the networking she is doing.

GR then gave a brief overview of what WDT has planned for the coming year including; Bargain Box tender, finishing Bayview, red phone boxes, What Next Group, Garden Project, Sand o' Gill Picnic Area, Community vehicles, asset mapping.

GR said that the Fuel Grant had been announced and this will be launched in January, Margo and Sarah will be facilitating grants this year.

**Westray Conference**, date has been set and planning has tentatively begun.

GR finished by saying that her biggest aim this year is to build up the communication between WDT and the community by building clear and comfortable line of communication. In both directions and encouraging your participation and feedback at the conference.

#### Q&A

IM wanted to thank WDT for their ongoing Fuel Grants, he personally knows of people who are struggling and this grant means they can heat their homes over the winter period and praised that it was inclusive to all Westray residents.

#### AOCB

No other business was raised.

LP asked if there were any other questions, no questions were raised.

LP thanked Everyone for coming and to office staff and directors for keeping him right.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was close at 7.43pm.

