

Distributing Harestones
Community Benefit on behalf
of ScottishPower Renewables



Helping communities
to make positive
changes

Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

AGM, Thursday 28th June 2018, 6.30 p.m.
St George's Church Hall, 50 George Street,
Dumfries, DG1 1EJ

Members Present: Total 23 in person, 1 by proxy. Current membership is 68; therefore quorum of one third of members in attendance in person or by proxy was met. (NB: ANCBC Directors in bold)

John Magill	Ae Village	Angus Hobarn	Kirkmichael
Penny Coles	Auldgirth	Martin Brown	Kirkpatrick Juxta
Mike Steele	Closeburn	Tony Hancock	Lochmaben
David Dick	Closeburn	Sheila Farries	Lochside & Woodlands
Alistair MacFadzean	Dunscore	Helen Haggart	Lockerbie
Allan Ralston	Georgetown	Robin Wishart	Loreburn
Robin McEwer	Glencairn	David Booth	Moffat
Russell Stuart	Heathhall	Russell Williamson	Terregles
Robert Armstrong	Holywood/Newbridge	Lindsay Florey	Torthorwald
Richard Mann	Johnstone	Maureen Johnstone	Tinwald Parish
Hugh Buck	Keir	Mary Newbold	Tynron
Irene Paterson	Kirkmahoe (proxy)	Linda McDonald	Tynron
Alan Moores	Kirkmichael	Kenny Thompson	Wamphray

Apologies:

Murdo Macpherson	Dalton & Carrutherstown	Charles Ison	Templand & District
Allan Ralston	Georgetown	Rab Jaekel	Templand & District
David Slater	Georgetown	Jim Renicks	Thornhill
Christine Balfour	Holywood/Newbridge	Mary Newbold	Tynron
Robert Gladstone	Keir	Linda McTurk	Troqueer
Hazel Dutton	Kirkpatrick Juxta	Derek Ivy	Kirkmahoe (IP proxy)
Fiona Cuthbertson	Penpont	Amanda Anderson	Heathhall
Caroline Anderson	Penpont	Jim Renicks	Thornhill
Graham Anderson	Royal Four Towns	Wullie Dalziel	Wamphray
David McEwan	Royal Four Towns	Gillian Arnott	SPR

In attendance:

Cara Gillespie	Foundation Scotland
Laura Moodie	Foundation Scotland
Bill Meadows	Member of the public

The meeting commenced at 6:35pm.

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting on such a warm and sunny evening and listed apologies received.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.

Comments and corrections were requested from the last minute. None were forthcoming. The minutes were therefore approved as an accurate record of the 2017 AGM.

3. A report by the Chair on the activities of the Company

The Chair presented a report on the activities of the fund in the last financial year, discussing both large and small grants, the impact of awards made on fund priorities and the importance of ANCBC in enabling community groups to leverage match funding from other sources.

At the end of 2017, the fund reached a milestone of £1 million of funds awarded which was well covered in the local press.

30 established community councils received their fund allocation for the local grants scheme this year, a total of £60,000.

4. A financial report by the Treasurer on the financial activities of the company

The accounts have been audited, approved and presented to Companies House.

Robin Wishart (Loreburn) queried the company's significant reserves of £97,000 and asked whether this was an appropriate level, given the guidance indicated in the accounts is that only reserves sufficient to meet future obligations would be held.

It was stated that the reserves also enable the Company to plan ahead and that the Fund is demand led. No reserves are deliberately held back but as the accounts are finalised seven months after the Fund's annual income is awarded, this usually means there is at least one funding round yet to be completed before the Company's fund is replenished.

The contract with ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) requires ANCBC to allocate a minimum of 60% of the annual payment each year.

Penny Coles (Auldgirith) queried the grant awarded to Dumfries Baptist Church in the 2016-2017 financial year, given the Fund's rules against making donations for the advancement of religion, as the profit from hall lets goes to the Church.

It was explained that not all the Church's community projects involve promoting faith and religion. The Fund gave £20,000 for the creation of the kitchen in the new community centre, which is used by a range of non-religious local community groups. The grant was given to enable a space to be made available for community groups who need it, not for the purpose of generating an income for the church.

The member for Auldgirith also asked if the Board could consider hiring non-religious halls for future AGMs. This was agreed but it was emphasised that the Board's priority for an AGM venue is having adequate space and being easily accessible for all ANCBC communities.

An error in the 2016 accounts had been carried forward to the 2017 accounts summary. Specifically, a grant listed for Kirkmahoe Parish Church should appear as Kirkmahoe Community Council.

5. The election/ re-election of Directors

There were no nominations from prospective new directors. Currently there are 12 Directors on the Board, drawn from communities across the Area of Benefit (AOB). There are two Directors from one Community Council (Closeburn), though Mike Steele, the most recently appointed director, is happy to stand down should a representative from an un-represented Community Council come forward to stand as a Director.

Each Director resigned, introduced themselves individually and was put forward for re-election by show of hands.

Martin Brown – Kirkpatrick Juxta – re-elected by a substantial majority

David Booth – Moffat - re-elected by a substantial majority

Russell Stuart – Heathhall - re-elected by a substantial majority

Alasdair MacFadzean – Dunscore - re-elected by a substantial majority

Sheila Farries – Lochside and Woodlands - re-elected by a substantial majority

Hugh Buck – Keir - re-elected by a substantial majority

Helen Haggart – Lockerbie & District - re-elected by a substantial majority

Richard Mann – Johnstone - re-elected by a substantial majority

John Magill – Ae - re-elected by a substantial majority

David Dick – Closeburn - re-elected by a substantial majority

Mike Steele – Closeburn - re-elected by a substantial majority

Murdo MacPherson (in absentia) – Dalton & Carrutherstown - re-elected by a substantial majority

No votes were recorded against reappointing any of the Directors standing. Those present wished to send their best wishes for a speedy return to good health to Murdo MacPherson.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Community Council Network

Robin Wishart of Loreburn Community Council pointed out how rare it was to get so many CC reps in one room and suggest that there could be merit in having a conference of Community Councils across the whole region, to bring together their voice.

There followed a discussion about the existing Community Council federations that attempt to work together on policy issues and work well. The last annual Community Council conference took place six years ago in Castle Douglas and was very well attended. Such an arrangement may have worked well to review the proposed changes to the scheme of establishment for Community Councils.

John Magill cited the example of the region-wide Parent Forum, which is very well listened to by the Council, which needs to listen a lot more to communities.

The Community Planning Partnership has had a vacancy for a Community Council rep since 2005.

6.2 Proposal to increase funding through Community Council Local Grants

Maureen Johnstone (Tinwald) proposed that the annual Local Grant award be increased to £4,000 pa with a cap at £20,000. She felt this would empower Community Councils, enable them to know communities better and support those who found paperwork off-putting.

The Chair confirmed that communities can roll over £2,000 for three years to a maximum of £6,000. The Current scheme was agreed by numerous Community Councils and there is a need to be accountable to SPR for spending and consider all beneficiary communities. Substantial changes would require renegotiating ANCBC's contract with SPR.

Concerns were also raised over the strength of planning behind such projects if money was needed at short notice and without putting pen to paper and it was suggested that Community Councils could offer help to any community groups struggling with the application form.

Foundation Scotland confirmed that the contract with SPR requires that ANCBC cannot give money to any individual or legal person where the use of the money is at the discretion of that individual or legal person.

ACTION: It was proposed that the member submits a detailed proposal to the ANCBC Board who can then assess the opportunity to modify the scheme.

6.3 Clarification sought over Community Council Local Grants Scheme

The Chair was asked to send a letter to all Community Councils to tell them about the possibility of rolling over their £2,000 grant for three years.

There was also some confusion about the maximum amount that could be awarded to a single group under the Local Grants scheme. While Community Councils can spend their ANCBC funds however they choose, within the guidelines, it is recommended that grants over £500 should be applied for to the main fund, via Foundation Scotland.

Foundation Scotland stressed the need for ANCBC to consider the needs of communities that don't have Community Councils. If additional funding is directed to areas with established Community Councils, that reduces the amount in the wider fund, reducing what funding is available to eligible groups in disestablished areas.

ACTION: ANCBC Directors to look at revising the Local Grants Scheme guidance for clarity prior to this year's mailing.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8pm.

Registered Office: Farries Kirk & Mcvean, Dumfries Enterprise Park, Tinwald Downs Road, Heathhall, Dumfries, DG1 3SJ
Registered: SC492185