



**Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company**

**AGM, Monday 24th June 2019, 6.30 p.m. St George's Church Hall,  
50 George Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EJ**

**Members Present:** Total 26 in person. Current membership is 68; therefore, quorum of one quarter of members in attendance in person or by proxy was met. (NB: ANCBC Directors in bold)

Penny Coles	Auldgirth	<b>Martin Brown</b>	Kirkpatrick Juxta
<b>Mike Steele</b>	Closeburn	Tony Hancock	Lochmaben
<b>David Dick</b>	Closeburn	<b>Sheila Farries</b>	Lochside & Woodlands
<b>Murdo Macpherson</b>	Dalton & Carrutherstown	<b>Helen Haggart</b>	Lockerbie
Rory Mackail	Dalton & Carrutherstown	Robin Wishart	Loreburn
<b>Alistair MacFadzean</b>	Dunscore	<b>David Booth</b>	Moffat
Allan Ralston	Georgetown	Mark Smith	Mouswald
Moira McCrossan	Glencairn	Graham Anderson	Royal Four Towns
<b>Russell Stuart</b>	Heathhall	Jim Renicks	Thornhill
Robert Gladstone	Keir	Lindsay Florey	Torthorwald
Irene Paterson	Kirkmahoe	Linda McTurk	Troqueer Landward
Alan Moores	Kirkmichael	Kenny Thompson	Wamphray
Angus Hoburn	Kirkmichael	Wullie Dalziel	Wamphray

**Apologies:**

<b>John Magill</b>	Ae Village	Afton McFarlane	Lincluden
James Macdonald	Ae Village	Anne Wylie	Lochmaben & District
Alistair Melville	Auldgirth	William Farries	Lochside & Woodlands
David Lorimer	Carronbridge	Jan Andrews	Lockerbie
Paul Fergusson	Carronbridge	Andrew Bixler	Loreburn
W Patterson	Dunscore	Derek Cox	Moffat
Nichols Jennings	Eskdalemuir	Steven Forsyth	Mouswald
John Furlonger	Eskdalemuir	Caroline Anderson	Penpont
Allan Ralston	Georgetown	Fiona Cuthbertson	Penpont
David Slater	Georgetown	David McEwan	Royal Four Towns
Sue Grant	Glencairn	Charles Ison	Templand & District
Amanda Anderson	Heathhall	Rab Jaekel	Templand & District
Robert Armstrong	Hollywood/Newbridge	Russell Williamson	Terregles
Christine Balfour	Hollywood/Newbridge	Kenneth Bonn	Terregles
Sharon Hiddleston	Irongray	Moira Weatherup	Torthorwald
Ian Bryden	Irongray	Maureen Johnstone	Tinwald Parish
Tom Halliday	Johnstone	Roy Staimand	Tinwald Parish
Alice Howdle	Kirkmahoe	Gail Currie	Troqueer Landward
Hazel Dutton	Kirkpatrick Juxta	Mary Newbould	Tynron
Derek Gemmell	Lincluden	Linda McDonald	Tynron

**In attendance:**

Sam Bramwell	Foundation Scotland
Laura Moodie	Foundation Scotland



**Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company**

Natasha McBain	SPR
Alison Kay	Locharbriggs Village Hall
Jean Muir	Kirkmahoe Community Council
Bobby Mannaford	KPT Development Trust
M Hackett	KPT Development Trust
Ian Stewart	Castle Loch Lochmaben CT
Libby Welsh	Include Us
Dr Andy Zielniec	Include Us
Solway Sk8ing Club	Lindsay Henderson
South of Scotland Beekeepers Association	Angela Roberts
Stuart McMillan	Spinal Injuries Scotland
John Lethbridge	Tinwald Parish Hall
Mark Addis	Hartfell Hill Running Club
Louise Plummer	Hartfell Hill Running Club
Bill Meadows	Torthorwald Hall Association

The meeting commenced at 6:35pm.

**1. Welcome and apologies.**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and listed apologies received.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

Comments and corrections were requested from the last minute. The Chair requested that, for clarity, the second paragraph under 6.3 be changed to read:

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 from the main fund, via Foundation Scotland.

Otherwise, the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the 2018 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, including an update on local grants and a look at the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust project. The Chair expressed his thanks to Foundation Scotland, ScottishPower Renewables and Directors of ANCBC.

The Chair further acknowledged the retirement of some long-term directors and the sad passing of Director Hugh Buck earlier in the Year.

## Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

### **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 and HMRC.

A query was raised from the floor relating to the company's reserves 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 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.

Penelope Coles (Auldgirth) asked what percentage of the annual income is allocated in each year.

The Chair replied that over the 4 years of operation, around 90% of the total amount received has been allocated. The contract with ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) requires ANCBC to allocate a minimum of 60% of the annual payment each year. It typically allocates over 80% each year.

Graham Anderson, of Royal Four Towns, asked whether there was a time limit on repeat applications. It was confirmed that grants are assessed on merit and on a case-by-case basis. Groups can reapply to the fund.

Penelope Coles asked Directors to reconsider that Community Councils have to submit their constitution in order to release their grant. The Chair and Directors agree that repeatedly sending a constitution is not a good use of time.

**ACTION: FS to look again at the reason for this request and whether that can be reconsidered, or an alternative solution be found.**

**FS Note: Constitutions do need to be signed within 30 days of adoption. Would sending just the signed signature page help cut down on paperwork for Community Councils?**

### **The election/ re-election of Directors**

Three directors have resigned from the Board – Richard Mann, John Magill and David Dick. The death of Hugh Buck has also created a vacancy. Three new nominees have come forward and were asked to introduce themselves.

Robert Gladstone, Keir, is a semi-retired chartered surveyor, farmer and forester involved in KPT Development Trust.

## Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Rory McKail, Dalton & Carrutherstown, is an electronic engineer and has been involved in the Federation of Small Businesses, worked with NHS and on their Strategic Management Committee, working with several Health Boards and on policy with National and European Governments, and helped to develop a health toolkit. He has also served as Chair of the Federation of Village Halls, DG Arts Festival and D&C Community Council. He has a particular interest in renewable energy.

Moira McCrossan, Glencairn, is the Chair of Glencairn CC, a retired headteacher, past-president of EIS and fellow of Education Institute of Scotland, who set-up a government-run community schools project in Dumfries. She was also a member of the Women's National Commission and developed the Growing Up in the UK report to survey experiences of young women growing up across the UK. She has chaired folk festivals in Moniaive and Girvan.

All three were elected by a substantial majority by a show of hands.

David Booth, Mike Steele, Sheila Farries and Russell Stuart have also stood down but put in nominations to be re-elected. Each Director resigned, introduced themselves individually and was put forward for re-election by show of hands. All were re-elected by a substantial majority.

No votes were recorded against reappointing any of the Directors standing. The directors re-elected all the office bearers. Martin Brown as Chair and Helen Haggart as Treasurer. FS remains the secretariat.

### **5. Presentations By Grant Awardees**

Two entertaining presentations were given to the attendees by two groups awarded grants by ANCBC. These were Include Us who are the group developing the Catherine Street Playpark Project and South of Scotland Beekeepers Association who received funding to develop an education and training facility. Both talks were warmly received by those present and copies are available on request.

### **6. Any Other Business**

#### **7.1 Match-Funding Policy**

A question was raised from the floor regarding ANCBC's match-funding policy.

It was explained by Foundation Scotland that the match-funding policy in part helps to managed the demand on the fund but it also helps to demonstrate buy-in from the local community and wider support for the project. ANCBC is a competitive fund and does receive more applications than there is funding available each year.

Distributing Harestones  
Community Benefit on behalf  
of ScottishPower Renewables



Helping communities  
to make positive  
changes

### **Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company**

The Chair expressed his view that the presentations earlier in the evening eloquently demonstrated the importance of not just giving money away but checking for wider support and attracting other funders.

The Treasurer expressed her view, as an applicant, that while match funding may be a challenge for smaller communities, the application form and process, with the support of Foundation Scotland, is very helpful in actively improving projects and signposting to alternative or additional funding sources.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8pm for discussion with representatives from successful applicant groups who were attending. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and attention.