



Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Annual General Meeting
Monday 14th September 2020, 6.30 p.m. by Zoom Videoconference

Members Present: Total 26 in person. Current membership is 62; therefore, quorum of one quarter of members in attendance in person or by proxy was met. (NB: ANCBC Directors in bold)

Mike Steele	Closeburn	Martin Brown	Kirkpatrick Juxta
David Dick	Closeburn	Helen Haggart	Lockerbie
Alistair MacFadzean	Dunscore	Robin Wishart	Loreburn
Nicholas Jennings	Eskdalemuir	David Booth	Moffat
Moira McCrossan	Glencairn	Leys Geddes	Moffat
Russell Stuart	Heathhall	Mark Smith	Mouswald
Robert Gladstone	Keir	Pauline Dear	Torthorwald
Alistair Johnstone	Kirkmahoe (proxy)	Lindsay Florey	Torthorwald
Irene Paterson	Kirkmahoe	Linda McDonald	Tynron
Angus Hoburn	Kirkmichael	Kenny Thompson	Wamphray
David Roulston	Kirkmichael	Fergus McCubbin	Wamphray
Hazel Dutton	Kirkpatrick-Juxta		

Apologies:

John Magill	Ae Village	Carol Rogerson	Lochmaben & District
James Macdonald	Ae Village	William Farries	Lochside & Woodlands
David Lorimer	Carronbridge	Jan Andrews	Lockerbie
Paul Fergusson	Carronbridge	Andrew Bixler	Loreburn
Murdoch McPherson	Dalton & Carrutherstown	Steven Forsyth	Mouswald
Rory MacKail	Dalton & Carrutherstown	Caroline Anderson	Penpont
Walter Patterson	Dunscore	Fiona Cuthbertson	Penpont
John Furlonger	Eskdalemuir	Graham Anderson	Royal Four Towns
Allan Ralston	Georgetown	David McEwan	Royal Four Towns
David Slater	Georgetown	Helen Davison	Templand & District
Marcus Hogan	Glencairn	Charles Ison	Templand & District
Amanda Anderson	Heathhall	Anne Radley	Terregles
Robert Armstrong	Hollywood/Newbridge	Russell Williamson	Terregles
Christine Balfour	Hollywood/Newbridge	Jim Renicks	Thornhill
Sharon Hiddleston	Irongray	Maureen Johnstone	Tinwald Parish
Ian Bryden	Irongray	Roy Stairmand	Tinwald Parish
Derek Gemmell	Lincluden	Gail Currie	Troqueer Landward
Afton McFarlane	Lincluden	Linda McTurk	Troqueer Landward
Robert Murray	Lochmaben & District	Mary Newbould	Tynron

In attendance:

Gillian Arnot	ScottishPower Renewables
Cllr Stephen Thompson	Observer
Sam Bramwell	Foundation Scotland
Clare Graham	Foundation Scotland

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The meeting commenced at 6:35pm.

1. Welcome and apologies, guidance on the technical aspects of the meeting including voting arrangements

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and the apologies received were listed. Foundation Scotland gave guidance on the technical aspects of a meeting by Zoom including how voting would be conducted.

2. Annual General Meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM and matters arising.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the 2019 AGM. There were no matters arising.

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; what had been achieved since the Company started distributing funds five years ago; and spotlights on the Nith Valley Leaf Trust affordable housing project and the Moniaive Pottery Club project. The Chair expressed his thanks to ScottishPower Renewables, Foundation Scotland and Directors and Members of ANCBC.

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.

Election / re-election of Directors

The Chair acknowledged the retirement two directors from the Board – Sheila Farries (Lochside) and Murdoch McPherson (Dalton & Carrutherstown). No new nominees had come forward and ANCBC will likely seek to co-opt new directors after the current pandemic situation has normalised.

Martin Brown (Kirkpatrick Juxta), Mike Steele (Closeburn) and Alistair MacFadzean (Dunscore) also stood down as directors but submitted nominations to be re-elected. All were re-elected by a substantial majority with no votes recorded against reappointment of any of the Directors standing.

Election / re-election of Office Bearers

The directors re-elected all the office bearers. Martin Brown as Chair, Russell Stuart as Vice-Chair and Helen Haggart as Treasurer. FS remains the secretariat.

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3. Update on Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Gillian Arnot, ScottishPower Renewables, thanked everyone who was involved in the successful distribution of community benefit funds through ANCBC and then described the extension proposal and the local consultation process that had taken place over the previous few months. It is intended that an amended proposal for eight turbines with tip heights of 200 metres with associated infrastructure will be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in December 2020. The planning process is then likely to take at least another year. Gillian confirmed that there would be a community benefit fund for the extension and it potentially would make sense for ANCBC to distribute these monies given its positive track record so far. However, community consultation will need to take place to gauge local views about best to manage and distribute the new funds before any firm decisions about this are made.

4. Discussion "Community Recovery from Covid-19"

This discussion was led by Russell Stuart, Vice-Chair who introduced a number of suggestions provided by ANCBC members prior to the AGM which had been grouped into three areas of support, "helping groups with vulnerability," "focus on mental health issues," and "develop resilience".

Martin Brown (Kirkpatrick Juxta) Nicholas Jennings (Eskdalemuir) and Robin Wishart (Loreburn) described some of the activities taking place to support vulnerable people and groups in their community council areas including resilience groups and purchases of tablets for care home residents. Leys Geddes talked about funding received in Moffat to support the visitor economy.

A poll was conducted which asked attendees to choose three suggestions that should be discussed in more detail by the ANCBC Board at the next Board meeting in October. The results of the poll were that "support for local groups" (47%), "support for community assets" (47%) and "giving one off grants to communities" (42%) should be prioritised.

Martin Brown proposed that a £2,000 Local Grant to eligible Community Councils to support recovery from Covid-19 be extended to 2021. This was seconded by Linda McDonald (Tynron). The motion was carried with no objections.

Lynda McDonald spoke about the difficulty of spending existing grants because local community halls cannot yet open due to current guidelines. Martin Brown mentioned the potential for single user activities.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.15pm. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and attention.