Avich & Kilchrenan Community Heritables (AKCH)

AGM #001

18th January 2024

Present: Chris Goldsmith – Founding Trustee – Chair

Brian Burnett - Founding Trustee – Treasurer

Carol Thomas – Founding Trustee – Company Secretary

Ann Urwin – Founding Trustee

Rhona Knox – Trustee

Tina Goldsmith – Trustee

Peter Gray – Trustee

Oscar Pearce – Co-opted Youth Rep

6 Ordinary Members

1 Youth Member (Non-Voting)

Apologies for Absence

Sheila Clark – Founding Trustee

3 Associate Members

1 Ordinary Member – Proxy held by C Thomas

Item 1 Welcome & Introductions

Chris Goldsmith (CG) welcomed those present and declared the meeting quorate as with 58 members, 48 of whom are Ordinary Members we needed 8 Ordinary Members present, we have 14 and 1 youth member.

Apologies were duly noted.

Item 2 Chair's Report

CG noted that this was the first ever AGM of AKCH and reminded everyone that AKCH was registered a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which means we are member owned and Trustee led. AKCH serves the people in the Avich & Kilchrenan Community Council area. He summarised the Board Report as it appears in the Board Report & Accounts as follows.

Our **Vision** is that Kilchrenan, Dalavich, and the surrounding areas are great places to live, work and visit, and will be even better in the future.

Our **Mission** is to protect, acquire and/or manage local assets that provide enduring benefit to the community.

Our values are community led, enterprising, collaborative, sustainable, and transparent.

Our strategic objectives are to provide services to the community, to create engaging attractions and viable enterprises. It is important that we clearly understand not only the costs and benefits of each proposed project but also that we understand the sustainability of the project.

This first year has been a busy one and much progress has been made. We have identified an operating process which makes the Board responsible for all fiduciary activity and for prioritising and signing off on projects and priorities. All projects are managed by sub-groups which include one or more Board members along with members and others who are particularly interested in the project.

The 'Churches' Project quickly identified that we needed to be Scottish Land Fund and Community Right to Buy compliant. For this reason our Articles of Association were amended, presented to an EGM in October 2023, where they were accepted and are now filed with all relevant authorities. These can be seen on OSCR website and our own website.

Our biggest priority this year has been Community Engagement, which started with a couple of drop in sessions, a hugely successful photographic competition and the recently conducted Community Action Plan survey.

The Churches project has secured an initial £6000 stage 1 funding, some of which has been received in this first financial year ended 31/10/24. We will consult with members with the next month (Feb '25).

We have expressed an interest in Kilchrenan School and are awaiting the Education Authority's confirmation that it is for sale, at which point we have first refusal.

We are also, at the request of the community looking at options for loch access in and around Kilchrenan.

CG expressed his thanks to the trustees, particularly to Arlene Colwell, who having proven herself to be a great asset to the board has sadly decided that due to pressure of work, she will not be standing for election.

Item 3 Finance Report

Brian Burnett (BB) reported that this year's accounts covering 23/10/23 to 31/10/24 were quite simple. We closed the year with a total of £1023.63 in the bank, made up

of £866.50 in unrestricted funds and £157.10 in restricted funds. Restricted Funds are those received via grant income for specific activities.

He went on to report that the Christmas Cards & Calendar sales, which showed £410 income in the account, have in fact now raised over £1000. This is a significant sum and we are hoping that this will become an annual event.

Questions from the floor: What was the bank of Scotland Compensation?

Answer: This was due to challenges and delays associated with getting online access to our Bank of Scotland Account.

Item 3.1 Resolution to Adopt the Accounts

This was passed by 100% of the members present and proxies

Item 4 Company Secretary Report

Carol Thomas (CT) reported that membership stood at 58, that growing membership was vital as funders look for good support from the community. We believe that AKCC area population is around 275 and ideally we would want to see 40%+. To this end the Board is proposing that membership fees be set at £0 for 2025 in the hope that this might encourage more people to join.

CT explained that it was important to ensure that we had a strong membership and that we must ensure that 75% or more of the membership are Ordinary Member i.e residents over 16. We should actively encourage youth members as these will be the members of the future.

CT further reported that at next year's AGM those elected this year would not be standing down. In future years one third of the Board would stand down, drawing lots from those who had served the longest, each Board member may serve two consecutive terms before they are required to take a 12 month sabbatical after which they may stand again.

Therefore, the AGM in 2026, would hopefully be electing just one nominee to fill the vacancy left by Arlene Colewell.

Item 4.1 Resolution to set membership at £0

This was passed by 100% of the members present and proxies.

Questions from the Floor: Could we create some sort of welcome pack for new residents, giving key contact numbers, website addresses, regular activities, etc?

Answer: This was agreed to be an excellent idea, as was the suggestion that we create a youth group of some description.

Item 5 Election of Trustees

There are 8 standing for election:

- Ann Urwin
- Brian Burnett
- Carol Thomas
- Chris Goldsmith
- Peter Gray
- Rhona Knox
- Sheila Clark
- Tina Goldsmith

CG asked if the meeting was happy to take a show of hands on all nominees at once, which it was, therefore he asked for a show of hands. All nominees were elected by 100% of attending members and proxies.

CG then asked the meeting to approve the co-option of Oscar Pearce as Youth Rep. This was approved by all present.

Item 6 CAP Survey Update

The Community Action Plan was fielded in November 2024, there were 109 respondents in total, which is an excellent result, 46 from Dalavich, 40 from Kilchrenan, 3 from Inverinan and 20 others. The quality of responses was excellent.

There will be a drop-in session in Kilchrenan Village Hall on 1st February 12:00 – 15:00, giving people a chance to understand the feedback, and additional thoughts, etc.

Item 7 Business Plan

CT reported that at future AGM's the AGM would be asked to approve the Business Plan for the current year. This cannot happen at this AGM because we are still assessing options and because the Business Plan and Strategy should hang off the Community Action Plan, which is not yet complete.

Item 8 AOCB

There was one item of Business raised by Niall M

There was one item of Business raised by Niall MacLeod, who wanted to bring Core Paths to the attention of the group. He wanted to raise the issue of The Drovers Road Path, which runs from Kilchrenan to Musdale. He presented some literature and reported that he had managed to secure some in principle funding from ScotWays.

However, it needs matched funding to be released. Niall estimates it will need around £40,000 to bring the path up to standard in the AKCH area. Locally it crosses his land, and that of other landowners, running as it does from Taychreggan out to Easedale. He reported that he had approached An Suidhe but that he was one postcode outside the An Suidhe Grant Area.

After some discussion, the meeting agreed that this should be included in AKCH's list and that we would investigate the options.

There being no further matters, the Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.