

Linlithgow Community Development Trust



Annual General Meeting

Monday, 2 December 2024 at 7.00 pm
EH49 Hub, 6-7 The Vennel, Linlithgow

Minutes

LCDT Members Present: Carole Racionzer, Fraser Falconer, Mike Ewart, Matthew Ball, Alan Miller, Chris Gunstone, James Campbell, Anne Thom, Elaine Brown, Meleri Evans, Susan White, Tom Conn, Wilson Hendry

Also present: Lee Dolby (Community Development Manager), Lindsey Campbell (Circular Economy Projects Manager), Luke Collins (Active Travel Project Manager) and Elaine Dunning (Hub Coordinator & Minute Taker).

LCDT Members who voted by proxy: Tom Conn, Susan Smith, Pauline Orr.

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Carole thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and introduced the Trustees and meeting attendees. She highlighted the community involvement and impact the Trust's projects have had and thanked the staff and volunteers for their contributions.

Item 2: Apologies

Apologies were received from David Tait, Annie Townsend, Fiona Hyslop and Susan Smith.

Item 3: Minutes of last AGM (circulated)

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were noted and agreed.

Approved by Matt Ball

Seconded by Fraser Falconer

Item 4: Highlights, Successes and Impact

Lindsey Campbell and Luke Collins gave presentations highlighting the key achievements and successes within their various projects. Circular Economy focus was on the Tool Library and Shed, the Repair Shop, Re-Fab and Terracycle. Active Travel focussed on the Cycle Circuit (cycle and skating sessions for kids, Women's hour, Cycling Without Age), Buggy Walks and Nordic Walking.

Carole Racionzer shared the successes of the Farmily group as well as highlighting future events such as a seed swap, plant swap, harvest event and wreath making class. Two raised beds have been established at St Michael's RC Church that provide produce for a food bank. She also shared examples of Hub-based groups and events, such as a local art group, clothes swap pop-up, artisan market, Citizens Advice and a young peoples' art group.

Carole highlighted the continued successes at the Cycle Circuit. There were 500 people at the May 2023 launch as well as TV coverage and the support of local organisations. Many races were held and early morning training sessions are in place as well as West Lothian Clarion Club sessions. 5k running races were also held with a record 5k time being achieved. Personal stories highlighted the importance of the circuit in aiding recovery from medical conditions.

Solar panels at the three sites in Linlithgow have produced significant savings and a community surplus. The first round of community bonds, including interest, will be paid back to investors this year. There will also be some interest to be paid back to the Trust.

Item 5: The Year Ahead

Lee Dolby explained the reworking of LCDT's strategy and how it is being brought to life. He presented the Trust's Values (community empowerment, collaboration and partnership and sustainability), Vision (an empowered, a thriving community where people work together to nurture innovation), Mission (fostering creative solutions to provide community benefit and encourage a sustainable and vibrant Linlithgow Ward) and Objectives (improving community health and wellbeing, encouraging social entrepreneurship, supporting environmental initiatives and a stable, well-managed organisation). Lee went on to explain the various goals under each heading.

Activities planned for the coming year include energy saving sessions, LCDT projects and community projects. Terracycle has proved very popular and will be continued. The tech donation box won awards and will be reintroduced. A tourism project will also be started.

Item 6: Presentation of Accounts (circulated)

Seonaid Anderson from Ander Tax shared the highlights from the Trust's annual accounts, with particular focus on grants, expenditure, the balance sheet and total charity funds. She stated that the results are generally good and the organisation is healthy.

Seonaid was presented with a gift and Carole Racionzer thanked her and her team for their support over the years.

Acceptance of LCDT's summary finance accounts for the period April 2023 to March 2024:

Approved by James Campbell
Seconded by Mike Ewart

Item 7: Appointment of Trustees

Tom Conn was proposed for appointment as a Member Trustee.

Proposed by Matt Ball
Seconded by Fraser Falconer

Continuing Board Members are: Carole Racionzer, Fraser Falconer, Susan Smith, James Campbell, Mike Ewart and Matthew Ball.

One trustee, Neil Barnes, announced his resignation from the Board.

Carole raised the need for more experience on the Board in areas such as governance, and the ongoing requirement to appoint a Treasurer. She asked for anyone interested in joining, or knowledge of anyone who might be interested, to get in touch.

Item 8: Any Other Business / Q&A

Carole welcomed questions from the floor.

Matthew Ball thanked the staff for their support at the Cycle Circuit. Carole seconded that and extended it to all staff and projects.

Fraser Falconer asked when the bid results of the potential Hub sale would be made public. Carole stated that the information would be released after 5 December and restated that the Trust would be given two years notice should an offer be accepted. However, other options are already being looked at.

Neil Barnes congratulated the Chair, Board members and staff for their achievements and acknowledged that LCDT is well regarded for its efforts in West Lothian.