

Minutes Of The St Fillans Community Trust AGM 2023.

The AGM was held at The Sandison Hall on Friday the 24th of February 2023.

There were three Directors of the Trust in attendance – Richard Graham (Chairman), Bruce Montgomery (Company Secretary), and Lorna Kennelly. There were sixteen villagers in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Carol Graham, Harry and Hilary Burnett, Lynda and Dave Pryde, Ruth Graham and Geoff Carter, David Gow and Andrea Hudspeth.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th of February 2022.

These have been circulated by email to the village and are also accessible via the village Website.

3. Matters arising from the 2022 AGM.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report.

St Fillans Community Trust AGM **24th of February 2023.**

Chairman's report.

Trustees.

There has been one significant change to the makeup of your Trust members in the last few months. Last Autumn, after years of dedicated service to this community, as Director and Company Secretary of St Fillans Community Trust, Johnston Brown proffered his resignation. He stated that his wish was to focus more on his family, and of course playing even more golf! As a result, his resignation was reluctantly accepted by his grateful fellow directors.

The Trust is responsible for the finances of our community, and the Company Secretary has primary responsibility for the accurate and timely recording of all financial transactions, especially the bottom line. They are in fact, the lynchpin of the Trust. When one considers the cost of the LERP project alone, one starts to understand what a responsibility the role has.

Johnston, over many years, has done an awful lot of work for an awful lot of people. Groups, organisations and clubs, both in the local area and beyond, have all benefited from his time. From his business acumen, his accounting accuracy and his reliability. I can assure you, as Chairman, it was usually I who took sage advice from Johnston, rarely the other way around!

From your fellow Directors, and I am sure from the whole community, you have our sincere gratitude for all you have done.

Which brings me on naturally to Johnston's replacement. As I have said, this is a significant role and it takes a suitably qualified person with significant experience, to be entrusted to do it well. I am delighted that Bruce Montgomery fitted the criteria perfectly, and after not too much persuasion, agreed to become a Director and the new Company Secretary, of St Fillans Community Trust. We are very grateful that you have joined the Trust and look forward to working together with you.

There is another last-minute change to the membership of the Trust. I have received yesterday evening, an email from Lynda Pryde, stating that as it is her turn by rotation to stand for re-election, she would like to step down and make way for someone new.

This is sad news, as Lynda has also given years of dedicated service to the Trust. I know that she and Dave have extremely busy lives at the moment, so freeing up some time is entirely understandable. She leaves with our sincere thanks, and our very best wishes for the future.

Your other directors remain unchanged. They are. Lorna Kennelly, Carol Graham and myself.

There are now two vacancies on the Trust. Whether we need to fill both, or whether one will suffice as it has for a number of years, we will need to determine. I can assure you that we will meet in the very near future to discuss the matter, and will of course report back to the village with any developments.

Funding.

1. As has become the norm over the past number of years, funding for the Loch Earn Railway Path has been a priority for the Trust. This priority continues this year, with the most recent meetings being held on Tuesday of this week. As announced by Geoff at last week's Community Council meeting, the next phase of the path will start imminently.
2. The Trust also managed the funds that were used for the new Village Hall feasibility surveys. Those surveys having been completed earlier in the year.
3. Funds were provided for the purchase of fireworks for this year's bonfire night. As always, funds raised on the night were donated back to the Trust, to reduce any financial impact.
4. Funds have also been provided for the new Community Place Plan, which is currently under being developed.
5. The Playpark group were successful in a funding application to the Community Investment Fund. The Trust have managed the funds on their behalf and look forward to the completion of the pebble patch.

We are here to assist and guide where we can with any financial matters that groups are dealing with, and any funding applications that they may be considering. To that end, I chaired the funding committee of this year's Community Investment Fund, and have retained all the applications should anyone wish to have sight of them for any funding applications in the future. They are very instructive.

Richard Graham.
Chairman,
St Fillans Community Trust.

5. Treasurers Report.

Treasurer's report

The Main purpose of the Trust remains the provision of financial guidance to community ventures, initiated and supported by the community, and that of assistance to raise funds for those ventures deemed as appropriate.

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 have been circulated via the Village email system and the summary figures are set out on the reverse of the Agenda. They have been submitted to the Charity Regulator OSCR. This was the fifteenth year of the Trust's activities.

Given that the services which the trust offers to the Community amounts to that of a Bank, albeit a traditional Bank i.e. one you can talk to, it would be appropriate to start with the funds balances over which the Trust has oversight.

Total 50k at August 22 versus 30k a year earlier.

It is important to understand that the bulk of these funds are simply in safe keeping. That is where restricted versus unrestricted comes in.

Let start with unrestricted which are the funds which the Trust has complete discretion to disburse to the benefit of the Village. At Aug last these totalled £9254 a reduction from £10176 in the prior year. This was because the prior year had been boosted by £4400 in donations. 4200 RBS and £200 Achray and no similar monies were received in 2022. Outgoings totalled £799 which was provided as grants or used to cover expenditure as follows

£123 for fireworks (net of collections on the night)

£300 contribution to GC Defibrillator

£40 Hall Rent

£43 pads for Village Defib

£96 maintenance of Village equipment

£194 Expenses for meetings

£123 Insurance

Turning now to the Restricted funds which the Trust holds for use only as prescribed in individual grant receipt agreements. The totals involved were £41533 at year end versus £29225 at the prior year end.

The major income and expenditures related to the continuation of the Railway Path for which three grantors provided a total of £155708 which came from Gannochy Trust £67000, Nature Scotland £19000 and Sustrans £68000. Against that income approx £134000 was spent resulting in an increase of Funds on hand for the LERP project of £12119.

The second largest income and expenditure during the year related to the Feasibility Study which was carried out on the Land to the rear of the War Memorial to determine whether it would accept the erecting of a larger Hall /community centre at some time in the future. This study was funded by LLTNP to the extent of £26400 of which only £23466 was drawn down and spent. The objectives were achieved within this lesser sum.

You will note the Donation made by an anonymous villager towards future costs should the project be taken further.

One further grant was received from PKC for £150 which supported the Village Paths Group expenditures totalling £199 during the year.

The Playpark Group expended £86 during the year from their balance brought forward of £565 leaving a sum of £479 carried forward to 2022/23.

In the current year, £4300 has been received to date by way of a £2500 grant from PKC for the Playpark Painted

Stones and a further £150 admin grant. Additional sums have been passed to the Trust by Village Groups from

proceeds of the Festive Weekend the Bonfire Night and the Hogmanay Bash. Thank you. No significant

expenditure has been incurred other than for the Railway Path, covered of course by the balance available for

that purpose. An initial payment has been made to the Consultant assisting on the Place Plan. These are

expected to be fully recovered from LLTNP in due course.

There were no questions from the floor and the meeting accepted the accounts as reflecting the activities of the

Trust in year ended 31 st August 2022.

6. Directorate.

The director retiring by rotation and offering herself for re-election – Carol Graham. Carol was re-elected by unanimous vote.

Nominated within the year and offering himself for appointment as Director and Company Secretary – Bruce Montgomery. Bruce was appointed by unanimous vote.

7. Any Other Competent Business.

There was none.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was closed at eight pm.

These minutes have been compiled and submitted by Richard Graham, Chairman, St Fillans Community Trust, on the 27th of February 2023.