

Minutes of Caerlaverock Community Association AGM held 27 November 2024, 1930, Barbour Hall

Present: David Gilbert (Chair), Ian Brown (Committee Member), Helen Clark (Committee Member), Ronnie Clark (Committee Member), Fred Trigg (Committee Member), Rona Carson (Committee Member), Anna Austin (Caerlaverock Estate Manager), Cllr John Campbell, Cllr Malcolm Johnstone, Cllr David Slater, Alice Wilson (Barbour Hall), Karen Scriven (Head Teacher, Caerlaverock Primary School), Rosie Thorp (Historic Environment Scotland) and 16 Caerlaverock residents.

Apologies: Chris Jackson (Treasurer), David Pickett (WWT), Suzanne McIntyre (NatureScot), Cllr Keith Walters, Cllr Chris Woodness, Rob Wells, Sue Greig, Douglas Anderson.

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.

2. Chairperson's Report

David Gilbert (DG) thanked the many Caerlaverock residents who do so much for the community, and also our Councillors who have pressed many things on our behalf at D&G Council over the past year.

There were no major projects this year. Donations from motorhomes allowed us to fund Hutton Hall, our young footballers, the churchyard tidy-up, replacement bench at the Quay End, repairs to the Quay End parking area, half the maintenance costs at Castle Corner and a few Christmas gifts for our elderly people.

Our three biggest issues this year were 1) the appalling road surface in Glencaple (special thanks to Cllr David Slater; as soon as Border TV turned up the problem was sorted); 2) Scottish Water's planning application to refurbish Glencaple's sewage system and 3) the continuing failure to see our waste bins emptied (everyone please contact the Council if you see bins not being emptied). Our Councillors have helped massively with all three. Our only CCA events centred around Remembrance Sunday, with particular thanks to Struan who piped magnificently and to our young people for lighting the beacon.

The motorhome donations have put us in a very healthy financial position. Their visitor feedback is almost universally 100% positive and many cite us as an example to other rural communities. DG has been contacted by the Council in this regard. We are now able to fund community projects that would have been impossible a few years ago and DG encouraged everyone to comment on the draft budget. It is community money and it is vital that we spend it where it is needed. DG would like to see a rolling list of small projects funded by the CCA but delivered by individuals. This will be our "Community To-Do List".

3. Treasurer's Report

Income since the 2023 AGM: £15,968.52 (excluding £556 allotments income)

Expenditure: £3,442.71 (excluding allotments spend £19.12)

Balance at last AGM: £19,886.48 (excluding allotments £1,669.525)

Balance at this AGM: £30,412.29 (excluding allotments £2,207.38)

Draft 2024-25 budget

Draft budget is on the website. Our general running costs are about £6,000 per year, half of which is our contribution to work at Castle Corner. We need to get the rest of the money out

into the community. Suggested projects for 2024-25 include a new Bankend bus shelter £3,000, new beacon for Quay End £3,000, new mower for Bankend, £2,500, Bankend bowling green refurb £1,000, new bench for Quay End £500, first aid courses run by NIR £500. £1,500 is held back for Community Assistance which would allow us to cover unexpected items such as this year's Hutton Hall and young footballers money.

Barbour Hall update: Alice Wilson reported that the bid for £250,000 for outside works, which we thought was dead in the water, may not be. She wondered if the CCA could see their way to funding two items: 1) open up the back of the hall by creating a mezzanine floor which would let more daylight into the hall (estimated cost £2,500) and 2) replace the current uncomfortable old plastic chairs with 100-120 more comfortable ones (estimate £1,200). The meeting agreed to £2,000 being allocated to the Barbour Hall.

4. Officers and Committee Members for 2024-25

Only one change: Fred Trigg has agreed to become vice chair.

5. Any Other Business

No other business so the AGM was closed.