

MACHARS ACTION

Board Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2022

MINUTES

1. In Attendance

Mr Robin Richmond (Chair), Mrs Carol Lochrie (Machars Action), Mr Kevin Dean (Kirkcowan CC), Miss Meta Maltman (Glentool and Bargrennan Community Trust), Mr Richard Kay (Cree Valley CC), Mrs Kirsty Currie (Whithorn CC), Miss Katie Hagmann (D&G Council), Ms Sarah Nyland (Wigtown and Bladnoch Community Initiative)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jennifer Harkes (Sorbie CC), Jen Hendry (Port William CC), Jim McColm (D&G Council)

3. Welcome

Robin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He particularly welcomed Mr Kevin Dean (Kirkcowan CC), Kirsty Currie (Whithorn CC) and Sarah Nyland (Wigtown and Bladnoch Community Initiative).

Carol read out a message from Robin as follows:

- Robin hopes that Wigtown and Bladnoch Community Initiative will appoint a Director to Machars Action Board.
- It is hoped that having zoom meetings and, in the evening, will enable more directors to attend.
- It would appear that some residents and groups within the area are still unclear as to what Machars Action actually does. The Directors were asked for their views on how to resolve this.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed by Richard and seconded by Robin

5. Matters Arising

Carol reported that the card payment machine has now been set up in the office so customers can now pay for goods and services by card.

Discussion took place regarding the planting of a tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. It was agreed to wait until the next round of applications in November 2022.

Carol advised that she had met with a representative from Machars Climate Action Network regarding the proposal for a mobile refilling/ recycling service in the Machars region. Carol agreed to report progress at subsequent meetings.

6. Office Report

Machars Action has been supporting Glentroll and Bargrennan Trust to appoint a new Project Manager for the Hive in Glentroll. This involved administrative work, advertising the post, involvement in selection and recruitment process and formulating a contract for the successful candidate.

Machars Action has advertised for a Project Support Officer to take on some of the work originally carried out by Kirkcowan Community Development Officer, who has resigned. The closing date for applications is 28th March 2022.

Machars Action has entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Kirkcowan Community Development Trust regarding the services provided for them. This will enable Machars Action to carry out a much more enhanced effective and efficient administrative service to them.

Machars Action is working with Machars Climate Action Network regarding the possibility of providing a refilling, recycling mobile station for household liquids, powders and other items.

Machars Action has produced a revised price list for administrative services for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

A new photocopier has been installed in the office.

7. Financial Report

The February finance report was discussed and agreed.

8. Community Matters

Kirkcowan – Plans are being made to host Jubilee celebrations in the village on the Jubilee weekend to include Afternoon teas, BBQ, and an exhibition of 1950's memorabilia. Carol suggested that if there was a brochure for events being produced, that Machars Action would be happy to display this in the office window.

New pathways are being created near the old railway line, opposite the Bowling green and along the river Bladnoch.

The CC are still concerned about the level of dog fouling, number of pot holes and the speeding through the village.

Kirkcowan CC have a new Chairperson. Charles McKeown has resigned and Hazel Johnstone is the new Chair.

Whithorn – A tree to mark the Queen's Jubilee was planted in the graveyard in February as well as 6 trees planted to form an orchard in the Park. The War Memorial has been refurbished. The CC is currently dealing with a suitable place to have a bus shelter in the village.

Glentworth- The Hive will be officially handed over to the Trust on Friday 18/03/22. The new Project Manager will be starting on Monday 21st March. Work is currently underway to complete the rented houses and the Project Manager will receive one of these.

A grant has been secured from Kilgallioch for the purchase of furniture for the Hive. It is due to be fully open for business in April 2022.

It was reported that the Trust has been liable for Community charges from the Council for the unoccupied houses, which the Trust is paying back to the Council in instalments.

Katie Hagmann congratulated the Trust for this magnificent achievement.

Cree Valley- Richard reported that there are still objections to the drilling for minerals at the old lead mines in Blackcraig. However, he stressed that this is still a fact-finding mission.

The CC are planning to plant a tree in the car park by the river in Newton Stewart for the Queen's Jubilee. The Flood Scheme is posing a problem for this and the CC are awaiting details.

There is a picnic with afternoon tea planned on the Jubilee weekend in Minnigaff

Richard reported that the new method of reporting issues to D&G Council is frustrating and that replies to state that action will be taken on a certain date are not being carried out.

Katie advised that, while she appreciates that the process is frustrating, that the Council receives multiple reports daily which takes time and limited resources to rectify.

Wigtown- The main issue in Wigtown is the path beside the river at Bladnoch which now belongs to the Bladnoch Distillery and has been closed for some time due to Health and Safety issues. The Distillery is thinking about hosting a special walking event in July which will be supervised.

9. AOB

There was no other business

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25th April at 7.30pm via zoom