



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

18th November 2024, in 157 Pine Crescent, Greenhills, East Kilbride

Present

Susan Bennie, Suzanne Bennie, Archie Buchanan, Jennifer Connolly, Gillian Denton, Brian Doig, Iain Dow, Connor Doyle, Christine Little, Sally McSherry, Joan Sutherland, Lorna Whitelaw.

Apologies

Donna Liddiard, Helen McFarlane, Margaret McNab, Christine Whittle.

1. Welcome and Previous Minutes

Archie Buchanan welcomed everyone to the 2024 Annual General Meeting. He thanked all those present for their attendance and support.

The minutes of the AGM on 28th August 2023 were proposed as accurate by S McSherry and seconded by J Connolly. There were no matters arising.

2. Co-ordinator's Report

The 2024 Annual Report had been circulated at the start of the meeting. As the AGM was being held 3 months later than normal, B Doig said that he would look forward rather than back, but that he would answer any questions arising from the Annual Report.

In September, The Scottish Government launched their **RETHINK DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN**. The aims are “to help people with dementia to stay connected to their local communities”; “to help them to maintain their usual social activities, or even try something new.” They say that “making this effort to include people in social activities can help them stay well for longer as well as alleviate symptoms such as depression, anxiety and apathy.”

This is nothing new or innovative! That is exactly what we have been doing for **over thirty years!** They could have just asked us!

We take people who are living with dementia on over 300 trips and outings each year as we ensure that people with dementia can remain an active part of their community and still enjoy daily activities.

We believe that **people with dementia should continue to be an active part of their community**, and our role is very much to do whatever we can to make that happen.

HOWEVER... ..

Despite increasing need, we are the ONLY voluntary sector dementia day-care provider in East Kilbride. We receive NO financial support from the Government or Local Authority! We rely on fundraising, donations and grants to survive.

We do not pay fundraisers or directors. They are all volunteers. That means that every penny received or saved goes directly into providing over 13,000 hours care and support to people with dementia and their carers each year.

We are currently facing a funding crisis, with only three months running costs in the bank.

We need to raise £75,000 this year just to continue providing a service. At present we are around £47,000 short of that target.

WHY?

The cost of living crisis is real!

B Doig compared finances in 2019 to 2024... 5 years pre and post pandemic.

Living Wage up from £9 to £12 per hour... 33%

Total wage bill up from £101,425 to £120,688 19% almost £20,000

(L.W. up 33% but total wage bill only up by 19% due to efficiency savings.

Gas, electricity and water up from £1,950 to £3,600... 84%

Food costs up from £5,000 to £6,900... 38%

Fuel for bus, cleaning materials, cost of outings... all up!

Effects

The cumulative effect is that to break even, over those 5 years, our fundraising target has increased by 50%, from £50,000 in 2019 to a 2024 target of £75,000. Sadly, there is more to come as the real Living wage has increased by another 60p, adding £5,000 to next year's budget and increased Employers NI Contributions adding a further £700.

Public

The Public is feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis too and has less money to spare.

Charity fatigue is also very evident as daily, TV advert after advert ask for donations.

We lost valuable supporters when M&S Town Centre and Sainsburys Olympia closed down.

Lost opportunities... bag packing stopped with the pandemic.

The Future

Whilst this seems to paint a bleak picture and there is no denying that we are in a fight to secure our future... ..

People are relying on us and as a Group, we do have a responsibility to the people we support, their carers and to our employees.

We believe that we have a unique service worth fighting for and are doing everything in our power to address the funding shortfall.

In Closing

Brian paid tribute to the staff team who continue to do a first-class job under very difficult circumstances, even helping with fundraising in their own time. Donna has undertaken a Knitting Challenge. Amanda is taking part in a Car Boot Sale to raise funds. Stacey's son's football team held a charity raffle in our aid... we are all playing our part.

Finally, B Doig said that he would like to pay tribute to and thank Archie and the rest of the Management Committee. Without them we would simply not have a service! They give up their time for free and are putting so much effort into raising funds and raising our profile.

Whatever the future holds, he believes that we are in very good hands.

3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Archie Buchanan gave a vote of thanks to Brian, Donna, the staff, Volunteers and all Committee Members for their hard work and support throughout another challenging year. He stated that the Group is very fortunate to have such an "incredible" team, with the staff and volunteers being our most valuable asset. Archie highlighted that Brian had celebrated 30 years' service recently, and that our "fabulous cook" Irene had celebrated 10 years' service.

In thanking the Committee, Archie highlighted the need for new members to join and help keep the service going. He also spoke about some of the roles undertaken. Archie himself had hand delivered 250 newsletters on behalf of the Group, raising our local profile. It is good to help.

4. Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Treasurer and in the absence of our accountant, B Doig gave a brief overview of the accounts to 31st March 2024. The accounts showed a surplus of £12,749 which was a significant improvement on the previous year when the deficit was £11,147. Brian did highlight that these accounts were up to 31 March 2024 and that the 8 months since had seen us fall around £25,000 under our anticipated budget.

The report will be submitted to Companies House and will be submitted to O.S.C.R. when completing our Annual Return. The accounts comply with all current regulations for Companies and for Charities in Scotland.

5. Election of Committee

The following members have completed a three-year term and are due for re-election: Susan Bennie, Margaret McNab, Archie Buchanan and Sally McSherry.

After 18 years as a Committee Member, Susan Bennie is not putting herself forward for re-election and is standing down as Treasurer/Director. This is an office bearer's position which must be filled as a priority.

After 16 years as a Committee Member, Margaret McNab is not putting herself forward for re-election and is standing down.

Both Susan and Margaret were thanked for their dedication and service over such a long period, a truly remarkable achievement that has benefited so many people.

Both Archie Buchanan and Sally McSherry agreed to stand for re-election.

A Buchanan was proposed as Chairman by Christine Little and seconded by Gillian Denton. Sally McSherry was proposed as Secretary by Iain Dow and seconded by Jennifer Connolly.

Iain Dow agreed to take up the post of Treasurer and Director being vacated by Susan Bennie. This was proposed by Gillian Denton and seconded by Archie Buchanan.

The Management Committee going into the next term was therefore as follows:

- The Directors of the Company: Archie Buchanan (Chairman); Sally McSherry (Secretary); Iain Dow (Treasurer); Christine Little (Vice-Chair).
- The Committee Members of the Group are now: Jennifer Connolly, Gillian Denton, Connor Doyle, plus the four directors.

The Group is keen to recruit new blood onto the Committee, adding new ideas and new skills.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Lorna Whitelaw said that whilst she was not in a position to help out on the Management Committee, she would be happy to assist in fundraising events where she has much experience.

She said that on behalf of her Mum who attends our daycare, her Mum “absolutely loves her time at Pine. She loves the team and highly values the service”. Lorna herself said that she also fully appreciates the service.

Archie then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.