



Dunkeld, Birnam and District Community Development Trust

Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting Held at the Guide Hall, 7.00 pm, Wednesday 26 November 2025

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and noted apologies from several members and one trustee, Jane Bremner, the retiring DBDCDT Secretary. A full list of apologies and attendees is appended to the end of the minutes.

2. Amendments to the Constitution

Two proposed constitutional amendments were introduced, discussed, and voted on.

2.1 Casual Vacancy Provision

The Chair explained that the Constitution previously limited the Trust to three co-opted trustees per year, which created operational problems when trustees resigned mid-year. A new clause was proposed allowing the Board to appoint an ordinary member to fill a casual vacancy without this counting towards the co-option limit, provided the Board does not exceed its maximum of twelve trustees.

After clarification of the intent and implications, the amendment was formally proposed by the Trustees and unanimously approved by the members.

- **Decision:** Amendment permitting appointment to fill casual vacancies is adopted.
- **Action:** Secretary (or acting Secretary) to submit updated Constitution to OSCR.

2.2 Increase of Trustee Tenure

A proposal was brought forward to extend the maximum continuous service period from three years to five years, after which a trustee must stand down for one year before being eligible for re-election. The rationale was that three years is insufficient to complete major projects and the Trust risks losing critical experience.

Discussion included reference to OSCR recommendations (commonly two terms of three years). Nonetheless, members agreed that five years was proportionate for the Trust's needs.

The amendment was approved by the members in a vote with 25 in favour and 1 against.

- **Decision:** Trustee tenure extended to five continuous years.
- **Action:** Constitution to be updated and lodged with OSCR.

3. Report from the Chair

The Chair reflected on a demanding but productive year marked by multiple trustee resignations due to work and family pressures. Four trustees stepped down - Kirsty Binnie, Anne Cameron, Lachlan McEwan and Roseanna Preston-Jones – and the chair thanked them for their contributions and hard work during their time. A significant recruitment effort followed with the Trust successfully co-opting three new members – Sonia Forsyth Wallace, James Jarvis and Alex Kettles.

3.1 Local Place Plan

The major undertaking of the year was the completion and publication of the Local Place Plan, produced without either external consultancy support or funding. The Chair thanked the core working group for the extensive voluntary time and effort devoted to the project and noted that the Plan was now guiding community led endeavours including housing, energy, and traffic management. It was also noted that PKC would shortly be formally adopting the plan and sharing it on their own website. It was suggested that the Trust make the Local Place Plan document available on their website, and it was agreed that this would be done.

- **Action:** Link to LPP to be added to DBDCDT website.

3.2 Project Updates

3.2.1 Home Care Project

John Gilruth provided an update on the long-running home care initiative. Funding was secured for two years from the Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS but with the plan to move into home care funding will be secure through local authority grants. A new independent charity, Heartland Cares, has been established and a manager, with extensive experience in the field, appointed. The project is progressing from personal assistants into full home-care provision and expanding partnership work with neighbouring communities.

The local care group will continue to build on the success of the new Heartland Cares trust. Ongoing projects such as outings and the community bench project will continue but the group would welcome new members with fresh ideas.

- **Action:** Interested volunteers to contact the Care Group.

3.2.2 Affordable Housing

Affordable housing remains a longstanding community priority. With improved flood-risk mapping, viable small sites have been identified. A working group, supported by the Community Housing Trust and local authority officers, is developing proposals for small-scale, community-led housing.

- **Action:** Housing Group to present site options to the community once feasibility work is complete.

3.2.3 Artisan Village

The Artisan Village proposal, for craft and maker workspace at the site behind the North Car Park, continues to move through early planning and site investigations. Led by Helen O'Brien, the group is currently developing technical studies, exploring funding opportunities and preparing for a planning submission.

3.2.4 Energy Group

John reported that the revived Energy Group are meeting regularly again and are currently working towards the preparation of a funding application for early next year to appoint a temporary development officer. The aim would then be to scope out community based renewable energy options and bring this forward for community consultation.

- **Action:** Energy Group to submit funding application early 2026.

3.2.5 Traffic & Parking

This remains the most contentious community issue. James Jarvis updated members on recent community meetings and surveys that have been promoted and organised collaboratively with the Community Council. A resident's parking survey launched a few days previously has already achieved over 160 responses whilst attention was also drawn to the community input on this issue to the Local Place Plan and the NTS's ongoing visitor impact assessments. Members emphasised the importance of widespread participation so that Perth & Kinross Council receives clear, data-driven evidence of community priorities.

- **Action:** All members to complete and share the parking survey.
- **Action:** Summary of recent public meeting discussions to be circulated via The Bridge.

3.2.6 Supported Community Groups

The Chair highlighted the valuable work of several groups for whom the Trust holds funds:

- **Paths and Nature Group:** undertaking path restoration across the area and now working with multiple agencies on improved access around the Cathedral.
- **Repair Café:** operating monthly, repairing a wide range of items and reducing waste. Over 300 items have been repaired to date.

- **Food Share:** continues to redistribute surplus food from various community outlets despite occasional challenges. Over 30 volunteers are involved, and significant food waste has been avoided. Food share tables are located at the Duchess Anne and St. Mary's in Birnam.

3.3 Staff Update & Thanks

The Chair offered deep thanks to Beth, the Trust's Community Coordinator, who is leaving her post. Her work in building relationships, securing funding, and supporting every project was recognised as vital to the Trust's success. Her kind, helpful and collaborative work ethic has been appreciated by all, and she will be very much missed.

The Chair also confirmed that she, and fellow trustee and Secretary Jane Bremnar, would be stepping down as they had both reached the end of their 3-year tenure. The Chair said it had been a privilege to serve on this first Trust board and thanked her colleagues for their motivated and committed hard work. Her main observation from her time on the board was that achieving the most positive outcomes happened when everyone worked together with mutual respect, where all opinions were heard and skills used collaboratively.

4. Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the 2024 annual accounts, independently examined and submitted to OSCR, and provided an update to end-October 2025.

Key points:

- The Trust remains in a strong financial position.
- Multi-year funding from the Gannochy Trust supports around half of the Trust's core costs until 2027.
- Griffin and Calliachar Wind Farm Fund declined to provide repeat funding, reflecting a general shift toward project-based rather than organisational support.
- Additional grants, including £10,000 from the Sinclair Trust, have been secured.
- The Trust also holds restricted funds for four community groups (Paths and Nature Group, Repair Café, Artisan Village, and Food Share).
- With the care project moving to an independent charity, future accounts will become simpler.

The upcoming SSE consultation on wind farm derived community funds was highlighted, and all were encouraged to participate. There was a short discussion around the potential benefits to development trusts of securing regular funding from this source particularly to support development officers prioritising project-based work.

A question was raised about investing reserve funds to generate interest; the Treasurer agreed to revisit this.

- **Action:** Treasurer to explore interest-bearing account options.
- **Action:** Members to participate in upcoming Wind Farm Fund consultation and submit views on funding priorities.

5. Election of Trustees

The Chair confirmed that the co-opted trustees were now able to formally join as trustees. In addition, two new trustees were welcomed by a unanimous show of hands – Kerr Mackinnon and Scott Robertson. This brings the number of trustees to seven.

Jane Bremner, Secretary and the Chair, Jan Silburn, stepped down as required at the end of their terms. The meeting thanked them both for commitment to the trust over the past 3 years.

- **Decision:** Co-opted and newly elected trustees formally appointed to the Board.
- **Action:** Trustees register to be updated and notified to OSCR.

6. A.O.B

- 6.1 Members expressed support for a quarterly members' newsletter to provide more personal updates than *The Bridge* and strengthen the 160-member engagement.
- 6.2 It was acknowledged that the Trust needs more volunteers, or co-opted members, to support communications, the website, and project groups.
- 6.3 Traffic survey accessibility was raised. It was noted that the online-only format would require in-person support for those unable to use QR codes or online formats. Volunteers will help non-digital users complete it given that the survey is built with branching logic, making a paper version impractical.
- 6.4 An update on the work of the Tayside Trail Association was given. The Association recently won *Trail Association of the Year*, with one volunteer receiving *Trail Advocate of the Year*. They have contributed over 2,000 volunteer hours in Perthshire maintaining cycle paths on landowners' behalf and, as cycling is acknowledged as one of Dunkeld's key assets, the Association invited the Trust to get in touch regarding any cycle-related matters.

7. Close of Meeting

Formal business concluded. Members were invited to remain for informal discussion with trustees about priorities for the coming year.



**Attendees & Apologies for the Third Annual General Meeting
Held at the Guide Hall, 7.00 pm, Wednesday 26 November 2025**

We received apologies from following people:

Mel Nichol
Stewart & Jane Pritchard
Jane Bremner
Mike Wolfe
Liz Duguid
Annie & William Hogg

The following people attended – 26 members in total:

Beth Taylor
Stuart Paton
John Gilruth
Jan Silburn
Maggie Green
Hugh Green
Wendy Edwards
Alex Kettles
Cat Waldron
Ginny Richley
Norman Grieve
Alan Wolfe
Linda Wolfe
Garth Ponsonby
Nicky Herbertson
Scott Herbertson
James Jarvis
Kerr Mackinnon
Jake Maclean
Scott Robertson
Evelyn Menzies
Sonia Wallace
Cat Waldron
Graham Rees
Alasdair Wylie
Mary Notman