

Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2021-2022)

Attendees on Monday 24th October

Attendees in person (Tollcross Community Centre):

1. Dharma Reyes
2. Francisco Garcia
3. Gerry Baker (Associate Member)
4. Jack Marshall
5. Joan Aitken (Associate Member)
6. Kristine Sander
7. Melissa Highton
8. Richard Allen (Associate Member)
9. Ewan Scott
10. Sheila Durie

Staff in attendance (in person):

11. Rachel Sedman
12. Rob Locke
13. Fiona Lough
14. Paddy O'Neill
15. Liga Bite

Attendees online:

16. Helen Denny
17. Pat Bowie
18. Patrick Robertshaw
19. Sheila McMillan
20. Simon Brauhnoltz

Attendees on Monday 31st October

Attendees online:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ann Burgess | 11. Kristine Sander |
| 2. Anna Canning | 12. Liz Dominy |
| 3. Craig Gibson | 13. Liz Summerfield |
| 4. Ewan Klein | 14. Richard Allen (Associate Member) |
| 5. Ewan Scott | 15. Sheila Durie |
| 6. Gerry Baker (Associate Member) | 16. Sheila Thomson |
| 7. Gillian Lawrence | 17. Simon Brauhnoltz |
| 8. Jack Marshall | 18. Val Walker |
| 9. Jane Jones | 19. Rachel Sedman (Staff Member) |
| 10. Jim Campbell | |

Those unable to attend giving vote by proxy to the Chair:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 20. Fiona Stephen | 23. Ross McIntyre |
| 21. Sheila McMillan | 24. Helen Denny |
| 22. Patrick Robertshaw | 25. Melissa Highton |

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Monday 24th October

At the start of the meeting, a quorum of at least 20 Members (who live or work in the defined area of benefit) was not deemed to be present.

Apologies: Councillor Neil Ross, Councillor Ben Parker, Councillor Chris Cowdy, Fiona Stephen.

The meeting went ahead as there was still merit in informing all those attending on the year's activities and allowing time for questions.

The Annual Report details and Annual Accounts summary was given and is documented below in the 31st Oct (quorate) meeting.

Questions were taken and a good discussion was had regarding the development sites along the canal and the challenges and opportunities they present.

The current 5 members of staff all made small presentations to the group about who they were and their role within FCCT. These were well received.

Finally, over refreshments, participants chatted to each other and to staff members around a variety of topics and specifically what activities, events, fabric and businesses would help to make a "vibrant quayside".

Monday 31st October

- 1 **Welcome.** Current Chair, Gerry Baker welcomed us and thanked everyone for coming either to the meeting. We have in attendance online, or through proxy, of over 20 Members.
- 2 **Apologies.** Andrew Burns, Susanne Mueller, Gavin Corbett, Mick Patrick, Mamie Donald, Wendy Lord, Natalie McLachlan.
- 3 **Minutes of previous AGM.** Accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by RA. Seconded JM
- 4 **Matters arising.** There were none.
- 5 **Annual Report (Rachel Sedman, Development Manager)**

RS talked through the annual report. April 2021 to March 2022, a true transition year between Re-Union Canal Boats and Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust.

The setting up of Go Forth and Clyde (Falkirk's Re-Union activities) as an independent charity legally took place on 1st April 2021, although the Development Manager and General Manager both continued to support the organisation and committee for several months to ensure a smooth start for the new organisation.

Work continued between Re-Union (Edinburgh) and FCI to form the new Community Development Trust which culminated in Re-Union changing its name and constitution at the AGM in November 2021. For the rest of the year, much work was undertaken behind the scenes to set up building blocks for the growth of FCCT. This work was really important and has paved the way for a lot of great progress in the current financial year (Apr 2022 onwards), all of which will be reported on at our AGM next year!

Given the COVID restrictions (twice) during 2021/22, we still managed to carry out a surprisingly good amount of volunteer sessions, community programmes and private hires with over 1,763 passengers experiencing the Lochrin Belle. Volunteers gave 1,475 hours to deliver the activities on the boat, and if calculated at real Living Wage value, this would equate to £14,597.55.

We have a number of sub-groups both established and planned, to progress different areas and projects on topics such as boats, marketing and events, green / environmental, local economy, culture & heritage, volunteering and well-being. RS would encourage anyone wanting to get a little more involved to consider joining one of these, or to arrange to meet with her or any of the staff members if they had further questions about our work.

There were no questions for RS. The Annual report was accepted by Members (proposed SB, seconded JC)

6 Annual Accounts.

a. Accounts to March 2022

Sheila Durie, Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts.

The accounts for the year represent a 12-month period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

A deficit of £63,453 arose during the period (2021: Surplus £48,051). This deficit situation was both anticipated and planned and arose because of funds being received in advance and those funds being utilised in 2021/2022. The deficit is purely to do with the timings of when grants were received, and with how auditors record and account for them.

At 31st March 2022, the balance on unrestricted funds was £162,282 with £19,193 of restricted funds carried forward for expenditure in future years. It is important to note that the cash position of the organisation is strong and that cash in the bank has increased from £147,000 at 31/3/2021 to £195,000 at 31/3/2022. The Directors therefore consider the situation of the organisation to be satisfactory.

In terms of the current financial year (2022/23) it is a tough climate for gaining grants but our cash reserves are strong (if needed) and we expect to be in a reasonable position next year.

There were no questions.

Accounts proposed SB and seconded CG.

b. Appointment of Auditors

At the last AGM, we had re-appointed the auditors, French Duncan on a new 3-year contract. This year would represent year two of this contract and as there is no issues or reason for concern, SD proposed to continue with the contract, as previously voted in by members.

7 Appointment of Directors

During 2021/22 there were 10 Directors: Richard Allen, Simon Braunholtz, Helen Denny, Melissa Highton, Patrick Robertshaw, Fiona Stephen, Sheila Durie, Sheila McMillan, Jack Marshall and Gerry Baker.

As per our constitution 1/3 of Directors should stand down but are eligible for immediate re-election. Standing down and also re-standing for election we have Sheila Durie, Sheila McMillan, Jack Marshall and Gerry Baker. There were no other nominations for new Directors.

The Directors were re-elected by the Members unanimously.

Office Bearers will be appointed by the Directors themselves at the next Board Meeting.

8 Any other business

SB asked if, given our difficulty in getting a quorum to the AGM, we should lower the required number of people.

RS explained that this is hopefully a temporary situation while we still grow out of the legacy of Re-Union. A lot of our supporters are still people who have an interest in the Canal and in some cases live only a very short distance outside our 'area of benefit'. We have chosen the standard quorum for Community Development Trusts when the constitution was changed. The credibility of the organisation could be questionable if we reduce the quorum.

RS is confident next year this will not be a problem. We have yet to have a focussed local membership campaign due to trying to get projects up and running and show people what we stand for and want to do before asking for their commitment. The new staff we have employed in the last couple of months have already made a start on this, and the increased capacity they bring means we have engaged with a lot more local individuals in the last month, some of whom have become new Members.

9 Close of meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and support and closed the AGM meeting.