

1. Apologies: Keith and Karen Parr; Alice Duthuille; Douglas Reid; Rhona and Malcolm Elder; Audrey and Brian Gee; James and Marjory McKinven; Ian McGhie

Those participating: Tony Leighton (Chair); Zofija Sloan (Admin and Finance Officer), Russell Kay (Treasurer); Hamish Hunter; Jenn Lee; Cameron McNair; Miriam McNair; Gavin Galbraith; Alan Milstead; Robert Strang; Shelagh Cameron; Carol Abernethy; Mary McAllister Hall; Sandra Dack; Margaret Leighton; Donna Hunter; Phil Royal; Lindsay McGeachy; Jen Conley; Elaine Batchelor; Jane Dunbar; Christine Bell; Trish Collins; Emma McAllister Hall; Eleanor Sloan; Kim Norton; Bruce McQuarrie; Eleanor Bennett; Alasdair Bennett; Tim Wragg; Margaret Pirie; Margaret Richardson (Minute Secretary).

In attendance: Russ Baum (organiser of Zoom)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 14 September 2022: These were agreed to be correct and were proposed by Kim Norton and seconded by Alan Milstead. These will now be forwarded to Russ Baum for inclusion on the East Kintyre website.
3. Chairman's Report: As this is the last report from the present chairman, here it is in full:  
I am very, very pleased to report to the members that Carradale Community Trust is thriving. CCT's principal activity, the Shop & Post Office, is a model for how a community shop and post office should be run. Staffed by a blend of paid employees and volunteers, it is very well stocked, and prices are reasonable. Our Shop & Post Office is increasingly popular with both permanent residents and visitors alike and is providing the wonderful community space that we so hoped for when we started this project over five years ago.  
We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those involved with the operation. Their hard work and enthusiasm have ensured that the Shop & Post Office go from strength to strength – and will be secure for the future.  
During the year, we received some momentous news. HMRC decided, after months of deliberation, that the Shop & Post Office could be considered the CCT's Primary Purpose, meaning that it can now be run as a charity, helping to ensure its long-term viability.  
The shop is not the only string to our bow. The Network Centre is also doing very well, with all of the assets there being put to use for the community. The Displays in the Heritage Centre are well worth a visit. If you haven't been yet, you should! We thank Alan Milstead, Christine Ritchie, Kim Norton and Bruce MacQuarrie for all their hard work. Also at the Network Centre, David and Siobhan's Blackbird Tearoom has proved to be extremely popular, with wonderful food and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Finally, the Old Schoolhouse opened as a Gallery in early summer, adding an exciting new venue to our area.  
I am further pleased to report on the Carradale Community Composting Centre at Seneval, which has now reopened. It is saving gardeners the long journey to Campbeltown and back, whilst providing compost in return. We are very grateful to Phil Moorcroft and his team of volunteers for all their hard work in relaunching this very useful local service.  
The Trustees are therefore pleased to report to you that all our assets are not only secure but doing very well and benefiting our community. Nevertheless, we have long felt that the administrative burden on CCT Trustees and other volunteers is excessive. Last year we tried to outsource some of the work, though this was only a partial success. We now have found a solution and secured funding to cover most of this burden, including for a Part-time Administration and Finance Officer. This new post at a stroke removes the burden of trying to run the back-office and leaves future Trustees free to think strategically for the benefit of the community.  
In concluding, I would like to repeat my thanks to all those who have contributed. The Trustees, the Shop Management Committee and all the other volunteers who have given their time so willingly and worked so very hard. The current success of the CCT is your success. Thank you for everything you have done – and please celebrate with us at the end of this meeting.  
The Chairman also read out a letter of congratulations and support from a well-wisher.

At this point, TL introduced Zofija Sloan, the new Administration and Finance Officer and Russell Kay as the new Treasurer to the assembled members.

4. Approval of the Annual Accounts: These were proposed by Alan Milstead and seconded by Phil Royal as being approved.
5. Election of Trustees: TL stated that the current Board of TL; JL; HH; IMcG were formally stepping down which made way for a completely new Board to take CCT forward into the future.

Russell Kay had already been co-opted as the new Treasurer.

Phil Royal and Lindsay McGeachy had already agreed to be nominated.

Jane Dunbar put herself forward but intimated that she might not be available for a couple of months. Phil Royal proposed that she became a Trustee immediately and to be involved when she was able. She agreed.

HH proposed Emma McAllister Hall, who agreed to be a Trustee. Alan Milstead proposed that PR, LMcG, JD and RK be duly elected. There was no dissention. All five were duly appointed as there were no other nominations. As the new Trustees, they will form the CCT Board.

JL explained that the maximum number of Trustees allowed on the Board is 7. This means that the Board could co-opt another 2 people, who could help with projects, and they needn't be residents or members of the CCT. If they have the skills the Board are looking for, they can become co-opted Trustees.

SC as a member of the EKCC asked what the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees were. HH and JL explained how the Board had been run up until now, pointing out that the next Board may change the roles and responsibilities, especially with the new Admin and Finance officer in post. SC also offered her services as a Liaison between the EKCC and CCT to allow for better working relations which everyone agreed was essential.

AB, until recently a Trustee, gave a vote of thanks for the immense amount of work done by the outgoing Board and offered his services for funding advice as he sits on the EKCF Board.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner: TL proposed Ian Webster and Alan Milstead seconded this proposal.
7. AOB: Margaret Leighton read out a heartfelt vote of thanks to the departing Trustees for the huge amount of work undertaken over the last 5 years.

HH warmly thanked MR for her secretarial work over the last couple of years and to RK for his valuable work with the shop up until now.

TL thanked the members for attending and invited everyone to remain behind for some wine and cheese.

Meeting closed at 19.35