
East Kintyre Community Fund

Minutes of AGM

Date: 16th May 2024, 7.00pm

Location: Carradale Village Hall

Present: Alasdair Bennett (acting Chair & Treasurer), Ian Brodie, Russ Baum (Secretary),
Shelagh Cameron

1/2. Welcome and apologies

Audrey Willan offered her apologies.

3. Chair's report

The year to 31 March 2024 provided the first full year of reporting on grants paid out since EKCF was established in 2021. Greater efforts were made to promote the fund both in the local paper and social media. This resulted in the number of grants paid out increasing from 5 to 12. Two funding tranches were held, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn. Further funds were sought and received from our main sponsors. Residual funds from an earlier sale of Abbeyfield House in Carradale (sheltered housing for older people) were transferred to EKCF from another charity (Carradale Community Trust) to be held as restricted funds and used for the relief of those in need by reason of age. Consequently, our total income for the year just exceeded £250k, meaning we had to submit full accrual accounts to OSCR.

The greatest achievements of EKCF during the year are probably the outcomes from the community projects it helped deliver. The largest grants helped support Carradale Community Shop and Post office and Carradale Village Hall, both of which are essential in maintaining a sustainable and vibrant community in a remote area of Argyll. Other grants benefitted heritage and health and wellbeing projects while some supported services for older people.

Thanks go to our sponsors SPR and MOWI, without whose community benefits the Fund would not exist. Thanks were also extended to the Trustees and Margaret Richardson. IB and SC reciprocated thanks to AB and RB.

4. Annual statement of accounts 2023/24

AB spoke to the accounts statement, as submitted to OSCR, showing donations to the total of £238k and interest on the account of £14,795 (which was split, pro-rata, between the unrestricted funds and the Abbeyfield Fund); this totalled £252,985. The expenditure on charitable activities was £71,570. The balance at the start of the financial year was £182k, and was £364k at the end of the year; taking into account the contingent liabilities, leaves about £100k in the general fund. All of the Trustees accepted the financial statement as being in good order.

5. Appointment of EKCF independent examiner

The Trustees agreed to continue to use the services of Hannah Fawcett.

6. Attestment of codes of conduct, declarations of interest, and confidentiality

AB reminded the Trustees of the value of rereading the Code of Conduct policy, taking note of the importance of the standards of, for example, accountability, integrity, confidentiality and transparency, and of the need to protect the reputation of the Fund. The Trustees confirmed their continued adherence to the Code of Conduct policy.

7. Changes to EKCF grant-making policy

The Trustees agreed to review the grant-making policy to look at the possibility of including bursaries of students. RB, AB and SC will initially look at this in September, with a view to making any change in time for the March application window.

8. Election and re-election of trustees

SC and IB resigned as Trustees, and were then re-elected. The Treasurer and the Secretary were also reappointed. Trish Collins has agreed to be a Trustee and to take on the role of Chair.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be to discuss the applications from the next application round. The meeting will be on 19th September, to be confirmed. RB will attempt to book the Peninver Village Hall. For information, the next application will start on July 26th and end on September 6th.

10. AOB

There was a brief discussion about the variability of the number of applications within a year. Such a pattern is normal and understood, and is reflected in other funding groups.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.