

Carradale Community Trust AGM 30th July 2025 Meeting Room, Village Hall 7.00pm.

1. Apologies: David Holt, Siobhan Rennie, John Adams, Josie MacKinnon, Shelagh Cameron, Karen Parr, Monica Gemmill, Sophie Semple.

Those participating: Phil Royal (Chair); Russell Kay (Treasurer); Emma Macalister Hall; Jane Dunbar; Lynsay McGeachy; Hayley Gale; Zofija Sloan (Finance and Admin officer).

Carol Abernethy; Christine Ritchie; C&M McNair; Trish Collins; Bruce Mcquarrie, Kim Norton, Joy & Bill Bidmead, Patricia Hurst, Alastair Bennett, Eleanor Bennett; Niall Macalister Hall; Eleanor Sloan; Tim Wragg; Mary Macalister Hall; Sarah & Phil Moorcroft; Jenn Lee; Johnny Durnin; A Willan, A Gee, B Gee; .

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 23rd September 2024. These were agreed as correct. They will now be forwarded to Russ Baum for inclusion on the East Kintyre Website.

3. Chairmans Report:

The Trust has made significant progress on several fronts this year.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their voluntary service and their constructive, practical and intelligent contributions. During the course of the year, two new Trustees joined the Board, Sophie Semple and Philip Prince.

I would also like to thank our excellent part-time Administrator, Zofija Sloan, the staff and volunteers at the Shop and the Post Office and the volunteers at the Seneval composting site. The staff at the Shop and Post Office are Manager Eleanor Sloan, at the Post Office Trish Collins and Tim Wragg and, in a new part-time role, Margaret Elliot.

It cannot be stressed enough how important the role of volunteers is. Their continued work is a tribute to the excellent community spirit in Carradale and new volunteers are always most welcome so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to get involved. And here we must recognise the sad loss of Philip Prince, who led the team of volunteers at the Carradale Composting Centre. Philip made a real and substantial contribution to the community until his untimely passing and our thoughts remain with his wife, Elinor.

Our principal activity, the Shop and Post Office, continues to thrive and is an important fixture in village life. Sales grew by 11.3% on the previous year. Once again, local grant funding was obtained from the East Kintyre Community Fund to support the running of the shop but at a lower level than in previous years. The Trust believes that the current operating approach with four employees assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers will deliver a sustainable future for the shop and enable the medium term objective of eliminating the need for grant funding support.

The enterprises at the Network Centre have also continued to thrive despite significant storm damage. The leases of both the Blackbird Tearooms and Old Schoolhouse Gallery were renewed this year. The Blackbird Café remains popular with visitors and locals alike, the Old Schoolhouse Gallery continues to

draw in visitors and locals with their artwork, pottery and photography and The Heritage Centre remains a hub of local interesting artifacts and information. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who donate their time to this site. The storm damage to the Network Centre was considerable and led to the closure for a period of all activity on the site. Costly repairs are now under discussion with the insurers and contractors, including how best to combine them with the future re-development of the Network Centre. Community consultation has taken place about the future for the site which will include the upgrading or replacement of the buildings to make them fit for the future. The Carradale Composting Centre at Seneval continues to operate well. The new chipping machine has significantly improved the efficiency of garden waste recycling. The operation of the site throughout the year was led by a committed and enthusiastic team of community volunteers. We must also thank Torrisdale Castle for their support and help in turning over the compost bins. Free compost is available to the community.

The ownership of the Network Centre site was shared with the University of Stirling from the time it was first acquired. The University has agreed to transfer full title to the Trust and this transfer remains in the hands of lawyers. We are assured that the transfer process is advancing well and should be concluded in the coming months.

Work has continued with the Community Council to develop a new Local Development Plan for 2026-2030 and public consultation has taken place. The new LDP will be finalised in the coming months.

The Trust was pleased to support a local project which aimed to capture first-hand the stories of the people of Carradale, providing a 'living history' of the village directly from those who have lived it. This provided unique and personal experiences offering a wonderful testimony of precious times and events so that they are not lost to younger generations. This resulted in a published book 'Carradale Voices volume 1' and also a series of special podcasts. The book is available for purchase in the Village Shop.

The Board has sought to build on the existing relationships with the local grant funding partners which has proved vital in sustaining community projects and developing the assets of the trust throughout the year. In particular these were the East Kintyre Community Fund, East Kintyre Windfarm Trust and Cour and we are most grateful to them for their support.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our thanks to everybody who has contributed to the success of the Trust's enterprises. The magnificent contribution of volunteers, willing to give of their time and energy, is at the very heart of The Carradale Community Trust.

I have been honoured to serve as Chair of the Trust over the past two years however I will now be stepping down and I wish the new Board and its new Chair every success for the future.

Phil Royal

4. Approval of the Annual Accounts. These were approved.

Election of Trustees: The existing Trustees stood down. The election of Trustees as follows: Russell Kay (Treasurer), Emma Macalister Hall (Secretary), Jane Dunbar, Lynsay McGeachy, Sophie Semple, Hayley Gale. The Trustees will elect a Chair at the next board meeting.

Appointment of Independent Examiner; it was agreed that Ian Webster would take on this role.

Meeting closed at 19:40

DRAFT