

Arran Eco Savvy Annual General Meeting (by Zoom)

Sunday 29th November 2020

Draft minutes

Present:

Trustees: Meeting Chair - Helen Ross, Treasurer – Hilary Maguire, Secretary – Elsa Rodeck, Esther Brown, Donald McNicol.

Members: Jude King, Val Waite, Charlotte Mann, Pauline Robinson, Keith Robertson, Karen Legge, Gavin Steven, Cicely Gill, Chris and Jan Attkins, Diana Turbett, John Campbell, Jan McGregor, Sarah – and Mikey?,

Associate members: Beverley Walker, Douglas Coulter

In attendance: Rory Rutherford, Mary

Apologies: Simon Ross-Gill

Helen Ross welcomed all to the Arran Eco Savvy Community AGM 2020 which this year was held by Zoom due to the Covid-19 situation.

1. **The minutes of the 2019 AGM** were proposed by Donald McNicol and seconded by Esther Brown. No amendments were suggested.
2. **Matters Arising** – None, apart from those addressed in the Chairperson’s report.
3. Helen Ross presented the **Chairperson’s annual report** on the activities of Eco Savvy over the past year. **Please use this link to view the Chair’s Report.** Adoption of the Chair’s Report: Proposed by Keith Robertson, seconded by Diana Turbett.

Helen reported on the activities and achievements of Eco Savvy over the past year. These included the governance activities of the trustees (in light of the recent constitution change), the work of the energy subgroup, the Eco Savvy shop, and the work of the SIL team who deliver the aims and purposes of the organisation through the SIL projects. This year Eco Savvy also had to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant finding new ways to work and continue activities.

Helen also reported on the project development work that has been ongoing over the year, which Esther Brown has been leading. After last year’s AGM a series of consultation meetings were held in November 2019, and January and February 2020, and participants shared ideas regarding what they felt were most important for Eco Savvy to take forward over the coming year and beyond. All project areas were discussed and suggestions included a Lift Share, a Bike Tool Library, and a community composting site. Several of the suggestions have been implemented, such as the Lift Share which was launched and running before Covid but since March has gone on hold. The Bike Tool Library is in development, and the composting project is on hold. Eco Savvy are looking at whether other organisations on the island would be better placed to run this project at the moment. Community renewable energy schemes were also popular, see more below for developments.

All staff and volunteers were thanked for their excellent work over the period in what has been a very challenging time, and for all the work that Val Waite as shop manager has done especially with the renovation of the shop.

4. Hillary Maguire presented the annual accounts. **Please use this link to view the Treasurer's Report 6th April 2019 – 5th April 2020, and the statutory accounts.**

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report: Proposed by Diana Turbett, seconded by Donald McNicol.

Hilary was thanked for the huge amount of work, time and commitment she has given over the year, which once again has gone above and beyond the duties of being a trustee.

5. Election of Trustees

The following members were elected onto the Board of Charity Trustees:

Elsa Rodeck: proposed by Helen Ross, seconded by Hilary Maguire

Helen Ross: proposed by Esther Brown, seconded by Donald McNicol

Donald McNicol: proposed by Val Waite, seconded by Esther Brown

Hilary Maguire: proposed by Elsa Rodeck, seconded by Esther Brown

Pauline Robinson: proposed by Hilary Maguire, seconded by Helen Ross

Esther Brown: proposed by Helen Ross, seconded by Val Waite

All trustees were thanked for their contribution to Eco Savvy.

In January Donald McNicol joined Eco Savvy as a trustee, and Pauline Robinson who has recently moved to the island has been recruited and formally joined the board at the AGM.

6. **Community Renewable project development** – the energy subgroup of Eco Savvy has been working throughout the year developing possible community renewable schemes, following on from members' suggestions during the consultations earlier in the year.

Esther shared a presentation on the new Arran Community Renewables solar panel project at the Auchrannie, which was recently awarded funding from CARES. The **presentation can be seen here** (LINK). Members of the steering group were present to answer questions from Eco Savvy members after the presentation. The presentation introduced the Community Benefit Society which is being set up and will be the vehicle through which the community invest in the project.

There were a range of questions. Pauline highlighted the tight deadline of 31st March 2021 for the project to be completed, Keith asked how quickly and easily can the solar panels be installed, and Douglas asked about the possibility of wind power on Arran. There was a good discussion and members showed enthusiasm for the project. Keith Robertson declared, 'Brilliant! Every community building should have panels!' Esther said it can be a model that works very well (see Edinburgh community solar panel project) and said she has every hope we can meet the project deadlines over the next 2 months, with the great team of engineers and consultants working on it.

Helen thanked the energy subgroup for all their work in bringing the project to this point.

7. Member consultation

The members were asked to consider two questions to help inform Eco Savvy's future strategy.

These were:

1. On Arran, what would you like the government to do to help us meet the 2045 target of net zero ?
2. What are the most important things we need to do to prepare for the climate change that is already happening now? (CHECK WITH HELEN)

A good discussion followed in response to these. Esther suggested that to reverse the situation with the Fit Installer (TO CHECK – is this the underwater cable/grid problem?) will be very important so that future renewable projects can go ahead, as will helping us to have more energy efficient homes (insulation) and retrofitting houses. Gavin gave examples of insulation on external walls in Renfrewshire.

The issue of transport was raised. Several members noted that we need separate cycle paths (not part of the roads), and a better, more regular and cheaper (if not free) bus service, with buses able to take bikes. Hilary thought a better bus service may also encourage tourists to leave their cars on the mainland. Pauline said ideally we would have smaller and electric buses too, and a renewable energy generator to power these!

In response to question two, flood risk was mentioned, we need climate resilient plans. Jude's work with the Arran Recovery Group was mentioned. Having an environmental voice put forward in Covid recovery plans is very important. Diana Turbett mentioned the ALP (Arran Locality Partnership) and thought it might be worth having an Eco Savvy rep in that group too.

8. Any other business

Helen asked for any matters arising under AOB

Pauline said we'd so far focussed on climate resilience but what about bio diversity resilience, and in particular the mass felling of larch trees on Arran and what will happen once they've been removed.

Donald mentioned that the Forestry Commission have targets for planting and larch are a very fast growing tree

Keith said it can't be left to the FC – Roots of Arran have FC land and plant their own trees. He said Arran used to be known as the Land of Sacred apple trees, and that soft fruit was ideal to plant on Arran

Donald referred to the NTS planting taking place in Glen Rosa.

There was a question about the grant applications that had been made and Helen listed these:

Scottish Power

Energy Saving Trust

Postcode Trust

Green Health Development Fund

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16.15.

