

Arran Eco Savvy Community SCIO SC045785

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 21st November 2021 2pm to 4pm by Zoom



1. Attendance: Trustees: Helen Ross (Chair), Pauline Robinson, Hilary Maguire, Esther Brown, Donald McNicol. Diana Turbett (acting Minutes Secretary) Elsa Rodeck (Minutes Secretary)

Members: Jan McGregor, Tom Young, Helen Watson, Beverly Walker, Jude King, Michael Gettins, Heather Gough, Lisa Webb, Gerard Tattersfield, Helen Beckett, Jan Attkins

Steve Watson (or was this Ross Watson but with Steve's name?)

Also: Ross Watson

2. Apologies: Patricia Templeton (Trustee and Treasurer) Lucy Urquhart Dixon, Cicely Gill

3. Minute of the last AGM held on 29-11-20 by Zoom: The minutes of the last AGM held on 29-11-20 had been emailed to all members and posted on the website. Approved: proposed by Jan McGregor and seconded by Hilary Maguire

4. Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising

5. Trustees' Annual Report 6-4-20 to 5-4-21 completed by Helen Ross Chair : This had been emailed in advance and is available on the Arran Eco Savvy website.

Trustees: Helen notes Pauline Robinson's election as a Trustee at the last AGM and Patricia Templeton being co-opted as a Trustee on 1-3-21.

Staff: Emma Tracey from the Savvy Travel Team commenced maternity leave in May 2020 with Andrew Binnie covering some of her work, . Thanks to Andrew for his flexibility.

Helen's detailed report summarised progress regarding the 5 priorities for AES, these being Carbon Reduction, Energy, Food, Travel and Waste. The report reflects on the significant achievements of the 2 year Sustainable Island Life project funded by the Climate Challenge Fund April from 2019 to March 2021(see Item 9) and the ongoing role of the Eco savvy shop in Whiting Bay and key contribution of volunteers. The continued progress of the energy sub group led by Donald McNicol and Esther Brown is also noted (see Item 10).

Challenges: The report notes Covid has impacted significantly but the organisation has proved resilient and adaptable, staff working from home and meetings, events, film nights and workshops being conducted very effectively online.

6. Chairperson's Report : In addition to the Trustees' Annual Report Helen presented a summary of the year's activities November 2020 to November 2021 which had also been emailed in advance and is available on the Eco savvy website.

Trustees: This noted Patricia Templeton's appointment as Treasurer on 6-4-21 further to Hilary standing down on 5-4-21, with huge thanks to Hilary for her past and ongoing support. Diana Turbett was co-opted as a Trustee on 1-5-21.

Staff changes: Val Waite left her post as shop manager on 30-6-21 with Lisa Webb starting in post on 1-6-21, enabling a handover.

The report included reflections on COP26 which Helen had attended as an official observer and the draft of AES's Strategy for 2020 -2030. In recent months some meetings and events have been able to be held in person and the team have resumed working out of the Ormidale Pavilion on a part time basis.

Thanks were extended to all staff members, volunteers and trustees for their ongoing contribution and support.

7. Consideration of the annual accounts: 6-4-20 to 5-4-21: The draft Financial Review and Accounts were emailed in advance and will be available on the Eco Savvy website. Hilary advised the Trustees' Annual Report will be included within the Accounts and are subject to an independent review before being submitted to OSCR. She explained that Covid has caused a back log and delayed the independent review.

In spite of the difficulties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Charity has been able further to improve its healthy financial position; Total Unrestricted Funds have increased by £22,649, from £23,877 at 5 April 2020 to £46,526 carried forward at the year end.

The Restricted Fund balance of £7,229 at 5 April 2021 (2020: £10,488) represents the cost less depreciation of the e-bikes purchased through funding from the Energy Savings Trust, the Climate Challenge Fund and North Ayrshire Council. The total cost of e-bikes purchased has been £33,035 and they are being depreciated over two years.

During the year to 5 April 2021 the Charity had incoming resources of £198,843 compared to £181,412 in the previous year. There were total resources expended of £179,453 compared to £174,746 in the previous year. The Charity's main grant funding during the year was from the Climate Challenge Fund amounting to

£143,795 (2020: £149,794). This was the second year of a two year funding award from the Climate Challenge Fund which ended on 31 March 2021.

Hilary will update members, should any changes arise further to the independent scrutiny.

The Accounts for the Trustees' Annual Report were agreed: - proposed for approval by Esther Brown and seconded by Diana Turbett.

8. Election of Trustees: Helen advised Esther has given notice she wishes to stand down. Esther is a founder Trustee and has worked tirelessly for Arran Eco Savvy since it's inception. She will continue as a member and to be actively involved in the Arran Community Renewables project . Helen expressed our huge appreciation of Esther's contribution to Arran Eco Savvy.

Helen Ross was nominated by Diana Turbett, seconded by Beverly Walker

Hilary Maguire was nominated by Pauline Robinson, seconded by Elsa Rodeck

Donald McNicol was nominated by Esther Brown, seconded by Jan Attkins

Pauline Robinson was nominated by Elsa Rodeck, seconded by Hilary Maguire

Patricia Templeton was nominated by Diana Turbett, seconded by Esther Brown

Elsa Rodeck was nominated by Jan McGregor, seconded by Pauline Robinson

Diana Turbett was nominated by Helen Ross, seconded by Jan McGregor

9. Sustainable Island Life (SIL) Project : Jude King presented a summary of the 2 year project, funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund from April 2019 to March 2021 .Arran Eco Savvy was awarded the funding to continue the grant focus on energy efficiency, but targeting two other low carbon strands: travel and food. The project empowered residents to adopt lower carbon behaviours to reduce CO2e through activities and education in energy and water efficiency, food, travel and climate literacy. Delivery was by a team of six: a full time Project Manager (Jude), a part-time Energy and Water Advisor (Charlotte Mann), a part-time Project Coordinator and Climate Literacy Trainer (Ruth McLaren), two part time Savvy Travel Coordinators (Emma Tracey and Andrew Binnie) and a part time Sustainable Food Coordinator (Jess Wallace). The full report detailing outcomes are available on the website and detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report. Jude also advised

she left her post with Eco savvy on 31-10-21 for a new post with North Ayrshire Council's Community Wealth Building team. Jude advised she has greatly enjoyed and valued her time with AES and was thanked by Helen for her dedication, commitment and brilliant work

10. Energy Project: Donald McNicol provided an update on Arran Community Renewables. He advised it had not been possible to proceed with the proposal to have solar panels at Auchrannie due to the cost of public liability insurance. A further potential site using the roofs of the bonded warehouses at Lagg was unable to progress due to insurance concerns. In February this year discussions commenced with Scottish Water regarding a possible community solar scheme at their pumping station at Balmichael but it was not possible to rent or purchase adjacent land. However, consideration is now being given to an offer by a landowner with 2 possible sites, one 20 acres one 7 acres and near electricity lines. This would be a direct to grid scheme with no local consumer. The electrical connection would be expensive and open to grid failures etc. SSEN have been asked to undertake a feasibility study and CARES have been asked for this to be funded from some of the unused Auchrannie funding. Planning consent from NAC would also be required.

Donald and Esther and the ACR group were thanked by Helen for their ongoing work on this important project.

11. Website Launch: Pauline Robinson screen shared the new website and explained the special features that ensure it is low carbon. This includes dark backgrounds, use of icons rather than images and includes a carbon counter and a blog from the designer who specialises in developing low carbon websites. It was agreed the new website is informative, attractive and accessible and Pauline was thanked for all her hard work.

12. Discussion: Highlights, Outcomes, What's next for Eco Savvy? Pauline facilitated this discussion.

Starting with highlights, Helen felt the work on the Strategy Document had been a positive development. Others felt a strength was Eco Savvy's good collaboration with other groups and organisations on Arran, including the Arran Pioneer Project, Geopark and Arran Repair Café. The impact of Covid was noted, especially on the Foodshare which had been distributed throughout the island by volunteers pre-pandemic but was currently based back in the Co-op . It was felt this had been a great way to involve volunteers and highlight and inform the community about Eco Savvy's role. Ensuring effective use of the fresh produce being grown in the community was also discussed and reinforced the need to promote and encourage cooking skills as part of our strategy to reduce waste and food miles. The recently established Hub Tuesdays at The Ormidale Pavilion aim to widen and promote awareness of Eco Savvy's work but it was agreed a presence and activities in other parts of the island would be positive.

13. Any Other Business: No other business was raised

Helen thanked all for their attendance and for the amazing contributions made by members, volunteers, staff, trustees, the Arran community and funders and closed the meeting.

