

# DALES HEAD COMMUNITY LTD

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## Chairman's Annual Report 2025

The Management Committee's objective is to prudently manage the asset, the garage, on your behalf for the foreseeable future so as to ensure the sustainable operation of local services in the upper dales namely, the Post Office, Library, Community Office, and Little White Bus service.

This includes managing a close working relationship with Upper Dales Community Partnership (UDCP) who lease the garage from us, assist with managing the accounts and in dealing with Shareholder and other associated enquiries.

Daleshead Community Ltd is constituted to have a Management Committee of Members that will serve a minimum term of 3-years. There are 7 members at present. Lynn Peacock has indicated she now wishes to step down, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to the Management Committee over the last three years.

Our constitution states the Management Committee should comprise not less than three and not more than six members, so we are not seeking to co-opt or elect an additional member at this point. The Chair of UDCP, who has a position within this management committee, has changed during the last 12-months, so Joe Pilling is succeeded by Pete Metcalfe.

Turning to the garage itself, and it's been another busy 12 months. Financially, we're performing better than expected. We maintain a healthy bank balance, currently at £36.5k, which is important for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, next month, we will be paying our third annual dividend. Having considered the financial performance of the garage we felt that this year, we could go further than we have in previous years. **So next month we will be paying a dividend this year of 5% to you.**

As long as things continue to go well, the payment of dividends at this level in the future is always a possibility, though we will always act prudently and with your best interests first.

Secondly, maintaining a healthy bank balance means we can support UDCP in funding remedial works that will help future proof the garage.

Last year we were able to contribute to the upgrade of the forecourt, and pumps. This work, while taking a little longer than we'd hoped, has made access and egress at the garage so much easier, which in turn has helped ease the pressure on traffic queuing down the road.

As part of this upgrade, we have been exploring how the 4% discount can be applied at times when the kiosk is closed, something we know is important to you.

New discount cards that can be used both inside the kiosk and at the pumps have just arrived. However, at the moment they're not currently working like a Tesco Clubcard where you get the discount at the pump as you pay for your fuel. So we are in discussions with Tokheim to explore a way to make this work, and testing continues. I will email you with an update as soon as we have one.

I don't intend to get too much into the operational side of the garage, as that's a matter for UDCP, however, I did just want to briefly touch on the recent news you may have seen about Harvest Petroleum, our fuel supplier, and its parent company falling into administration.

The implications of this, as you know, have meant the garage having to close for a few days while UDCP worked quickly to secure a new supplier. It also means that, with supplies now coming through, UDCP are having to pay more for fuel deliveries than they were previously and are in discussions with several new potential suppliers to see what deal can be done.

UDCP have confirmed they remain in a financially strong position and that lease payments from UDCP to DHC are not at any risk because of this. We are therefore comfortable our cash flow of lease payments is secure for the foreseeable future. Also, we can confirm that **the discount of 4p a litre off the price of your fuel will continue, and we see no reason why that will also change in the foreseeable future.**

I would like to thank the Management Committee\* for all their hard work and commitment this year, it's appreciated, especially the contribution of our Secretary Abbie Rhodes.

And finally, thank YOU, shareholders, for your continued support. Without your contribution there simply wouldn't be a garage and the community services it supports. Thank you.

\*Management Committee

Mark Sadler, Chair,

Mandy McCarthy, Vice Chair

David Colley

Roger White

Pete Metcalfe, Chair UDCP

Michael McGarry