

Climate Action Strathaven (CAS)

Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting of the Board of Trustees held at 19.00 on 16th May 2022, in the CAS Hub, 5 Green Street, Strathaven.

Present: Tom Barbour, Chair
Alastair Brown, Treasurer
Martin Hill, Secretary
Elspeth Wilson, Trustee
Rachael Wakefield, Trustee

1. Welcome

1.1 Tom welcomed members and supporters to the second AGM of Climate Action Strathaven, for the year ending 31st December 2021. He outlined the meeting procedure, that the Trustees would conduct the business set out in the published agenda and that the formal meeting would immediately be followed by a question-and-answer session open to supporters and other members of the public.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Given the presence of all five Trustees, there were no apologies for absence to record.

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of CAS, held on 24th February 2021 had been circulated with the agenda and were approved as a correct record.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 In presenting his Chairman's Report to the Board, Tom opened by pointing out that the predicted level of climate change that we are leaving for our children is worse now than it was a year ago. If nothing significant changes, a rise of around 3.0C by 2100 is likely, and with it further extensive biodiversity loss. November's COP Conference in Glasgow failed to deliver any meaningful agreements, and CO2 levels continue to rise. And yet despite these clear and constant warnings from scientists, governments in Edinburgh, London and around the world fail to take meaningful action, still fail to 'tell the truth' , preferring instead to set 'world leading' but overly distant targets for 2045 & 2050.

4.2 Against that backdrop, the relative performance of Climate Action Strathaven in 2021 may be considered to have had little meaning. What is

the point of celebrating an increase in walking in Strathaven, if internal flights in the US are rising by 10.0%, and coal burning in China is rising by double digit percentages? And yet, I attach great meaning to what we are doing in Strathaven. Strathaven has 0.1% of Scotland's population, and Scotland has 0.1% of the world's population. If we can influence Scotland (and we can), then Scotland can influence the world. We're not special in CAS, we're just a group of locals, but we realise we've got nothing to lose, and everything to gain. Based on the evidence of history, it will be action by communities and individuals that result in change, either directly, or by increasing pressure on governments to act. Most likely both.

4.3 In quoting Margaret Mead, renowned anthropologist and recipient of the Planetary Citizen of the Year Award in 1978, Tom reminded us to

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

4.4 During the year, we were incredibly lucky to be able to recruit Arthur Potter and Sarah Sall as our project workers. Their enthusiasm, compassion, knowledge and ability has energised and driven forward CAS in a way that we could not have imagined a year ago. And at this point Tom extended his thanks to them, both personally and on behalf of CAS.

4.5 Obtaining the premises at 5 Green Street has also literally given CAS a shop window in the centre of the Strathaven community, and the opportunity to engage with local people on a daily basis.

4.6 We have extended our e-bike and Strathaven Car Club fleet and acquired an increasing array of ingenious cargo bikes. Our bike repair shop at the Town Mill led by Kenny, continues to flourish, working energetically every Saturday morning from 9am – 1pm - returning bikes, and their riders to the road, sometimes for the first time in years.

4.7 During 2022 we aim to increase the surplus that we derive from all these trading activities, as we seek to create a charity that is sustainable in that it generates a large proportion, if not all the income it needs to support its operations from its own activities. Al Brown continues to lead on the active travel front, engaging with local authority, community council and local cycling groups – to make Strathaven area a more pleasant, practical and safe place to travel around on a bike. We were delighted in February 2022 to welcome Mick to the team, to lead the Community Fridge project which is about to launch. This is an exciting development in the area of minimising food waste. In April we look forward to welcoming Tommy, who will lead on the Cargo Bike delivery project. As we enter 2022, delivery of the Glasgow Bus project and Retrofit Strathaven are tantalizingly close. A lot of groundwork has been done, but project launch for both frustratingly continues to slip towards the summer. Robert & Dylan have brought new enthusiasm, skill and

insight to the Local Energy Plan (LEP), and we expect to hear and deliver a lot more of the LEP during 2022.

4.8 If 2021 was a year of project inputs - building capacity and developing project plans - then 2022 must be the year of delivery. We now have a fantastic platform from which to deliver on the aims set out in our Manifesto, playing our part to reduce the burning of fossil fuels. Our original aims were to highlight to the people of Strathaven the reality of the climate crisis, to be a catalyst for the community to demand action from governments, and to establish a portfolio of carbon reducing projects which both reduce fossil fuel use, and make life better for locals. These remain the fundamental aims of the charity today.

4.9 Tom then thanked all our funders during the year, who have helped us deliver on our existing projects, and given us the capital and confidence to develop new projects. He then expressed special thanks our Trustee group, our volunteer group, and the community in Strathaven who have supported us, as we seek to support all of us.

4.10 Tom was sorry to be saying farewell tonight to Martin, who is stepping down as a Trustee, but not as a valuable contributor to the overall thinking behind CAS. He also expressed his special thanks to Alastair for his phenomenal work as Treasurer and across our whole range of our activities, as he moves across to take up the Secretary role vacated by Martin.

4.11 Tom finished by reminding us all that this is a very exciting and important time to be involved in a community group such as CAS and with the hope that more people living in the Strathaven area will consider joining and supporting us, or joining one of the many similar groups that are emerging across Scotland.

4.12 The Board warmly welcomed the Chairman's report, noting with satisfaction the many achievements of a wide range of Board Members, volunteers and supporters as well as the scale of CAS's ambition going forward.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Alastair commented that our second year as an organisation has proven to be even more challenging and exciting than our first year. We have employed full and part time project workers to drive all aspects of our operations forward with renewed spirit. We have taken on the lease of the building housing Strathaven's Post Office and turned it into a vibrant centre for our and related organisations' operations. Our ever popular Re-Cycling Strathaven initiative is now coupled to the implementation of many more of the projects framed by our manifesto - including CAS' - eCargo Bike operations (the easiest way to move goods around our crowded thoroughfares; eBike rental fleet (so many people have used

this); Car Club (with 3 vehicles on the platform branded up bringing excellent visibility and revenue to the organisation whilst reducing the numbers of cars on the roads); held initial trials for the Glasgow-Strathaven bus service (reducing the number of car journeys required); commenced development of the Community Fridge project (bringing assistance to those who need it and reducing waste); expanded our network of volunteers (and the more the merrier) and lobbied our elected officials with maximum focus to ensure the urgency of reducing our planet's carbon footprint is not lost in the welter of other priorities) – all these existing and new projects reduced Strathaven's Carbon footprint and expanded our friends' and neighbours' knowledge of the impact of climate damage and how we can mitigate it together – two of our key aims as people and as an organisation.

5.2 To allow us to deliver all these activities and projects we continue to be highly successful in securing grants and funding from an ever-wider variety of sources – this expansion of vision mainly brought to us via the tireless effort of our two project workers.

5.3 Our second set of accounts is on a more professional footing and contains the true kernel of our endeavours and development as we now have seven separate and diverse operating projects, all with their own requirements and revenue to take them forward; as there will be more, this is mission critical for us. We recently commenced using the assistance of a local firm of accountants to ensure that everything we do in this sphere is transparent and, as a minimum, meets the standards expected of a well governed charity.

5.4 The state of the CAS finances has continued to develop in a positive manner and the outlook for the foreseeable future is that this will continue. Our operating incomes continue to grow in line with intentions and the work on securing grants and funding to 'fill the gaps' and facilitate new and existing projects is going well.

5.5 We continue to aim high in project ambition, operating income growth and funding acquisition. The next major projects to commence are intended to be 'Retrofit Strathaven' which will focus on re-training and implementation around the skills and information required to place the local housing stock into a much more carbon neutral stance and 'Strathaven-Glasgow Bus' which will allow minimisation of car journeys wherever possible.

5.6 At this point, Alastair introduced Anne McCall, Accountant from McCall & Co Professional Services Ltd. to present the annual accounts, which had been tabled to Members. These consisted of the Statement of Financial Activities, including income and expenditure account and the Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021 along with an analysis of income, direct and indirect costs and grants, both used and deferred.

5.7 Following detailed discussion, the Board received the accounts as drafted, together with the Independent Examiner's Report in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, which indicated an unqualified opinion. The Board agreed to delegate to the Chair and Treasurer the task of completing the accounts presentation and documentation in preparation for submission to OSCR.

6. Membership of the Board

6.1 With the exception of the Secretary, all members had indicated that they wished to be re-elected and, in the absence of any resolution to the contrary, it was agreed that the four existing Trustees would continue for a further year:-

Tom Barbour
Alastair Brown
Elspeth Wilson
Rachael Wakefield

6.2 In accordance with clause 17 of the Constitution, a resolution was proposed and approved unanimously to appoint Ian Harley as the fifth Trustee to membership of CAS and to the Board.

6.3 Having previously advised the Board of his intention to retire from the charity, Martin Hill stepped down at the end of the meeting in accordance with clause 22.1 of the Constitution. On behalf of the Board, Tom thanked Martin for his contribution to the establishment of CAS.

7. Election of Office Bearers

7.1 Tom Barbour was elected to continue in the role of Chair.

7.2 Following detailed consideration and discussion by the Board, it was agreed to remove the formal role of Treasurer, thereby reflecting the duty and responsibility of all Trustees, individually and collectively, to scrutinise the financial activities of the charity. Accounts would continue to be prepared monthly by management and formally presented to the Trustees on a quarterly basis by the appointed accountants, McCall & Co Professional Services Ltd.

7.3 Upon his retirement under clause 23.4 of the Constitution, Martin Hill vacated the office of Secretary and Alastair Brown was unanimously elected to that office. Arrangements would be made for early handover from Martin to Alastair and for any other changes to be reported to OSCR, as well as for the Register of Members to be amended accordingly.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 With no other competent business raised, the meeting was closed at 19.50.