



# The Ecology Centre

## Annual General Meeting

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 7.30pm at Kinghorn Community Centre**

**Present:** Tony Payne (Chair), Tom Borland, Joy Tibbet, Cate Nicol, Karen Wakefield, Lindsey Campbell, Liz Mitchell, Bill Ashcroft, Alex Gray, Christine McLennan, Claire Reid, Lorna Mitchell, Julie Moran, Leigh Hodgson, Rhona Lyon, Jo Hobbett, Lewis Symington, Mark Douglas, Ken Hunter, Robert Paterson, Marie Laing, Julie Samuel, James Murphy, Rachel Harkness, Edwina Gibson, Jim Martin, Sheena Borland, Gillian Farrelly & Chris Farrelly.

**Proxy Forms were received from:** Nicholas Farr, Kirstie Wakefield, Simon Wakefield, David Lyon, James Lyon, Alan Hobbett, Eilidh-Rose Hobbett, Sarah McMillan, Mick McMillan, Ewan Campbell, Lynne Bramall, Stuart Brown

**Apologies:** Chris Miles, Kerry Horsburgh, Peter Lindow, Diana Sykes, Alison Chapman, Jennifer Combes, Sara Smith, Catherine Francis & Drew Saunders.

### **1) Chairperson' Report**

Last year Tony reported that the future of The Ecology Centre was uncertain, if not pretty bleak. The lease of the old centre buildings was to cease in November 2014, we had nowhere to go, no new site, small charities were running out of funds and the economy upturn at that time was not reflected by funding for the third sector. However our main purpose as a charity continued. He was happy to report that the picture today was looking much more positive and certain.

Tony highlighted facts and figures from the annual report and talked about how currently our major project is the New Centre. In July we were able to purchase the land with funding from the Scottish Land Fund, we had already received planning permission for a new building and then managed to secure funding from the Big Lottery. Tony then offered up thanks to the members of KCLA who have worked tirelessly supported us through all our travails.

The new centre building has commenced and the container workshops have been constructed. Also the Loo with a View has received critical acclaim nationwide.

None of this could have been achieved without the dedicated efforts of The Ecology Centre employees, they are not just employees, they are people who want to make The Ecology Centre succeed.

Finally, thanks to the volunteers who have supported us through the good times and the difficult times.

## **2) Election of Members to the Executive Committee**

Tony Payne is stepping down as a committee member due to the Memorandum and Articles of the organisation stating that one third of the elected committee members must retire from office (but can be re-elected).

Nominations for the elected members of the Executive Committee were, Liz Mitchell, Chris Miles, Abdul Rahim, Ken Hunter, Edwina Gibson and Jennifer Combes. These were proposed by Rhona Lyon, seconded by Christine McLennan.

Tony Payne and Sara Smith could be co-opted to the Executive Committee at the next committee meeting.

## **3) Annual Subscription**

It was agreed that the annual subscription would remain free of charge. This was carried with no objections.

## **4) Treasurers Report**

Tom Borland introduced the Annual Accounts and explained his main task for this year was to develop the reporting of Restricted/Unrestricted money in the accounts. With regards to the accounts, this year was a relatively successful one financially.

Income for the year increased from £300,000 in 2012/2013 to £388,000 in 2013-2014

The main reasons for this was down to an increase in grant income of over £73,000. Activity income rose by 17% to £43,000 due to receiving contracts from Tullis Russell's Environmental Education Centre (TREE) and the Fife Cultural Trust.

Expenditure for the year was £377,000, which was an increase of 32% over the previous year. The main reason for this increase was down to a "loss on the disposal of our assets of £137,000.

Net Income, the result at the end of the year showed a surplus of £12,000 against last year's figure of £15,000.

## **5) Approval of Annual Accounts**

The annual accounts were approved. They were proposed by Liz Mitchell and seconded by Ken Hunter.

## **6) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner**

Tony Payne asked that appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner be left with the Committee to decide. This was carried with no objections.

The AGM was then closed by Tony Payne and was followed by staff presentations on current projects.