

East Loch Lomond Community Trust AGM, Memorial Hall, Milton of Buchanan, Tuesday 11 June 2024, 7:30pm



1. WELCOME - Walter McAllister (Chairperson) welcomed members and guests to the meeting - there were 13 members and 2 non-members present - Ewan Macdonald, Managing Director, Macdonald & Cameron Project Management Consultancy and Craig Wood, Director of Property and Housing Services, Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA).
2. CRAIG WOOD was invited to give an update on the Balmaha affordable housing project. Craig outlined the current situation and answered members' questions. The site was described as 'challenging'. Each unit is currently costing circa £340k and given Scottish Government's reduced housing budget, the cost is outwith current funding guidelines. One reason is the siting of the houses some distance from the road which was in response to public concerns at the planning stage. Members made their disappointment known and this was acknowledged by Craig Wood and he gave assurances that RSHA are keen to build houses. Ways forward and options of attracting additional finance were discussed. Margaret McDonald suggested setting up a meeting with the Communities Housing Trust, Ewan Macdonald, Project manager and RSHA. This was agreed. Walter McAllister thanked Craig and Ewan for informing the meeting of the current situation.
3. MINUTES of previous AGM (26 April 2023) Proposed: David Fraser; Seconded: Maureen Saunders
4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Walter McAllister (WMcA) presented his report.
 - i. Affordable housing development in Balmaha - for the reasons Craig has outlined we understand the situation is a result of budgetary limitations and we will arrange a meeting to discuss future options.
 - ii. Community Asset Transfer Balmaha Car Park - Stirling Council (SC) had requested 11 extensions to the decision date and failed to make a decision by the legal deadline (although under SC's own Financial Regulations the officers had never had the competence to make the decision). In accordance with the legislation the ELLCT has now requested a Review of the Asset Transfer Request. Stirling Council elected members now have until the committee meeting in October to make a decision. Members were asked to contact councillors with their views.
 - iii. Work on the B837 Footpath and C6 Road - The ELLCT met with representatives of SC Roads Department and agreed a phased approach to Strategic Timber Transport Scheme bids. SC have not, as yet, come back with a proposal. This will be followed up as will the stalled maintenance on the footpath.
 - iv. Noticeboards - Cashel Hydro Scheme have agreed to fund 3 noticeboards for the community. These should be in place in the coming months in Balmaha, Milton of Buchanan and Buchanan Smithy.
 - v. Balmaha Visitor Centre National Park Rangers - the rangers along with some local volunteers tidied up the play park in Balmaha and their efforts have made a big difference. Thank you.
 - vi. Local Place Plan - The LPP will be completed in the coming months.
 - vii. Buchanan Hydro Scheme - the ELLCT expresses thanks to the Buchanan Hydro Benefit Scheme for their support. The ELLCT benefited last year and thanks everyone for the support at the Christmas event which we are happy to say will happen again in 2024 because of the Community Benefit Fund and there will also be a summer community picnic to Inchcailloch this year due to the fund. The ELLCT also supported other community groups with applications to the Community Benefit Fund.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT - David Fraser presented the report, the meeting agreed the accounts.
6. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES - All trustees at this point stood down and as all trustees had indicated they are willing to stand they were formally re-elected.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm