

**Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting of the
Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust
Held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 in the Church Hall, Lochmaben**

Those Present (current Steering Committee)

David Rose (Chairman), Ian Stewart (Treasurer), Freda Seddon (minutes), Howard Baisden, James Coles, John Hugo, Tony Hancock, Lynne Longmore, Hazel McNinch, Neill Smith, Jack Wade.

Project Development Officer - Darren Flint.

Also in attendance

Chris Robson, Scottish Land Fund; Pauline Hyslop, Rostrum, Lochmaben.

74 members of Castle Loch Community Trust (CLLCT).

4 non-members.

3 primary school children - winners of the logo competition (with parents).

Apologies

CLLCT members:

Jenny Agnew, Linda Briody, Phil Davies, Mrs Deans, Michael Dickie, Maureen Dickson, Ann and Kevin Findlater, Tom Forteath, David Gemmell, Sandy & Sheila Grant, Jean Roger, Maureen McGrigor, Pat Russell, Alayne Smith, Malcolm Wade.

Welcoming Address

David Rose opened the meeting and gave a welcoming address.

Logo Competition

Winners were all pupils from Lochmaben Primary School:

Isobel McDonald Powney.

Emily Hyslop.

Robbie Hyslop.

The final logo has been compiled from the ideas of the 3 winners and was shown on screen. Winners were each presented with a T-shirt bearing the logo, and an Easter egg.

Fleece jackets, sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats bearing the logo can be ordered from the Trust. Many thanks to Pauline Hyslop, Sales Director Rostrum Sportswear for the final design.

Report by Chairman of Steering Committee

David Rose gave an overview of the development of the Trust and the grant of 100% funding from the Scottish Land Fund (Big Fund) for the purchase of the loch. Thanks were expressed to SLF for their advice and support, and to all the other organisations which provided grants, including Dumfries and Galloway Council, Lochmaben Initiative and Magnox. CLLCT is grateful to our solicitor, Alan Robinson, who did great work on the deeds, conveyancing etc. for the purchase of the Loch.

There are now over 270 members of the Trust, all drawn from the local community.

The conservation designations of Castle Loch were stressed, namely SPA, SSSI, Ramsar Site, and the intention of the Board to work within the controls these impose.

A footpath is planned in order to enable walking all round the loch.

The purchase includes Lochfield Cottage, which is now used as the office for the Project Development Officer and meeting place for board meetings. Furniture was purchased from charity organisations in Dumfries.

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Treasurer's Report

Neill Smith showed the detailed Balance Sheet on screen. The main points are:

Total Income from donations and grants: £174,937.00

Total Expenditure – purchases, costs: £147,781.52

Balance: £27,155.48

Fund Raising Report

Total from SLF: £198,500.00 for the Community Buy-out and post of Project Development Officer. (£173,500.00 was paid in Year 1 with the balance to be paid in Year 2).

Leader funding: Matched funding of £16,500.00 for fencing, footpath and footbridge. This funding runs to the end of September.

D & G Council Area Committee: £3,500.00.

Other donations were received from Magnox, Jay-bees Nursery, Lochmaben and District Initiative, Annandale Sailing Club and individuals.

There is currently an application to the Charles Hayward Foundation for £5,000.00.

Membership of CLLCT is free, but all donations are gratefully accepted (!) and Gift Aid forms are available.

Lochfield Cottage

Howard Baisden explained that the cottage has been redecorated and re-fitted with electrics. It comprises an office, meeting room, large hall (possible future exhibition area) and spare room, plus kitchen and bathroom.

An application has been made for 'change of use' to non-residential which will remove the Council Tax commitment (currently discounted at 10%).

A draft feasibility study is currently being produced and a feasibility study will be commissioned shortly. Proposals to increase the footfall to Castle Loch include use as a visitor centre, education and research centre. Other suggestions have been for a seasonal café and arts and crafts centre. History, including the past use of the loch for curling, is to be represented. There is also an out-house which could serve as an exhibition area.

The existing car park is probably not large enough and may require further consideration. Flooding of the cottage is a potential problem.

Election of Board of Trustees

Members of the current Steering Committee who are willing to stand for election to the Board of Trustees are: David Rose, Ian Stewart, Freda Seddon, Howard Baisden, James Coles, John Hugo, Tony Hancock, Lynne Longmore, Neill Smith, Jack Wade.

CLLCT member Tom Russel thanked the Steering committee for their work over the past year, introduced them to the meeting and proposed them for election to the Board of Trustees. David Mair, also a CLLCT member, seconded the proposal.

No objections were raised and the 10 Board members (the maximum number) were duly elected.

All CLLCT members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April at 10am, at Lochfield Cottage.

Project Development Officer

David Rose introduced Darren Flint and gave a summary of his qualifications (MSc in Conservation) and work experience. Darren spent 6 years with RSPB as Legal and Commercial Services Manager and Procurement officer. Previously he had been an Assistant Tourism Officer.

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Project Development Officer (continued)

Darren gave a presentation showing some of his past work and the potential for Castle Loch for conservation work, events and activities. He stressed the importance of walkers keeping dogs on the lead and exercising respect for wildlife – birds, insects and plants, trees etc.

Although Dumfries and Galloway Rangers will continue to run monthly volunteer days, Darren also wishes to involve people as volunteers. This could be practical outdoor work, including gardening in the Lochfield Cottage garden, making items such as benches or bird boxes, helping in the cottage or donating useful items and plants. Darren is currently organising contractors to create the footpath to complete the 4.5km walk around Castle Loch. Work will proceed once the main bird nesting season is over, and volunteers will be needed to help clear the route through the woods.

Darren also has plans for a newsletter, articles for the local press and posters to advertise events.

A website has been set up, thanks to James Coles, and Darren has set up Facebook and Twitter pages.

Website - <http://www.castleloch.org.uk>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/castlelochlochmaben>

Twitter – castle_loch

Questions from Members

Current Fishing arrangements: David Rose explained that the existing agreement continues to the end of March 2015, after which it will be put out to tender. The fishing provides CLLCT with an income of £3,000 - £4,000 annually. Member wished to know if fishermen are to be allowed to camp, and this problem will have to be addressed.

Darren's Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Meeting PLace
8 th April	10.30 to 12noon	Ideas, planning.	Lochfield Cottage
9 th April	10am to 1pm	Spring clean, litter pick.	Lochfield Cottage
14 th April	10am to 12noon	Loch side Easter Egg trail.	Victory Park
29 th April	10am	Board meeting. All CLLCT members welcome *.	Lochfield Cottage
15 th July onwards	TBA	Bramble clearance of footpath route.	

*There may not be adequate seating for members, other than the Board of Trustees!

**Date of Next AGM TBA for
March 2014**