



# TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY COMPANY

*A Tweedsmuir Community project*

## **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Company AGM**

Friday 11th August 2023 7:00 PM at the Wee Crook

**Present:** Gavin Parker, Chair (GP), James Welch, Vice Chair (JW), Helen Wood, Treasurer (HW), Frances Leckie, Secretary (FL), Duncan Davidson (DD), Christine Parker (CP), Jamie Bateman (JB), Lesley Mason (LM), Community Development and Heritage Officer plus 13 additional company members, 3 junior members, 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** Mark Davidson (MD)

### **01:08 Welcome from the chair**

**02:08 Minutes of AGM 2022** approved, proposed by CP, seconded by HW

**03:08 Chairman's report delivered** (attached to these Minutes)

**04.08 Treasurer's report delivered** (attached to these Minutes)

HW also delivered an update on the activities of the Tweedsmuir Community Company's trading arm, Tweedsmuir Trading Group Limited. Notably in relation to the opening of the Wee Crook cafe for a profitable summer season, managed by Hazel Mason. This is also attached.

### **05.08 Election of directors**

No current directors retiring. Sonny Sethi nominated to the board by FL and seconded by GP.

### **06.08 Adoption of Resolutions to update constitution**

#### **Members voted on:**

- a) The Special Resolution to convert The Tweedsmuir Community Company Ltd (registered charity number SC043714) from a company limited by guarantee to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation).
- b) The Resolution to adopt the proposed constitution of the SCIO (attached to these Minutes)

#### **Outcome:**

21 members present voted in favour of the resolutions. In addition, three proxy votes in support were received ahead of the AGM.

### **07.08 The past year at the Wee Crook**

Hazel Mason gave a presentation about the opening of the Wee Crook for just over two months this summer. The goal was to provide local people with a place to socialise and spend time within the village, to provide job opportunities to the local young people and to gather more information about the viability of the cafe.

She reported an amazing summer working with people who are passionate about providing a vital service for this community. It was also lovely to meet people near and far who had travelled not only to support the new life we have in the Crook Inn but also to tell their stories and reminisce about the old Crook and Tweedsmuir. We also succeeded in gathering information about who would like to use the cafe and what they would like us to provide. The summer showed the success that the cafe could have.

Hundreds of volunteer hours were put into running the cafe. Without the help of people who were willing to give up their free time to help during and outside of opening hours the Wee Crook would not have been able to run.

Hazel also highlighted the work the community company put in behind the scenes. This enabled the project to go ahead and welcome people back into the Crook.

### **08.08 Other community achievements**

LM reported on the many other community achievements apart from the Wee Crook. Starting with some context: Community demographics show a lower percentage of children and young people and low percentage of young working age people, because we have no affordable housing. As a community, we have no resources such as a shop,

post office, public transport, pub or cafe (except for the short time the Wee Crook has been open this summer). Consequently, we have to make our own community life.

We had a clear Community Action Plan, which ran from 2017 to 2022, which has enabled us to apply for grant-funding successfully for many projects. Sometimes this has been challenging, with tight deadlines, but also great opportunities.

This year, we have launched a new Community Action Plan, following extensive consultations. It shows we have different challenges from other nearby communities, and identifies five key themes for priority action: Discover Tweedsmuir; Sustainable Tweedsmuir; Low Carbon Tweedsmuir; Tweedsmuir Community Life; and Tweedsmuir Land Use.

LM shared a graphic (attached to these minutes) showing all the different activities the Tweedsmuir Community Company is engaged in - much more than just "Save the Crook".

Some of this year's achievements:

- improving the site of the Crook Inn with a community mural; tidying up and painting the back of the building; creating bridges across the burn; regular grass cutting, etc
- Community gardens improving all the time. We have gardening and maintenance equipment; secure storage containers; undercover space; benches and picnic tables; the beginnings of an orchard; paths and hedging.
- Ecomuseum - we have plans for developing this further and an application for funding to do so.
- Work with Talla Hartfell Wildlands

### **09.08 Looking forward - projects in development**

LM reported funding has now been received for more interpretation boards. Funds are not yet in place for the bunkhouse (part of the second phase of redevelopment at the Crook), but it is an important part of wider plans for this area, and there is pressure from higher up for it to be realised. Although there have been challenges with planning permission for the camping pods, we are now very close to achieving this goal, and certainly expect to have people in them by the time of next year's AGM.

The projects provide great opportunities for volunteering, with activities to suit all sorts of people.

GP highlighted the positive benefits of being part of all that's going on in Tweedsmuir, and thanked all volunteers who have contributed to the various projects during the year.

#### **10.08 AOB**

JW gave particular thanks to GP for going above and beyond in his contribution as chair of the community company. For example, testing the demand for a bar by opening the Wee Crook on weekend evenings over six months, supported by CP.