

**PENICUIK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**  
**Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting Monday 26 February 2007**  
**7.30 pm in Jackson Street School Community Education Centre**

**In attendance:** Roger Kelly (chair), Grace Marques, Jane Kelly, Jane Mackintosh, Ulla Hipkin, Bill Fearnley, Brian Miller, Roger Hipkin, Jack McGowan, Mose Hutchison.

**1 Apologies:** Anne Dalrymple

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

With the correction to minute 5 (that the accountancy software may have been suitable but turned out not to be free), Jack McGowan proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by Bill Fearnley.

**3 Matters arising**

**§7 Ladywood Centre:** Bill Fearnley reported that the next public meeting of The Penicuik Community Sports and Leisure Foundation will be on March 15. They need more volunteers to man it and funding for badminton posts, netball posts. The Secretary will ask DTA whether we would compromise our charitable status if we lend or donate funds to them.

**§10.1 Community Council and town centre**

After a discussion with Duncan Thomas about how PCDT & PDCC could collaborate, in particular related to his Town Centre remit, the secretary wrote a letter (discussed and approved by Duncan beforehand) to the Community Council and presented a proposal at their February meeting suggesting seeking Greenspace Scotland support for improving the design of the town centre.

**§10.3 Town Hall**

The chair had spoken with Robin Strang, Midlothian Council, about the Town Hall let and was told that the building would re-open 14 April with a Tribute Band playing in the evening and that PCDT would start the Saturday Open House at the earliest opportunity, possibly including our slot on that morning. Opening might be staggered with staff moving in earlier.

Midlothian Council will install light, sound and induction-loop equipment in the lower hall of the Town Hall. Robin Strang was interested in the possibility of PCDT providing data-projection facilities.

**4 Correspondence**

A letter had been received from OSCR that we should pass the charities test after sending them a signed certification of our constitution. Bill Fearnley was given a copy of this letter for the Penicuik Sports and Community Foundation.

An 11 page letter was received from A.H.Wilson adding biographical information for A.G.Wilson's travel writings book.

**5 Financial Statement**

The Treasurer tabled up-dated accounts sheets, covering the period from 12 May 2006 up to 25 February 2007. The current balance is £4893.85.

He also provided a more detailed breakdown for Saturday Open House. The latter indicated an overall surplus of £1148.77 since March 20 2006, with the 8 weeks of events since we have been charged full rental making a loss of £5.88 on an income of £650.55.

Noting that postcard sales had already exceeded the Trust's contribution to the printing costs of the postcards, the treasurer proposed that the secretary be paid for the remaining cost of their printing. This was seconded by Jane Macintosh and approved unanimously by the committee.

## **6 Saturday Open House**

The secretary reviewed the objectives of the Saturday Open House project in the context of making a decision to continue it into the future – the previous decision had covered only a trial period. Saturday Open House provided

- social interaction and fellowship;
- opportunities for the public to voice opinions and for us to consult them – Open House represented 49 public meetings so far
- a vehicle for education and for creating pride in our town's heritage
- a funding base for generating further displays and events.

The secretary reiterated that our longer term aim should be to employ a café coordinator to be paid at least minimum wage. He had written to Midlothian Council asking for a reduced let.

At last Saturday's event, there were approx 60-70 people visiting and several new faces. Revenue and attendance had increased towards those achieved in the Town Hall. The exhibition about Mauricewood and Glencorse was the beginning of a series dealing with how communities in different parts of the town developed.

The current booking is until April 14. It was agreed that we should continue Saturday Open House until at least a couple of weeks after our AGM, in order to provide continuity if the new committee decide to continue it for the next year.

Saturday Open House program should be planned and publicised in advance.

## **7 Future plans**

The secretary suggested that PCDT should operate in three ways

- It should stimulate or support activity elsewhere (like helping the Ladywood Steering Committee)
- It should take part in joint ventures (like Penicuik Arts Festival with PCAA and others; and Town centre improvements with PDCC)
- It should lead events (like Open House, cinema, publishing).

A few specific examples were noted:

### **7.1 Doreen Cullen's Children's books**

Doreen's reading of her children's books at Saturday Open House had been very popular. It had involved scanning the images and showing them on a screen. It is intended that this be a first step in a project to have her books published.

### **7.2 A.G.Wilson's travel writings and other publishing ventures.**

This book, now extended by the contributions from his grandson, should be published within a month or so on behalf of the Trust but with no financial responsibility for Trust. It will be printed on demand by a process that has no significant initial overhead.

Ken Bogle, Midlothian Council's Local Studies Librarian, was interested in discussing further how we might collaborate in publishing books with Midlothian Libraries. A letter had been sent to Alan Reid, Head Librarian Midlothian Council, reporting the discussions and seeking approval.

We were investigating reprinting the postcard originally published to celebrate of the opening of the Cowan Institute as an interesting way to mark its reopening. Midlothian Libraries hold the copyright and permission is to be sought from Alan Reid. It was noted that commemorative stamps could be produced.

The chair suggested Midlothian Council Libraries would appreciate our help to put exhibitions and information on the internet.

Our guided walk leaflet is to be updated and extended.

### **7.3 Fundraising**

Bill Fearnley noted that the Shottstown Miners' Institute was good for a fundraising event as it is free with the Institute keeping the bar takings.

### **7.4 Music performances**

Graham MacDonald had offered to put on music performances; Bill Fearnley in support.

### **7.5 Tourism**

The chair noted that we could set up a trading subsidiary if charitable status prevented us from certain activities for visitors to Penicuik – like finding accommodation. Advice to be sought from Quentin Young, the MC officer dealing with tourism.

### **7.6 Cinema**

In response to members of the public interested in promoting cinema in the Town Hall, Ulla Hipkin to contact Jay Carlyle, organiser of Peebles Eastgate film club, about licensing and royalty fees.

## **8 Newsletter and Annual Report**

The draft circulated at the previous meeting had been reviewed and amended by the chair, vice-chair and secretary; copies would be sent to the treasurer, the web-manager and then other members of the committee.

A schedule for printing and distribution was discussed; if the Town Hall refurbishment was complete in time for our proposed AGM date in late April, the text must be finalised by March 10 and the leaflet delivered at the beginning of April.

## **9 Development Trust Association**

Wendy Reid had contacted the chair and wanted to review the Trust's progress and meet all the committee members. The secretary would see her on March 27 and arrange for her to come on the evening of Thursday April 8.

*[This meeting had to be re-arranged for Wednesday 7 April. It was attended by Wendy Reid (DTA) Roger Kelly, Jane Macintosh, Jack McGowan, Bill Fearnley, Ian Watson, Beth Scarr, Roger Hipkin, Grace Marques, Brian Miller, Jane Kelly, Barbara Dalgleish and Anne Dalymple. At the end of this meeting, Wendy announced that the Trust had reached the level necessary to graduate from provisional to full membership.]*

DTA was to be informed that Jane Macintosh would now be the contact person for the Trust.

Ulla Hipkin had attended a DTA Community Café information event.

## **10 Any other business**

None.

## **11 Date of next meeting**

No date was set for the next Steering Committee Meeting as this was the last planned before the AGM. Email, phone calls and meetings with individuals would help organise the Newsletter and its delivery, and the planning of the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.