

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 14th November, 7:30pm 2024
In the Gibb Rooms, Bleachingfield Centre

1 **Present:**

Trustees and Management Committee: Moira Cockburn (Acting Chair of Trustees), Tim Greene, Anne Harvey, Fiona Fleming, Dorothy Hilsley, Fionna Payton, Suzie Fletcher, Richard Taylor, Alison Murray (minutes)

Public: Bronwyn Brodie, William Fleming, Emma Taylor, Ishbel Macdonald, Fiona James, Muriel Willoughby, Alan Willoughby, Jo Ramage, Suzanne Hamilton, Fiona Byrnes, Diana Mackie, David Campbell, Alasdair Swan, Ruth Archer, Diana Hall, Diana Greene, Gareth Morgan, Jacquie Bell, Alan Dickerson, Susan Dickerson (total attendance of 29)

Apologies:

Trustees and Management Committee: Nick Archer, Neil Black, Bill Stevenson

Public: Chris McArthur, Jim Watson, Pippa Swan, Malcolm Paton, Brian Hilsley

2 **Opening Prayers:** were led by Anne Harvey, Chair of the Management Committee.

3 **Approval of the minutes** of the AGM held on 1st November 2023.

Proposed by Anne Harvey, seconded by Emma Taylor, and agreed to by the meeting.

4 **Trustees' Report:** Presented by Moira Cockburn

The Annual Report contains much to give thanks for. Of particular note is that after 19 years we have a new logo which was designed in partnership with both young people and adults. One of the first items to use our new logo is the Pledge Card which we hope will be a useful tool to encourage people to make financial contributions to DACYP.

Thanks were given to outgoing Trustees Jim Watson and Diana Mackie and to Management Committee member Robin Hamilton who have all left office during the last year. In September Tim Greene was welcomed as a Trustee. Both the Management Committee and Trustees would welcome one or two more members.

There has also been a staffing change with Liz Henderson stepping down as Administrator and Alison Murray taking up the role. Thanks were expressed to both Administrators.

5 Youth Worker's Report: Presented by Richard Taylor

Richard is always busy, but acknowledged that the volunteers play an important role in the work of DACYP. One recent example of this is three volunteers on the Dunbar Primary School P7 camp were able to support teachers as well as students. Both Dunbar Primary School and Dunbar Grammar School have new headteachers and Richard has received a warm welcome from them both. School staff are all pressured and we wonder how we can help.

In the primary school, Richard's work includes delivery of RME (Religious and Moral Education) lessons and provision of "check-in groups", all with P6&7.

Working in Dunbar Grammar School, the Lad's Group has grown to three groups. The similar group for girls is an area of struggle. There is a need and a want, but we do have to work with other agencies which adds a complexity and leads to delay. Another Dunbar Grammar event was the S3 trip to the WWI Battlefields and Richard was able to share a special moment of wreath laying with a couple of the lads. This was a reflective moment for all the students.

The Harbour Lights group continues to touch the lives of the young people involved and whether in celebrating success or grieving a family member, the children support each other and are nurtured by the DACYP team in many aspects of life and in faith.

Life Bites has expanded this year. Life Bites and Life Walks offered both food and food for thought. Faith is woven into all we do at DACYP and on one of the Life Walks there was an ideal space to talk about God being our shelter.

There is always more that can be done and some questions were discussed later in the meeting.

The chair expressed appreciation for Richard's continuity of service and his energy.

6 Treasurer's Report: presented by Fiona Fleming

Thanks were expressed for all who support DACYP financially. Statutory Accounts are available and a summary is included in the Annual Report.

Running at a deficit this year was intentional and reserves are still buoyant. Next year there will be more grant applications submitted, but there are less options than previously.

Caroline Bald has indicated that she is happy to continue as Independent Examiner of Accounts. The meeting agreed that she should continue in this role.

The Chair expressed appreciation of the expertise the Treasurer gives to this work.

- 7 Safeguarding and PVG update:** presented by Dorothy Hilsley
DACYP is grateful to have 45 volunteers working with us, 20 of them in the schools. The school staff are grateful too!

All volunteers receive safeguarding training and we use the same training as East Lothian Council. A new system of PVG applications starts soon and the Disclosure Act 2020 comes in next year. This will mean PVG is compulsory and will need to be renewed every five years.

The Chair thanked Dorothy for her work with Safeguarding which is so vital to the work of the project.

8 Election of Management Committee Member:

Rev Suzie Fletcher stood for re-election.

Proposed by Fiona Fleming, Seconded by Fionna Payton, and agreed to by the meeting.

9 Discussions: About twenty minutes was given to discussion in smaller groups.

The discipleship and nurturing of faith in young people:

- ❖ Disappointing not to have many children and young people in church.
- ❖ Traprain parish have sought to listen to children and are now running a youth club which offers a place to meet, chat and eat pizza with up to 30 attending. Nine children now stay on for a bible study.
- ❖ Traprain have also run a Toasty Tuesday program during the summer and offer Messy Church. They are looking for ways of going out into the community.
- ❖ Do we plan for young people, or listen to them and help them to realise plans?
- ❖ “Nothing about us is for us without us.”
- ❖ Activities do need a critical mass of attendance to work.
- ❖ Can young people be involved in leading worship?

If we employed a second youth worker what might they do?

What gaps are there in our provision and which of these could volunteers be trained up to fill?

- ❖ Succession would be stronger with more than one youth worker employed.
(Unlikely to find someone as experienced as Richard Taylor.)
- ❖ Smaller schools could be a focus.
- ❖ Leadership of Girl's Group ~ possibly grounds to stipulate female in job advertisement.
- ❖ Perhaps start part time.
- ❖ Additional Support Needs – does that fit in with our aims?
- ❖ Train young people in leadership skills.
- ❖ Christian formation and development.
- ❖ Develop volunteers and offer training to volunteers.
- ❖ Funding – flexible – Church of Scotland Seed for Growth might fund.

10 Any Other Competent Business: none.

11 Closing prayers were led by Tim Greene, Trustee.

Refreshments were served.