

Community Follow-Up Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Tarbrax Village Hall

Chair & Facilitator: John Tucker

Notes Taken By: Lesley Andrew

Purpose of the Meeting

John opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose was to agree on what the community wants to achieve from the upcoming Emergency General Meeting (EGM) and how to respond constructively to the Board's request for formal resolutions. This meeting was not intended to revisit previous, or to highlight new, concerns, but rather to focus on specific actions and outcomes.

Key Discussion Points

1. Clarifying the EGM Goals

- The group agreed that the EGM should be used to seek clarity, accountability, and a path forward for WATIF.
- The focus was on identifying clear, actionable resolutions to submit to the Board by the 9 October deadline.
- It was agreed that due to time constraints, a small working group could take this forward to pull together the response on time.
- The general consensus was that attendees were not satisfied with the current board, and wish for them to step down.
- Finances need to be explained (see below for more details)
- Excessive use of NDAs (as per details discussed in last meeting)
- Ensuring engagement with the community (or more specifically, opportunities where interested members of the community are consulted on opinions)

2. External Advice and Support

- A member has been seeking advice, information and guidance on our behalf from DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) and VASLan (Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire) to support the community's approach. (Thank you)
- A meeting is to be arranged with the working group and Stuart Reilly c/o VASLan to ensure our response meets requirements.

3. Understanding Charity Structure

- John explained that WATIF is a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which gives it legal status and protection for trustees.
- He also clarified the roles of elected, appointed, and co-opted trustees, and how these different appointments contribute to the board's expertise and balance. (a breakdown of terms follows the notes)

4. Financial Transparency

- Many members expressed that they still do not fully understand how the charity reached its current financial position.
- While WATIF has published accounts and profit/loss statements online, these are not easily understandable for all.

Members requested:

- A clear breakdown of available funds
- What each fund can be used for
- Deadlines or conditions attached to each fund
- An explanation of what went wrong and how this happened. The feeling is this could go a long way to prevent falling into similar circumstances in future.

5. Request for Regular Financial Presentations

- It was proposed that the Chair and/or Treasurer could host regular events to present financial information in person, allowing for interested members of the community to attend.

These sessions would:

- Walk through expenses and budgets
- Allow for questions and discussion
- Help rebuild trust and improve transparency

6. Trustee Nominations

Several individuals expressed interest in standing as trustees:

- Rosemary Rennie
- Alan (Tommy) Rennie
- Lewis Rennie (young trustee)
- Chris Froom
- Patricia Tucker
- Marnie Jones
- Kenny Cairns
- Mima Cairns

These names will be submitted to the Board to be voted on at the General Meeting.

7. Community Engagement

As the meeting was arranged at short notice, several members were unable to attend. A leaflet will be created and distributed to inform the community about the General Meeting and trustee nominations. Massive thank you to everyone who pulled together to make this happen.

Candidates will also be invited to write a short biography to introduce themselves and help members make informed voting decisions at the EGM.

Instructions are available on the WATIF website or by contacting WATIF directly at contact@watif.scot if you would like to become a member or trustee.

Thanks and closing remarks

Thank you to everyone that was able to come along at such short notice and apologies to those that couldn't make it this time. Thank you to John for facilitating and chairing the discussion and for everyone's contributions keeping the discussions meaningful and relevant. Thank you to all those that have been engaging with members of the community and seeking advice on all our behalf's.

Glossary of Charity Terms (Plain English)

A quick run-down of key terms used in charity governance, in case it's of help:

SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

A legal form of charity in Scotland. It gives the organisation its own legal identity, meaning it can own property, employ staff, and sign contracts. Trustees have limited liability, and the charity is regulated by OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

Incorporated vs Unincorporated Charities

- **Incorporated Charity:** Has its own legal identity. Trustees are usually protected from personal liability. Examples include SCIOs and companies limited by guarantee.
- **Unincorporated Charity:** Does not have a separate legal identity. Trustees may be personally liable for contracts or debts. Examples include trusts and associations.

Trustees

People legally responsible for running the charity. They must:

- Act in the charity's best interests

- Use funds properly
- Follow the law and constitution
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Keep proper records and accounts

Types of Trustees

- Elected Trustee: Chosen by members through a vote.
- Appointed Trustee: Selected by the board or another group.
- Co-opted Trustee: Invited onto the board to fill a skills gap.
- Young Trustee: A trustee under 30, bringing youth perspectives.

Officer Roles

- Chair: Leads the board and meetings.
- Secretary: Keeps records and handles official documents.
- Treasurer: Manages the charity's finances