

Dumbleton Conservation Society

Annual General Meeting – 6th April 2025

Committee Members present: Darren Price (DP), Bob Kennedy (BK), David Braham (DB), Pete Stanley (PS), Nick Towe (NT), Anne Goodenough (AG), Clare Hambro (CH)

1. Welcome to the AGM and Apologies (DP)

DP welcomed everyone to the third AGM of Dumbleton Conservation Society and noted no apologies from committee members.

2. Report on DCS activities 2024-25 (DP)

DP summarised activities for the last year and recognised the contributions of members.

- We have continued to raise objections to the planning application for Golden Hay field and attended the TBC Planning Committee meeting on 20th August 2024, where planning was approved.
- Our objections did result in a number of changes to the application that have improved the outcome (including reducing the height of the roof eaves, reconfiguring the road layout into and out of the field and creating an open space within the development), but we are disappointed that there will be a loss of wildlife habitat and impact on the feeding grounds for bats and that the planning was granted on a Rural Exception Site basis without what we believe is justifiable evidence of the housing needs.
- We applied for the field to be an Asset of Community Value. This was initially approved and then rescinded due to TBC procedural errors and a revised application was submitted. This has just been rejected on the grounds that the field has not been used by the community in recent years. We are surprised by this as ACV applications consider longer term use over decades and it is only recently that use of the field has reduced, but not stopped.
- We issued several newsletters throughout the year promoting events, asking for support to object to the planning on Golden Hay field (which gained good support) and promoting the annual Dumbleton Village Calendar.
- The 2025 Calendar was again a huge success with dozens of photographs submitted and the final selection and design was generally regarded as an improvement on the 2024 calendar. We sold 124 calendars and attended the Dumbleton Village Hall Café, the Christmas Tree lighting event, and promoted the calendar on the village WhatsApp group.
- DCS worked closely with the Parish Council and Dumbleton Village Hall committees throughout the year, and we are now a recognised part of village life.
- DP finished by thanking everyone for their individual contributions, noting that we are lucky to have a strong range of complementary skills in the team.

3. Report & Update on Society Finances (BK)

BK circulated a summary of the Society finances. The account at end March 2025 has a balance of £742.75. This accounts for operating costs, printing for newsletters and the calendar, and an accrual of £400 for a donation to the Red Telephone Box appeal.

BK again raised his concerns that the Website is costing in excess of £250 a year, which is a large proportion of our annual fees and overall income, and asked if we felt this is value for money. We have discussed previously alternatives to a website, such as a Facebook page and we did not discuss this again, but the group believes there are cheaper options available.

PS took an action to undertake some investigations into costs of other Web Service Providers and report back.

The meeting discussed if we should continue with the annual membership fee at the same amount of £20 per household, and it was concluded that we will do so for 2025/26 and review again at the next AGM.

4. Election of Committee Members (DP)

DP confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Chair. DB proposed, and CH seconded Darren's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. DP was duly elected Chair of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

PS confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Secretary Membership Secretary and also Membership secretary. CH proposed, and AG seconded Pete's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. PS was duly elected Secretary of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

BK confirmed that he is happy to stand for the position of Treasurer. NT proposed, and DB seconded Bob's candidacy. No other candidates were proposed. BK was duly elected Treasurer of the Dumbleton Conservation Society Committee.

The meeting then addressed the positions of up to four Committee Members with no portfolio.

Anne Goodenough (AG), Nick Towe (NT), Clare Hambro (CH) and David Braham (DB) verbally confirmed that they are happy to continue working on the Committee and to stand for one of these roles.

There were no other proposals to stand for these roles and the meeting agreed to duly elect Nick Towe (NT), David Braham (DB), Anne Goodenough (AG), and Clare Hambro (CH) as Committee members.

5. Changes to Name of the Society

DP summarised the suggestion from member Jim Harmsworth Cowles that the name of the society may be creating a perception that we are an anti-planning group. This was mentioned at the TBC planning committee meeting by the Agent proposing the development on Golden Hay field and which DCS disputed in writing

to the planning officer. The society has been focussed primarily on the Golden Hay proposed development due to the elongated process allowed to the Agent by TBC.

The meeting discussed the issue with each Committee Member expressing their views. In summary the committee feels that there is not a strong wider perception within the village and that if it is the case, it can only be corrected by our actions, not just a change to the society name. In that respect promoting the other work we do, such as Ecology Events and the proposed Dumbly Day will support that, and with the Golden Hay planning being granted (final notice on 18th Feb 2025) we expect a lull in activity on this, until there is a sale and the developer starts work.

A vote was held with all members against changing the society name and the chair abstaining.

6. AOB

NT suggested that the Society should have a mission statement, and it was agreed that NT should draft a proposal for consideration at a future committee meeting.

7. AGM Closure

DP thanked everyone for attending the AGM and reiterated that it had been a good year.