

KPT DT Directors' Meeting Minutes**Thursday 12th March 2026, Trust Office, Penpont (6.00pm)****KPT Community Energy and Efficiency Ltd****KPT Development Trust**

1	Present	Maureen (Chair), Fiona, Caroline, Chris, Alison, Michelle J, Michelle C, Rachel
2	Apologies	Dean
3	Declaration of Interest	None.
4	Minute of Previous Meeting	Accepted; Proposed by Fiona and seconded by Chris.
5	Matters Arising	None
6	Correspondence	Trustees ID checks
7	Finance Report Community Benefit Fund approvals	<p>The finance report was circulated by Michelle C. prior to the meeting and accepted by the directors. Income in February was £479,128 and expenditure was £483,838. The cash balance was £148,153</p> <p>Application to fund community garden events agreed - £500</p>
8	Development Officer Report	<p>Litter pick on Saturday 14th February was successful.</p> <p>Community Garden Network partners have agreed to put forward a collective funding application.</p> <p>N76 - Nithsdale & New Cumnock bus survey has been completed. Report and press release has been submitted.</p> <p>Thornhill community transport has requested support to publicise that they need some more volunteer drivers.</p> <p>Cycle Repair Café event 21st March: Dr Bike – bike safety checks, Police Scotland in attendance, children’s activities including sowing seeds, craft circle, tabletop sale, a stone hunt along the active travel path. Agreement with the Community Council to work on a tabletop display promoting and encouraging new volunteers to KPT, Community Council, Joseph Thomson Museum and Thornhill transport at the event on 21st March.</p> <p>Craft Circle continues to be well attended. On</p>

		<p>Wednesday, Third Sector D&G attended the KPT office to gather film footage and photographs to record participation, testimonials and feedback from the group.</p> <p>DG3 Community Energy Network Expression of Interest was submitted to CARES. However, this was suspended due to the requirement to spend awarded funds within a month, which was deemed unfeasible.</p>
9	ATP Tracks & Trails Update	<p>Caroline circulated her report prior to the meeting. The current phase of the project is nearing completion, with most invoices expected to be settled by the end of the month. Surfacing of the path, kerbs, road, retaining wall for traffic lights, signage posts and markings are all complete. Delays of work to install the traffic signals on 12th and 13th March and that were due to be commissioned on the 23rd of March have been delayed due to bad weather.</p> <p>Thornhill Active Travel Group are organising a Public Event at Drumlanrig View community lounge on 25th March between 4 & 6 pm to demonstrate support for the RDO on Boat Brae. Advertisement of this would be beneficial to gather support of the RDO and emphasise the safety elements of it.</p> <p>Estimate to repair the broken railing is £680 plus VAT – this has been accepted and will be completed at the beginning of next week. Andy McQuaker has been contracted by Keir Community Council to carry out upgrades to the riverside path.</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>Adverse weather prevents signal installation. The signage is held up resulting in health and safety issues relating to path use. RDO remains unresolved</p>
10	Community Housing Update	<p>Michelle C shared that the trust officially owns the land, with title deeds being prepared. SOSCH is set to take on the formal project management role, pending funding confirmation from South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE). SOSE has proposed a funding package of £600,000, which would cover McGowan Miller's fees, SOSCH's fees, and a contribution to the capital build costs. However, it was noted that the funding package does not currently include a contribution to KPT's core costs,</p>

		<p>and this will be raised with SOSE.</p> <p>The next steps involve awaiting the grant offer from SOSE, after which SOSCH will formally appoint McGowan Miller to begin work on the project brief. The group discussed the possibility of hosting a community event, such as a summer barbecue, to celebrate the project and engage the community in the planning process.</p>
11	Community Garden	<p>The community garden is reported to be progressing well with a few events scheduled.</p> <p>A seed sowing event is scheduled for 21st March.</p> <p>A tattie planting session on 28th March.</p> <p>Easter Themed Activities on 11th April</p> <p>Efforts are being made to attract more volunteers.</p> <p>The garden's chickens are doing well, and tarp cover has been installed. Fiona requested tracking the financial sustainability of the egg sales to ensure they cover the costs of feed and bedding ACTION Michelle C. It was noted that most people are donating £2 per box of eggs, which is helping to offset costs.</p> <p>Dougie Patterson expressed interest in introducing beekeeping to the garden and has proposed accommodating two beehives on the site. He has offered to take full responsibility for the hives and is exploring a beekeeping course that could potentially be funded through a grant. Michelle will explore feasibility of introducing beekeeping at the community garden, including gathering details of relevant courses and potential funding opportunities, ACTION Michelle C</p> <p>The current inverter is insufficient to power a kettle. It was suggested that upgrading the inverter and potentially adding more batteries and solar panels could improve functionality, particularly for volunteer support. ACTION: Michelle C – Griff (electrical)</p>
12	Risks	<p>Director overload – new trustees to be explored and identified. Exploration of other community members.</p>
13	AOCB	<p>Penpont Community Council have been gifted a tree to plant (a crab apple tree) - Irene H will prepare the chosen site on the active travel path for the planting of a commemorative tree and plaque on 21st March.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the behaviour of a community council member. Alison shared her experience of being subjected to hostile questioning and derogatory comments during community council meetings. The trust members agreed that this behaviour is unacceptable and discussed steps to</p>

		address it. It was decided that the trust would submit a formal complaint to the council and cease sending representatives to community council meetings until the issue is resolved. Updates from the trust will instead be provided in writing. Michelle will seek advice and guidance regarding community council conduct; ACTION: Michelle J
14	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 16 th April 2026, 6.00pm.