



SCIO SC044354

Milnathort & Kinross Allotments Association



Annual Report

1/11/2015 — 31/10/2016

Contents

Charity Details.....	3
Summary.....	5
Membership and plots.....	5
Community Engagement	6
Review of aims	8
Future plans.....	10
Accounts.....	11

Charity Details

Organisation	Milnathort and Kinross Allotments Association
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number	SC044354
Registered Address	6 Sandport Close, Kinross KY13 8FZ
Allotments Site Address	Turfhills, Kinross KY13 0NQ
Website	http://www.milnathortandkinrossallotments.org/

Charity Trustees

Chair	Sid Grant
Vice Chair	Amanda James
Treasurer	Denise Dupont
Secretary	Jennifer Best
Minutes Secretary	Jaqueline Ritchie
General	Jimmy McLaren Pauline Copeland

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 23rd October 2013. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are elected at the annual general meeting which was held in October 2015 and will hereafter be held in November. There must be a minimum of four and a maximum of eight trus-

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To provide advancement of environmental protection or improvement by encouraging a variety of people to use the allotment space or space within their own garden for cultivation of fruit and vegetables and by helping to raise awareness of issues such as food waste, reducing food miles, increasing composting and issues surrounding protection of the environment.

To provide advancement of education by providing the opportunity for people within the community to gain skills in and understanding of growing, cultivating and harvesting fruit and vegetables by attending workshops.

To provide advancement of citizenship or community development by organising and encouraging participation in events and local workshops.

Annual report authors

Jennifer Best and Sid Grant

Signed on behalf of the association by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JH Best'.

Jennifer Best (Secretary)

16 July 2017

Summary

This is the second annual report of Milnathort and Kinross Allotments Association (MKAA) which became a registered charity in the form of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation in October 2013. As such the charity is administered by a board of trustees (detailed on page 3).

MKAA lease an area of land from Dobbies Garden Centres at Turfhill, by Kinross. The date of entry was 1st November 2013 and the lease runs until 31st October 2028. Annual rent of £240 is due on the anniversary of the date of entry. The initial development of the allotments site in 2013/14 was funded through a grant from the Climate Challenge Fund. In 2015, the original 30 plots were expanded to 34 plots following permission from Dobbies Garden Centres (for up to 36 plots) and the receipt of a non-material variation to the allotment planning consent from Perth and Kinross Council (for 34 plots).

At the time of this report there are 50 members, all 34 plots are tenanted and there is a waiting list of 3 people.

MKAA continues to receive support from Tracey Ramsay at Perth and Kinross Council, who kindly organises meeting room facilities at the Loch Leven Community Campus for Allotment Association Meetings (Autumn to Spring) with summer meetings held at the Allotments in the Community Hut.

Membership & Plots

Membership of MKAA costs £10 and is a one off payment for life. There are currently 50 members.

There are 34 plots on site, all of which are currently tenanted. The plot rents in 2015/6 were: £30 for 200m² plots; £20 for 100m² plots; £14 for 70m² plots and £10 for 50m² plots. There is a waiting list of 3 people.

Community Engagement

Communications

MKAA has a website and facebook page which are used to communicate with members and the local community. In December 2015, the website was updated and relaunched with a mobile site as well as a standard format site. The new site included "News" and "Meetings" pages, where upcoming events and all meeting papers (agendas, minutes and any supporting documents) are posted.

In 2015, the MKAA Board re-instated that all Board Meetings should be open to all members to encourage members to more actively participate and to foster a more open and transparent management of the association and charity.

In addition, articles are occasionally placed in the Kinross Community Council Newsletter.

Workshops and workdays

Association workshops provide opportunities for plot holders, association members and members of the local community to get involved and learn about growing food, as well as the health and environmental benefits of doing so.

Association workdays aim to combine essential ongoing maintenance and development around the site with an opportunity for members and non members to spend time on the site, either in the community garden or elsewhere, in the company of workday leaders and other like minded individuals. This has the benefit of informal skill and knowledge sharing as well as providing a chance to socialise.

In 2015/6 a series of workshops and workdays were organised:

- November 15 - early winter tidy work day with Unpaid Work Team
- January 16 - mid-winter tidy work day with Binn Skips
- January 16 - mid-winter tidy work day with the Unpaid Work Team
- March 16 - Seed Sowing
- April/May 16 - Using the Association Power Tools Safely and spring tidy work day

PKC Unpaid Work Team

In November 2015, the Perth and Kinross Council Unpaid Works Team helped plant trees provided by the Woodland Trust around the site perimeter. In addition, the Unpaid work team also helped clear and rotovate the area for the new allotment plots, giving the new plotholders a start on clearing the area.

Community Garden Grow Beds

The community garden continues to develop, with further planting of the Community Beds. In summer 2016, spare plants from the allotment sales were planted within the Community Garden, and tomatoes and cucumbers were also planted in the Communal Polytunnel. The produce was then sold to members, visitors and through the Boathouse Restaurant. The monies raised went into association funds.

There were also several beds used by members of the Community wishing for small grow spaces and members who were waiting for an allotment plot to become available.

Sensory garden and forest garden development

Further development of the sensory garden was postponed in 2016 while addition funds were raised. Instead the constructed beds were turned over to vegetable and herb production, which were sold to raise funds.

Orchard Development

In autumn 2015, MKAA was successful in gaining support from Binn Skips, who provided labour and equipment and sufficient skips to remove all the remaining non-compostable and poorly compostable wastes from the site, which included a large volume of material that had been temporarily stored in an area to the north of the site allocated to the allotments orchard.

Kinross Christmas Market

MKAA took a stall at the Kinross Christmas Market in November 2015 to sell plants grown and crafts produced by Association members. The weather was terrible and consequently sales were slow.

Kinross Farmer's Market

MKAA took a stall at the Kinross Farmer's Market in April 2016 to sell plants grown and raised by the Association and members. The sale went well with plants that were left sold to members on the site.

MKAA Scratchcard Lottery

In 2016, Sid Grant applied for a PKC small lottery licence on behalf of MKAA. Following approval of the licence, MKAA members raised funds for the association by selling scratch-cards. Complete cards sold for £20, with each card paying £10 to the winner and raising £10 for Association funds.

MKAA Open Day and Harvest Fete

The MKAA Open day and harvest fete was again held in September 2016 and the weather was glorious. Visitor numbers were far higher than in previous years. Members from the local art group who used the allotments for a summer art project joined in the event bringing along drawings and paintings they had produced. Rutherfords Jams a local jam producer also had a small stall.



The Association, had a number of stalls selling: plants; vegetables; homemade jams and chutneys; and home baking. There was also the ever popular Tomobola, a raffle and games for the kids, including the Big Allotment Treasure Hunt. With teas and coffees for sale in the Community Hut and the great weather many visitors. Thanks to all the visitors, over £700 was raised for Association funds.

Review of aims

In the 2014/15 Annual report MKAA identified areas in order to prioritise work and funds for the 2015/16 year. These are detailed below along with progress towards meeting them.

Site Developments

In 2015 the MKAA Board were able to finalise the outstanding discrepancies in the planning consent for the site as well as expanding the number of plots to 34. The plots were then created and cleared with help from the PKC Unpaid Work team and association volunteers. The plots were then let in time for the 2016 growing season.

The Association Orchard was cleared and laid out with the help of Binn Skips, Duncan McNab, corporate volunteers from Cooperative Supermarkets and association volunteers. Spaces have now been created ready for planting over winter 2016/17.

Following a successful application to the Woodland Trust Association volunteers supported by the PKC Unpaid work team planted further native trees and hedging around the site perimeter which once grown will hopefully add to the existing beech hedge windbreak.

Development of areas for community use

There has been increasing interest shown in the community garden this year, including the two large raised beds. The new Board identified this as one of their priority areas for development, with the creation of Learn-to-Grow beds, where people will be supported to start growing their own food and flowers. This was not progressed in 2016 as funds needed to be raised to allow this to be developed.

Educational Activities

A number of workshops were organised, attendance was low, however feedback from attendees was positive. The Association will continue to provide workshops and will explore further ways to publicise these.

Fundraising

Fundraising for the Association without being overly reliant on successful grant applications was seen by the 2015/16 Board as critical. As such fundraising activities were stepped up in 2015/16. Fundraising activities included, holding events, sales of plants, produce and crafts, running a scratch-card lottery and having a collection at Dobbies Garden Centre.

New Website

A new mobile compatible website was produced and delivered in December 2016. Website traffic is still relatively low, however, the MKAA Board now post all meeting dates, agendas, and minutes on the website rather than sending attachments by email. Thus encouraging members to use this as their first stop for information on the management as well as all upcoming events. Content is regularly updated, with new content posted on average twice a month, thus making the MKAA website the primary communication tool with members and the wider public.

Future Aims

The MKAA Board have identified areas in order to prioritise work for the 2016/17 year. These are detailed below:

Site Developments

In 2015 the MKAA Board were able to finalise the outstanding discrepancies in the planning consent for the site. The final issue to be resolved in 2016/7 is Building Regs for the Composting Toilet.

Improvement of areas for community use

Other areas prioritised for the site are:

- Painting of the community hut and communal store
- Re-roofing the communal store with rain harvesting
- Rain-harvesting for the communal polytunnel
- Creation of further Learn-to-grow beds
- Addition of awning structures to the Community Hut and Communal Store to provide covered outdoor space

Educational Activities

A number of workshops will be organised, attendance will be open to members and the local community. Workshops will be publicised on the Association website, with entries in the local Community Newsletter and with posters displayed locally.

Fundraising

Fundraising for the Association continues to be critical to the development of the site and the community facilities. In 2016/7 fundraising activities will also focus on increasing the profile of the organisation, the charity and its objectives. Fundraising activities will include: holding events, sales of plants, produce and crafts.

Increasing Community Use of the Allotments

As well as providing space for Community growing, the Association Board have identified that the site and Communal buildings could be made available for use by other Community Groups for activities or meetings.

2015/16 Annual Accounts

Income

Income for 01/11/15 to 31/10/16		£2692
Restricted Funds		£0
Unrestricted Funds		£2692
Donations		£114
Grants	Volunteering Matters	£250
Receipt from Fundraising		£1489
Gross Trading Receipts		£53
Rents from land & buildings		£750

Expenditure

Payments for 01/11/15 to 31/10/16		£1424
Restricted Funds		£39
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		£39
Unrestricted Funds		£1385
Expenses for Fundraising		£70
Gross Trading Payments		£53
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		£1251
Governance Costs - Other		£11

Reporting Year Surplus/(Deficit)

Previous Reporting Year (2014/5)	(£700)
Current Reporting Year (2015/6)	£1258