

*Dalwhinnie Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026*

**DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**SC048796**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026**

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## ***Dalwhinnie Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026***

### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026**

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

#### **1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

|                                           |                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charity number                            | SC048796                                                                                                                            |
| Principle Address:                        | DALWHINNIE VILLAGE HALL<br>DALWHINNIE<br>PH19 1AB                                                                                   |
| Current Trustees:                         | Ewan Carr (Chair and Secretary)<br>Frank McInally (Treasurer)<br>Jules Akel<br>Michael Chappell<br>Hannah Watson<br>Neil Watson     |
| Other Trustees who served during the year | Ian Philp (stepped down 30th December 2025)                                                                                         |
| Independent Examiner:                     | Mike Revels and Company<br>Accountants & Business Advisors<br>Waukrigg Mill<br>Duke Street<br>Galashiels<br>Selkirkshire<br>TD1 1QD |

#### **2. TRUST STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### ***Governing Document***

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by constitution, the constitution formally adopted on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

##### ***Appointment of Trustees***

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of ten members, elected by the charity at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees may appoint any other qualifying person as a trustee at any time.

##### ***Induction and Training of Trustees***

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When elected, Trustees are provided with a copy of the constitution, and other relevant documents, and are given appropriate training as to their roles and responsibilities as a Trustee. Trustees are also encouraged to take advantage of other training opportunities to reinforce their understanding of what is required of them within this role.

### *Organisational Structure*

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the day- to- day management of the charity and will meet a minimum of three times per year.

### **3. TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### *Risk Assessment*

The Trustees regularly review the risks to which the charity is exposed, to consider that the charity has appropriate policies and procedures in place to mitigate risk. They do not consider that there are any substantial risks beyond those liabilities disclosed in the financial statements.

The charity holds employers, public liability and professional indemnity insurance policies which are reviewed on an annual basis.

#### *Objectives and Activities*

The charity was formed in 2018 as a Tier 1 organisation for the Advancement of Community Development and the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational facilities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.

The charity's main activities during the past financial year have therefore been:

- To complete the regeneration of the Dalwhinnie Village Hall for the benefit of the local community, to support the hall's continuing viability as a community resource
- To take forward other appropriate initiatives and projects to the benefit of the Dalwhinnie community

#### *The Village Hall*

Following on from the extensive upgrades of the halls' heating, plumbing and hot water systems from 2024 and early 2025 which was accomplished with grants from the Cairngorms National Park and Highland Council, the administrator sourced further funding to enable the completion of the entire building's insulation, the resurfacing and insulation of the tiled flooring areas and the redecoration of the main hall and committee room to bring the building up to the current environmental standards, thus reducing costs and CO2 emissions.

During these works, other repairs were found to be necessary and so with the grant from SSE Renewables Community Fund, these were carried out and so the building is now in very good condition and regarded as one of the best village halls in the Strathspey and Badenoch region.

The Dalwhinnie Community Development Trust was awarded £44,878.33 by the Cairngorms Trust Community Led Vision Fund in July and a further £55,745 was awarded by SSE Community Fund in November. As the later award also covered the entire phase of the project costs and the first grant had covered the greater part of this budget, assurance was sought from SSE as to whether the award still stood. SSE allowed the DCDT to keep the monies, on condition that they went to the improvement of the hall with the remainder to be used for the renewable energy system which the Trustees are planning as the next stage of the hall's continuing sustainable development.

These works were carried out during November and December 2025 with the resurfacing and insulation of the tiled flooring areas being completed in March 2026.

As a consequence of this work, the hall was closed for a number of weeks and so this reduced significantly when it could be used for fund raising.

The hall was used by the Dalwhinnie Community Council for 8 meetings, with 4 DCDT trustees' meetings, a public presentation by the Dalwhinnie MicroWind Power Initiative and 2 local social events. None of these events generated any income as the trustees continue to support the local community.

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The Trustees organised a Burns Supper which was attended by local people, Badenoch Shinty Memories and people from Laggan. It was well supported with over sixty guests and the proceeds were split between the DCDT and Badenoch Shinty Memories. The DCDT also participated in a Craft Fair held by the DCC by selling refreshments to visitors.

The gym continues to be a valuable local resource and the running costs are subsidised by the DCDT to enable the community to use it and the Trust now charges a minimal monthly fee for usage which supports the equipment costs.

The Dalwhinnie Community Council added a multi gym apparatus to the gym equipment.

Our MSP held 3 surgeries in the committee room and hires from individuals also helped with funding.

In its capacity as a respite centre, in July we rescued two young men who were caught by the weather and both soaked through by enabling them to stay in the hall overnight with a hot shower and hot refreshments.

### *Community Initiatives*

The Trust continues to act as an umbrella organisation for the Dalwhinnie Flood Resilience Group which now has planning permission to build a bund to minimize the risk of flooding along the river Truim and received a grant award from SSE Community Fund of £92,955 to support this. The DFRG continues to work towards this work and hopes to complete the bund in 2027.

To bring in the final piece of the regeneration and sustainability of the hall, a renewable energy system is required. When the Administrator started to investigate this, she realised how much work this will involve and put to the trustees a proposal to include all the village community in a renewable energy system. In July 2025, the Interface organisation for university funding for projects agreed that they might support a feasibility study to investigate a Micro Wind energy system for Dalwhinnie which, because we fall within the purview of the CNPA, the use of any wind turbine energy schemes has up to now been banned.

A public presentation was carried out in the hall with a good proportion of residents in attendance and representatives from the CNPA, LES, VABS and the Highland and Islands Climate Hub on the panel. The community agreed to have individual energy surveys carried out on their properties by LES and to share their data with the Administrator in order that she could go ahead and start a process. Robert Gordon University tendered for the feasibility and scoping project and in February 2026, with a grant of £7,500 paid directly to RGU from Interface, the study began and the report is due in June 2026.

As the excess grant award from SSE Renewables Community Fund, approximately £39,000 is still being held in the DCDT bank account, the trustees have agreed that this money be ringfenced for the renewable energy project.

Both above are large, complicated projects being carried out mostly by volunteers from this community with expert help and support from the necessary agencies which requires funding and the DCDT trustees support the efforts of the community fully with these initiatives.

The Earba Community Alliance is a cooperation between the Community Councils of Dalwhinnie, Laggan, Newtonmore and Spey Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnaccary which was started by the Dalwhinnie community in February 2025 to provide a forum for the above to discuss, plan and best ensure that the proposed PSH scheme about 8 miles from here on Ardverikie estate, has benefits for the communities and communication is maintained between the developer and the people impacted by the construction and after effects once the scheme is completed. This group's Dalwhinnie representative is also the administrator of the DCDT. The hall has hosted two meetings for this group.

The DCDT was also the beneficiary of a donation of sleeping bags from Ian Philp, Gillies Ltd, and this supports the hall being the recognised respite area for this community in times of emergency and increases the trust's other equipment having bought rechargeable torches, airbeds and refreshments earlier.

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### 4. FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### *Overview*

Income this year was £102,173 (2025: £61,334), including £670 in donations.

Expenditure over the year was £61,022 (2024: £63,578) with the main expenditure going on the insulation, repairs and joinery works as well as administration costs of £2823.33.

A large expense was the energy cost in this year, £3,589 as due to an impasse with Scottish Power which resulted in a bill carried forward from September 2024 to August 2025 of £1431. The energy costs for 2025 to 2026 were also high due to the energy used to dry plaster and paintwork and a very cold December and January when the frost free heating was on and the drying of the floor resurfacing in March 2026.

Grants of £44,878.33 and £55,745 were awarded by the Cairngorms Trust Community Led Vision fund and SSE Renewables Community Fund and appear in the accounts.

#### *Reserves Policy*

The DCDT continues to hold £10,000 in reserve to ensure that the hall as a community resource can be maintained for a minimum period of 2 years.

#### *Future Plans*

The DCDT trustees are working on a new constitution to convert the Trust to a more community involved charity.

The 2 Tier charity status will allow a much wider, operative mandate for the charity.

This will also allow the Trust to become a member of the Development Trusts Association of Scotland and so lead to the possibility of more funding sources to continue its community support.

The Trust is also working on having a renewable energy system installed in the hall and the report for the feasibility study will be presented by Robert Gordon University in June, 2026.

The trustees have decided that Broadband should be installed in the hall to enable more hires and raise income as Zoom could then be used by hirers and a cinema system could be added.

### 5. APPROVAL

This report was unanimously approved by the Trustees on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Ewan Carr (Chairman)



Frank Mcinally (Treasurer)

