



New Deer Community Association (SCIO) SC053310

Formerly Scottish Charity No. SC033578

Now SCIO SC053310

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended August 31, 2025

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended August 31, 2025

The Office Bearers and Trustees (Members of the Board/Charity Trustees) have pleasure in presenting this merged report, along with the Income & Expenditure statement and the Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended August 31, 2025.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

New Deer Community Association

Charity No.

Formerly SC033578

Now SCIO SC053310

Address

c/o Susan Fowlie, Brucehill, New Deer, Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 6YL

Trustees

Karen Duncan
Wilma Mutch
Graeme Neish
Alexander Ritchie

Members of the Board/Charity Trustees

Wilma Mutch
Susan Robertson

Management Committee (Office Bearers and Community/Group Representatives)

Susan Robertson
Susan Fowlie
Joseph McGrane

Chairperson (Volunteer Film Promoter)
Secretary (also represents Badminton Club and Social Running)
Treasurer

John Beale
Claire Brown
Nigel Buchan
Anne Dickinson
William Fowlie
Jayne French
Elaine Ironside
Amanda Gill
Jane Knowles
Robert McLean
Anne Milne

Buchan Amateur Dramatic Association
New Deer SWI
Royal British Legion
Boys' Brigade
Agricultural Association and *Park Convener*
What's On
Heritage Group
Primary School
Cairnbanno SWI
St Kane's Church
Friendship Club
St Kane's Guild
Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows
Theatre Group
Indoor Bowlers
Gardening Group
St Kane's Early Learning Childcare Centre
Disabled and Seniors' Club

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Heather MacDonald
Andy McDougall
Leslie Simpson
Leonora Walker
Vicki Will
Wilma Wilson

Other Management Committee Members (Public Members) who served throughout the year

Alasdair Brodie
Jane Hodgson
Lesley Milne
Karen Osterberg

There are 28 regularly attending committee members. Affiliated community groups are invited to send representatives to management committee meetings, and members of the public may also attend meetings.

Structure, Governance and Management

NDCA was an unincorporated association until 25/04/25, when it was recognised as a SCIO by OSCR. It is governed by an OSCR approved Constitution which was adopted and signed at the AGM on 30/10/24, by K. Duncan, S. Fowlie, W. Fowlie, J. McGrane, W. Mutch, G. Neish and S Robertson.

Having commenced the transition process in 2023, but because of historic legal historical documents and complicated property assets, it proved to be less than straightforward. OSCR was always on hand to give advice along the way and finally gave permission to commence the winding-up process and conclude the transfer of assets – but completion of a Supplementary form was required. The transfer of assets from the original charity to the new SCIO status was eventually made on 26/03/2025.

Appointment of Management Committee

Membership of the management committee is open to any member of the organisation (Public Member) or affiliated community group (Community/Group Representative.) Members of the Managing Board are elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting which is normally held at the end of October/beginning of November. Management Committee meetings are scheduled to take place six times a year.

Management Board

Since becoming a SCIO, these are now referred to as Charity Trustees or Members of the Board. Formerly, the Trustees were responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Association, whilst day-to-day running was delegated to the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, with the support of appointed Conveners. Since becoming a SCIO in April 2025, there is now Management Board of Charity Trustees. It is important to stress that everyone is a volunteer. The Members of the Board (formerly known as Office Bearers and Trustees) regularly meet outwith NDCA scheduled meetings.

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Association shall be the advancement of community development, with the objectives to:-

- a) To promote the wellbeing of the people living in the village of New Deer and the surrounding area - by liaising with the local authorities, voluntary organisations, and residents, in a common effort to promote social activities, foster a community spirit, advance education, and to achieve other aims as may be determined by the Association.
- b) To maintain and manage New Deer Public Hall and the Dingwall Fordyce Community Park for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent members, in furtherance of the above objects, and to carry out any extension of the premises or facilities provided, which may at any time seem necessary or desirable.
- c) To reinvest any profits accruing for the activities of the Association into improvements to the facilities offered in the Public Hall and the Community Park, or to some other purpose deemed by the committee to be directly of benefit to the residents of New Deer and the surrounding area.

CHAIR'S REPORT TO OSCR FOR YEAR TO 31st AUGUST 2025

Grant Funding and Improvements

NDCA applied for and received a Shell Small Grant which enabled the installation of a replacement water boiler in the upstairs kitchen. Using the Shell Small Grant from last year, the front door was painted and the logo attached. Thanks to a grant of £1,000 from TAQA, it was possible to purchase a new engine for the mower – an essential in the Dingwall Fordyce Community Park. The replacement of the existing lighting in the Public Hall, to energy-efficient LED lights, is now complete, and was carried out with support from an Area Initiatives Grant. A new defibrillator was installed on the wall outside the vets' surgery on Main Street and is checked at the same time as the one at the hall. Unfortunately, the person who usually does the regular monthly checks of emergency lights, fire alarms and stair lift in the hall, as well as the defibrillators, was unavailable for an extended period, and this was undertaken by two other volunteers. The principal meeting room in the Public Hall, the Watt Room, was recently decorated. SSEN have a volunteer scheme, and they agreed to paint this area. NDCA was also reimbursed for the cost of paint and brushes etc. Charity Trustee, Graeme Neish, needs to be thanked for all his hard preparatory work - doing all the sanding and repairing the walls and painting the ceiling. SSEN managed to apply the first coat on the walls as they were only available for a single afternoon. Many thanks to local residents Jodie Prentice, Sandy Caldwell, Jayne French, Dave Bruce, David Ironside, Ian Cushnie, Sue Robertson and Graeme Neish for volunteering to complete the task. An application was made to Cloffrickford for a new floor covering.

Events and Community Engagement

Over the past year, NDCA successfully organised several key events, including the Christmas Craft Fayre, Bonfire & Fireworks Display, Annual Quiz and regular Whist evenings. Films, theatre shows and concerts also took place. These events were well attended and generated much needed income and contributed to a positive community spirit. PTA members from the local Primary School organised a Mingle and Jingle event during the run up to Christmas 2024, and NDCA supported this.

On 12th April 2025, the Chairperson and Secretary presented Mrs Ellen Massie with a card and plant to help her celebrate her 100th birthday

Unfortunately, The Pipe Dream green space has suffered from neglect this year due to a lack of volunteers.

Business Consultancy and Organisational Improvements

In January 2025, NDCA was awarded a three-month Business Consultancy via Aberdeenshire Council, with GLIC. They requested a lot of documentation which was provided, and they then produced a five-year business plan. A key recommendation was that we consider increasing hall rental fees, as our expenses were currently exceeding our income. This was implemented in April. Unfortunately, NDCA continues to run at a loss which will need some serious thought in the coming year. The consultants also advised to formalise employee contracts and update organisational policies. With valuable support from SCVO, these recommendations were implemented. Disciplinary and grievance policies were updated, and copies given to employees at the same time as they signed their contracts. Employees also received a wage increase during this period.

Staffing Updates

Regrettably, the NDCA hall convener and booking clerk, decided to step down from her role in the springtime of 2025. As a result, the position was advertised as a voluntary post and Brian Welsh kindly offered to co-ordinate the bookings. The Office Bearers/Charity Trustees/Members of the Board have assumed responsibility for the hall convener duties and these tasks are shared. In addition, NDCA Treasurer, Joe McGrane, has been unwell, prompting the search for a replacement. It is pleasing to report that Vicki Will has agreed to take on the role of treasurer and she has been working alongside Joe for a few months as part of the handover process.

Community Action Plan

It has been decided to hold a Community Consultation weekend at the end of September, as the last one (previously known as "Planning for Real©") took place in 2016 and the village has evolved and developed since then. A Matter of Opinion evening will take place on the Friday evening, with local councillors answering questions, and over the course of the weekend, residents from New Deer and neighbouring areas will be invited to come to the Public Hall and contribute their thoughts on the village's future development. An online survey is planned, and physical copies will also be made available locally. Suggestions for the use of the Willie Littlejohn field will be sought, as well as views on the future of the Public Hall and the Dingwall Fordyce Community Park.

Personal Thanks

I wish to thank all the NDCA committee for their input and support over the two years that I have been chair. Special thanks to all the board members in particular Susan our excellent secretary, Joe our retired treasurer, who stoically worked on through ill health until we luckily found a replacement. Many thanks to Jayne for producing an excellent six editions per year of the What's On Magazine. We also appreciate the input from our councillors who provide advice when needed.



S. Robertson