

Sustainable Cupar AGM

7pm on 2nd July 2026 at Castlehill Community Hall

Present: Sarah Davidson; Priya Logan; Robert Graham (Royal Burgh of Cupar District and Community Council); Meg Taintor (Community Land Scotland); Irene Lodge; Christine South; Priya Logan; Tyanne Lovaglio Corbani; Margaret-Anne Hutton; Lauren Kerr; Mary-Ellen Robertson; Alison Milne; Margot Abbott; Seaton Baxter; Joan Brown

1. Welcome and note of apologies

Sarah Davidson, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Robert from Cupar Community Council (CCC) and Meg from Community Land Scotland (CLS), as well as the new SC Treasurer, Lauren Kerr. Sarah then outlined the agenda for AGM, including the Chairperson's and Treasurer's report for the year, the election of trustees, and the members vote on the proposed new Constitution, but also asked members give their oral feedback in an "members report" at the end. She noted that apologies had been received from the following people: Crispin Hayes; Lorna Hurst; Karen Murdoch; Jim McLeish; Hugh Sweeting; Pat Roach; Ingrid Haas; Gary Paterson; and Norma Alari.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

It was agreed by those who had been present at the last AGM that the minutes were accurate. Minutes ratified by Priya Logan and Alison Milne One spelling amendment was noted - Hugh Sweeny should read Hugh Sweeting. The Secretary will correct this.

3. Chairperson's report

The Chairperson provided an overview of the work and achievements of SC over the last year and welcomed questions from the floor. She stressed that the focus had been on partnership and community sustainability over the year. This included a strong ongoing commitment to tree planting and to fruit and vegetable growing, as part of the FAB group's work – the group has planted around 1,400 thriving trees over the years, in partnership with multiple groups and landowners, including around 200 trees on the Moor Road in recent months. At the same time, around 20 SC volunteers have maintained the valuable community orchard space, with support from Fife Council.

The group has also continued to work on the Elmwood allotment and fruit cage, increasing knowledge and productivity of the volunteers involved. SC met with Fife Council and the SRUC liaison person to discuss the future management of the Elmwood allotments.

SC also held some funding for River Eden Sustainability Partnership (RESP) in 2025 / 26 and has achieved much. In 2026, the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) decided to include the rivers Earn, Eden and Motray in their remit, providing an initial 2 years' funding (and a potential for 10 years). This has allowed for a full-time, funded officer to support the training of volunteers and to manage invasive species along the river catchment. In December 2025 SC received a funding award from the Riverwoods project, to contract 2 consultants to scope out possible tree planting work with landowners and land managers on the catchment. As a result of this funding 10-15 sites will be scoped and a River Eden and Motray Water – Woodland Development Plan will be developed. SC and RESP have also worked with Neighbourhood Ecosystems and the James Hutton Trust to support 8 small projects for natural water catchment, while 24 volunteers have continued to work on "citizen science"

water testing with FCCT, building their knowledge and expertise. And finally, Fife Rural Funds gave money to buy a container at Balmalcolm to store equipment used by SISI.

Multiple community events were well attended over the year, from the Elmwood site meeting on the Community Right to Buy option, with 100 attendees (this persuaded the SC trustees to consider the proposed change to the Constitution). There was also a successful “Our Food Futures” meeting on sustainable local food, a positive engagement with Fife Climate Forest on tree biodiversity, the “Otterly Brilliant” meeting, and a screening of the Nation Emergency briefing on the climate crisis. The Chairperson recognised that there is a strong desire for similar events.

During the year, Jim McLeish stepped up to coordinate the Active Travel Group and continued to lead the Pedal Howe group in its regular cycle runs in the local area. The SC book club also continued to meet monthly in person to discuss books covering topical environmental and biodiversity issues, sustainability, politics, history, sociology and economics.

The SC trustee group met regularly this year. At this AGM, three trustees have decided to step down: Margaret-Anne Hutton; Mary-Ellen Roberston and Gary Patterson. The Chairperson thanked all three for their years of support and thanked the current trustees for their ongoing work. She also thanked trustees for their work on the website, especially Margot and Margaret-Anne.

Going forward, SC would like to hear feedback from the members on the direction for next year and beyond. It would like to benefit from additional officer positions to cover other areas of work, to build on the strong contributions from hard-working volunteers, trustees and partners. This could be discussed in future and based on funding. Also, if approved, the changes in the new Constitution would enable wider actions, such as Community Right to Buy. SC thanked Mary Ellen, Margaret-Anne, David, Margot, Jim, Gordon, Sarah and Priya for all their work on the new Constitution and upcoming possible membership changes. Shohana Shabnam was thanked for her continued support with SC social media.

4. Treasurer’s report

Lauren, the new Treasurer noted that 2025 / 26 had been a busy financial year, with figures that reflect this. While there had been a drop in income due to a RESP project coming to an end (see page 8 and 9 of the financial report), the group had raised new funding through a Local Community Planning Grant, Riverwoods Grant and support from Fife Rural Development Fund, including for the new storage container on the River Eden. Donations from members have also remained steady.

Key expenditure was also down this year, with some remaining funds being used to buy equipment and cover costs on the River Eden project. £14,800 in restricted funds earmarked for specific project costs were spent and most projects were completed by the end of March 2026 (£718 is leftover). Regarding unrestricted funds, £2,000 was used to support the Neighbourhood Ecosystems project and £1,910 remains in the account – enough to cover current governance and event costs. The OSCR return is due to be sent off soon (including costs for the independent evaluation by FVA). This leaves SC in a positive position to continue its actions in 2026, with its own assets and front funding instalments for the river project and in a healthy financial position to consider new opportunities.

There was a short Q&A session and a discussion about affordable meeting spaces. Sarah noted the generosity of the Fire Station, who offer the community the use of a free meeting room in the evenings. She had asked Fife Council for any available space in the County Building for meetings, especially during the day, but had not had a response, nor found other locations with reduced rates for charities. SC will continue to look for other cheaper or free meeting spaces. There was also a suggestion, that as part

of the major review and membership drive, there could be a request to members to consider increasing donations / contributions. And finally, there was a question of whether SC used Gift Aid – there was no record of the organisation doing so and the trustees will look into this, as it would boost income by 25%. The group thanked Lauren for her monthly updates to Trustees on financial matters

5. Election of Trustees

SC currently has 8 trustees (Sarah, Norma, Lauren, Alison, Priya, Margot, Graham and Jim) and all are happy to continue for the next year. The group would welcome others who may want to become a trustee or to engage in meetings/activities and would ask them to contact one of the existing trustees.

6. Members' vote of the proposed change of the SC Constitution

SC trustees have been trying to change the Constitution since last year. Some changes were made then, but not enough to get Government approval. In the past months, SC has been working with Meg at Community Land Scotland to ensure that the appropriate changes were identified and actioned. This particularly related to changes in the definition of the membership area (redefined along the same areas/post codes as the Burgh of Cupar Development Area). This has led to three different types of members: full members within the "Cupar community area"; associate members outside the "Cupar community area"; and junior members under 16. Only full community members will be able to vote on issues, unless an associate member is also a trustee, and 4 out of 16 trustees can be co-opted associate members (2 trustees would be co-opted if the new constitution is agreed). The group is allowed up to 16 trustees (elected and co-opted) and co-opted trustees are in place for one year on an ongoing, rolling basis.

The new rules on trustees have been introduced to ensure a more efficient turnover, with each trustee able to stand for 2 terms of 3 years, then take a year out before standing again. SC will have to maintain an adequate number of full members and trustees to pass votes and will need to plan ahead to identify new trustees for the next AGM to ensure continuity. SC will also be reaching out to its membership to identify particular skills that could be useful to the board or the wider group e.g. Repair Café, engagement with Melissa Young at the YMCA, the Scouts etc. and is looking to work with other organisations, like CDT, if considering any Community Right to Buy purchases.

Finally, the meeting came to the vote on SC's new Constitution. **All members of SC present at the AGM were able to vote on the adoption of the new SC Constitution as presented to all members by email. This resolution was carried unanimously.** This was well over the required quorum of two thirds of those present. Under the new SC Constitution, the quorum will become 10 people or 10% of the SC membership, whichever is larger, but will include proxy voting by email. For this purpose, SC will need a strong control of its membership list and engagement to maintain appropriate voting levels.

7. Teas, coffees, cake and conversation

The meeting ended with appreciation for all the work done by the board and members over the past year and a particular thank you to Sarah for all her work. It ended with an informal discussion over tea/coffee and cake.

Meeting ended at 9pm

Minutes will be ratified at the next AGM in 2027

Signed IS Davidson Chair Sustainable Cupar

