

# DOLLAR MUSEUM TRUST

**Meeting of the Trustees Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30 pm**

**(The meeting was held using Zoom)**

## MINUTES

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Present: Bruce Neilson, Janet Carolan, Cecilia Condal, Mick Rice, Susan Mills, Julia Adamson, James Cullens, Denis Coyne, Colin Davenport and Alec Spencer (see 2 below).

### **2. Co-option from the Friends.**

James welcomed Alec Spencer who has been co-opted from the Friends because of his wide general experience and his significant contributions to both the Museum and the community of Dollar. Alec went on to give brief notes on his background. He is a former chair of the community council, retired prison governor and current Public Appointments Advisor, member of Community Justice Scotland, Honorary Lecturer in Penology and Criminal Justice at Stirling University and Trustee of the Lucy Faithful Foundation which works to protect children.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting in November 2023**

With minor corrections, these were proposed by Mick and seconded by Cecilia.

### **4. Matters arising/Task List from the November 2023 Meeting**

Please note: these tasks were discussed throughout the period of the meeting but not necessarily in this order.

**Task- Denis/others:** try to find a definitive answer to the question of which organisations and persons can give us correct advice on our flood prevention concerns and be our emergency contacts.

**Denis reported that they used to have a flood officer but the post is now vacant. In the meantime, enquiries could go to Stuart Cullen. Denis also suggested that Jonathan Bacon, who holds the role of flood prevention officer in Muckhart ,could give advice.**

**Task- Denis:** investigate options for CCTV cameras upstairs with idea to install before Opening but after decorating.

**Denis recommended a camera for £44.99 which can be easily acquired and fitted. Denis was asked to go ahead and buy this.**

**Task- Julia:** plant up new barrels which are in place.

**Julia will complete this task after her return on 10th March.**

**Task-Julia:** make all changes discussed to the documents reviewed at November AGM and circulate appropriately. **Janet has circulated these documents.**

**Task-Julia/Janet:** make required changes to the PVG documents and circulate. **Julia/Janet:** check that the notice on the door about youngsters entering the museum reflects the wording in PVG Docs. Check that the advisory guidelines to Volunteers in the desk file is up to date and that new volunteers are aware of it.

**James brought up the matter of PVG and Safeguarding under any other business. It was agreed that Janet and Julia will refresh existing documents that the volunteers are given and that some forms training should be done.**

**Task- Mick:** persuade a PAT volunteer to do our testing this year. Proceed with Model repairs over winter.

**This is to be done before opening Colin reminded Mick who will bring it up at the Repair Shop meeting this weekend**

**Task- Susan:** when timing is appropriate, question the valuations with the Insurance company and see if they will deduct something. **C/F**

**Task- Susan:** go into Virgin Bank and deal with transfer to better interest account face to face. Challenge gas providers for better deal and question Electricity providers Direct Debit and amount charged for no heating by electricity. Find best BT deal for us in the shorter term.

**See Treasurer's Report**

**Task- Susan:** circulate the existing estimate from Dingwall. **Completed.**

**Task- All:** Respond to requests from Cecilia to support the Friends Events and put the Invitation to the belated Christmas Celebration on 12th January at 7.30pm in your diary. **Completed.**

**Task- James with others:** maintain supervision of loft and building over the winter. **See Museum Maintenance**

**Task- James:** ask Dingwall's to expand his estimate to cover the whole interior except the store. **Completed**

**Task- James:** ask roofers other than our usual Traditional Roofers to give their opinions on the roof especially looking at the timbers and roof as viewed from **within** the loft. Keep Trustees in the loop by email. **See Museum Maintenance**

**Task- James:** ask Alec Spencer whether he would accept our invitation to be a co-opted Trustee. This proposal has been approved by the Trustees this evening. **See 2 Above**

Investigate whether there would be a worthy member of Dollar Development Trust who wished to be a co-opted Trustee. (Note - this unnamed person would then have to be proposed to and approved by the Trustees at a future meeting). **c/f if required**

**Task- James:** consider Trustee Safeguarding revision/training being on next agenda (and who will deliver).  
**See AOB**

## **5. Hon Treasurer's Report**

Prior to this evening, Susan circulated an email seeking approval of the actions below in order that she could complete the tasks before the quarterly meeting.

“On Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 11:11 AM susan.mills127 <[susan.mills127@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.mills127@btinternet.com)> wrote:

Dear James (et al)

..... etc

There are two matters which I would like to resolve before the meeting, as follows:

- 34sp, which hosts our website, has written to let us know that they are increasing the monthly standing charge from £9.95 to £11.95. This has not increased since we moved over to that company several years ago and I don't think it's an unreasonable increase, so would like to go ahead and change the standing order, if everyone is happy with that.
- I have negotiated with BT again and have now secured a better deal, as follows: we are debited on quarterly bills, which work out at about £58.29 per month. Most of our costs are on broadband, as I explained at the last meeting, with only £1.95 used on calls in the last quarter, but we must retain the line for the alarm system. A new package would cost us a one off initial charge of £29.95, as outlined previously, then a monthly charge of £49.95. The package will include a digitally compatible free phone, so that when the area goes digital, probably next year, we will not have to buy a new phone. The engineer will visit and switch over the supplier at the external green box. Our new call package will give us free unlimited calls UK wide and abroad, I think, should we need them (!) and our broadband arrangement will be exactly the same as it is now. I think that we should take up this offer and would like to get on with it asap, so would be grateful for your agreement in advance of the meeting. We did discuss this at some length at the last meeting, so it would be good to resolve it now without further discussion. All prices are of course ex VAT.

Kind regards  
Susan”

In response to this email, the Trustees responded, also by email, giving approval to both these suggestions.

At the meeting, Susan presented the Statement of Accounts with additional notes.

### **Dollar Museum Trust Statement of Account to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

#### **Notes to Statement**

**Income:** Donations comprise £18.68 from Amazon Europe; £21.74 from Just Giving and £2,000 from McDonald Group. Susan commented about the ease and speed of the McDonald (aka Burgers) Award process.

**Expenditure:** Scottish Power: I am still hoping to renegotiate our arrangements to reduce the current DD of £171.93. As of today we are £22.27 in credit Scottish Gas: I tried repeatedly to speak to someone, but without success. Our DD will, however, be lowered from £95.50 to £57.77 from March, so SG *has* recognised that we were paying too much, though they should have reduced it earlier. BT: I have arranged a new contract as set out in my previous emails. Repairs and Maintenance includes routine maintenance such as the alarm system service and replacements of monitoring equipment, as well as the redecoration.



The Friends usually transfer money to the Trustees close to the end of their financial year. Mick will submit an £89 bill to Susan for model repairs.

## 6. Hon Curator report

Janet referred to the painting which was completed and the exhibition reinstated with good help.

Mick mentioned Paul Hogarth's upcoming contribution of a map of the Dollar shops in the 1950s

Janet has received a donation of an outside toilet model for Granny's kitchen from Marjorie Harris.

James and Janet renewed the detailed report of security in the museum for the National Museum of Scotland required because we hold some of their articles.

The Residents Association used the museum for a meeting. Bruce Neilson is on the committee and a welcome donation of £50 will be received after the second meeting.

There has been an attempt to revive the Forth Valley Museums Groups which was useful for networking. There was a meeting in Callendar House. James attended with Janet and found it useful to meet people and acquire information. Future meetings may be on a quarterly basis.

Janet and Julia still have to complete their upgrading and reviewing of PVG/Safeguarding. See AOB.

Janet will give a talk in April in Sauchie about the Museum. James suggested an email nearer the time in case others wished to attend.

Janet is pleased to have help from Kirsten, Karen and Caroline for the Shops Exhibition. See her email notes sent before the meeting.

**“To all Trustees (from Janet).**

**As we are on Zoom this evening I am attaching a brief description of the opening exhibition: Dollar Shops. This will save me a lot of explaining and may be helpful for our Minute secretary. It is the also basis of the article in MuseNews, now under preparation by Alec Spencer.”**

See flyer below..

## Dollar Shops



Our opening exhibition for 2024 is 'Dollar Shops'. Above is a colourful view of Bridge Street in the 1970s. Observant readers will see many differences between then and now, not least the loss of Stewarts Garage with its petrol pumps.



The exhibition looks at the multitude of shops that have existed in Dollar over the years. Some have had numerous owners. Like The Deli, shown left as it was in the early 1900s. It was always a grocery store. Other shops have remained a long time, with very different uses. Muckersie's, on the right side of the colour photo above, was for 100 years a stationers, bookshop and printers. It was

started by a relative of the author of Bradshaw's Guide in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, it has been a bathroom fitting shop and is now Bridge Street Bar.



Other shops have disappeared. A map in the exhibition shows that there were over 40 shops in the 1950s. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century shops were clustered in the Old Town, Hillfoot Road being called Traders' Brae. Gradually, commerce moved to the New Town. The last shop to close in the Old Town was The Pricy, a sad loss to those living nearby.

All of Dollar's shops and some of the people who worked in them were recorded in our Millennium Project in 1999-2000. These photos will be available as a searchable database in the exhibition.

There are many interesting stories associated with Dollar Shops. We would be very pleased if visitors to the Museum would bring their memories and photos which we can add to the exhibition. We hope to have some walks associated with the exhibition and also to arrange some reminiscing sessions.

*Janet Carolan*

## **7. Chair of the Friends Report**

- The Christmas Fair raised £290 plus the contact with the MacDonald Foundation
- The Celebration in January was well attended and much welcomed.
- On 20th January the Museum was represented at a Dollar Development Trust event and raised £120 pounds and a new friend.
- The Talk – Friday 22 March 2024 Dr Gill Imery, QPM, Former Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, will give a talk: "From Dollar Academy to Police Academy – an interesting journey". To be held at the Gibson Music Auditorium, Dollar Academy on Friday 22nd March 2024, 7:30pm.
- Cecilia implored us to buy the Calendars, support events and read MUSE News for future events.

Susan apologised that she could not attend the Friends Evening and was happy to receive the Muse news by email. There will be an appeal for email addresses in the Muse news. James thanked the Cecilia and the Friends for their outstanding support.

## **8. Museum Maintenance**

- Bruce has replaced the CO alarm in the office at a good price.
- The Fire Service are going to come out to have a look at the museum as a response to Bruce sending them the Emergency Response Plan. They may want a handy diagram of the services of the museum. A liaison will happen soon.
- James commended Dingwall Decorators and the team who helped. Janet added her thanks to said team. James is keen to get outside painting done over the summer. James has been in the attic several times to check all is well. The roof exterior is still to be inspected. There is a door sill at the front door to be done.
- James is still concerned that there should be a routine for regular outdoor painting and repairs.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- James mentioned the success of the application to the "McDonald's in the community foundation" was particularly helped by their chair being Adam Buchanan-Smith, Dollar resident for 25 years, and asked the Trustees to look out for others who can help us.
- A cleaning lady has been contacted to do the work before we open.
- There was a discussion about the necessity for PVG and Safeguarding awareness/ training amongst volunteers. Janet and Julia will work on an appropriate way of increasing awareness, refreshing induction brochures for new volunteers and revision information for our long standing helpers.
- Signage on the Railway Line. James referred to an email forwarded to Mick and James by Janet from Margaret Stevenson. There will be a meeting of these parties soon.

- Cecilia mentioned that Marjorie is concerned about the gate that needs repaired. James will have a look and see what is the problem.
- The Boiler service by Craig Prentice is due soon reminded Janet. James agreed to arrange this.
- Please all look at the terrific Museum website.
- Opening is on 30th March

## **10. Date of the next meeting    May 15th May 7.30 pm in the Museum**

### **Tasks/Matters Arising from the Meeting Feb 2024**

**Denis:** to go ahead and buy camera.

**James:** Arrange the boiler service

**Julia:** to complete barrels after her return on 10th March.

**Mick:** persuade a PAT volunteer to do our testing this year. This is to be done before opening Mick will bring it up at the Repair Shop meeting this weekend

**Susan:** when timing is appropriate, question the valuations with the Insurance company and see if they will deduct something. C/F

**Susan-** to move 20K to Scottish Widows seeking around 1.55% interest.

**All:** to buy the Calendars, support events, especially the talk on Friday 22nd March by Dr Gill Imery and read MUSE News for future events. Enjoy terrific website.

**Bruce:** liaise with Fire Service re emergencies.

**James and team:** outside painting done over the summer. The roof exterior is still to be inspected. There is a door sill at the front door to be done.

**James and team:** draw up routine for regular outdoor painting and repairs.

**Janet and Julia:** re PVG and Safeguarding awareness/ training amongst volunteers. Janet and Julia will work on an appropriate way of increasing awareness, refreshing induction brochures for new volunteers and revising information for our long standing helpers.

**Relevant parties:** Signage on the Railway Line.

**James:** Marjorie's concern about a gate that needs repaired.

**Relevant parties:** The Boiler service by Craig Prentice is due soon.