

MEETING: 56th Annual General Meeting of Tallaght and District Credit Union**Meeting Details**

Location: Maldon Hotel, Tallaght, D24	Date: 9th December 2024	Time: 19:00
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Attendees	Initials	Apologies	Initials
About 30 members including staff, Directors, and Volunteers			
Minutes of meeting			

Opening Address - Vice Chairperson: (Breda Walsh)

Vice-Chair, Breda Walsh, calling the meeting to order at 7pm, welcomed everyone to the 56th Annual General Meeting of Tallaght & District Credit Union Ltd. Once it was ascertained a quorum of members was present the AGM having duly convened was ready to proceed with business.

John Reathorne, credit union secretary, motioned that the 2023 AGM minutes were taken as read.

Proposed by – Ray Jordan

Seconded by – Francina Dooley

Board of Directors Report

The Directors Report for the year ended 30th September was recounted to attendees by Vice-Chair, Breda Walsh. Tallaght and District Credit Union continues its core function: providing financial services to members. With the directors confident that the Credit Union will continue to grow and operate in the future while recognising the key risks it faces:

- Loan interest income and loan security
- Prudent investment selection to protect income
- Liquidity management and cost control
- Regulatory and legislative compliance

Moving to the financials, the board confirmed it has met the requirements set out in Section 108 of the Credit Union Act, 1997 and are happy to propose a dividend of 0.25% and a loan interest rebate of 10% are proposed.

The membership as of 30 September 2024 stood at 15,054 up from 14,941 in 2023

Finally, Hayden Brown the credit unions auditors have expressed willingness to continue -in office in accordance with Section 115 of the Credit Union Act.

Chairpersons address: (Tom Maguire)

Tom Maguire delivered the directors report for 30th September 2024 by video. He thanked all members for their support and acknowledged the challenges and achievements of the credit union during the year. He recognised the contribution of volunteers who stepped down from the board who were replaced by new ones ensuring the board met is quorum. He took the opportunity to welcome new staff to the credit union.

Commenting on the credit unions financial member services and operational performance in the last 12 months he drew attention to:

- Strong income from loan interest and investments
- Proposed dividend of 0.25% and loan interest rebate of 10%
- Costs were managed effectively, resulting in a positive surplus
- Plans to launch a new member banking app in mid-2025
- Collaboration with other credit unions to offer mortgages in 2025

On behalf of all Board of Directors, he thanked the CEO, management, staff, volunteers, and credit union members for their support and dedication. He signed off by reaffirming the board of directors' role in protecting members' interests and improving services for members of Tallaght and District Credit Union.

Auditors Report (Ciaran Murray)

Ciaran Murray in his opening statement thanked the Directors, CEO and staff for their assistance during the audit, telling members that this is a clean unqualified audit report of the credit unions financials. They have audited the financial records of Tallaght & District Credit Union Ltd for the year ended 30th September 2024 and prepared the financial statements set out in the booklet which comprises of the income and expenditure statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in reserves, cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements. A summary of significant accounting policies are detailed in the note to the accounts.

In the auditor's opinion: The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Credit Union affairs as of 30th September 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended. Have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in Ireland, issued by the Financial Reporting Council and in accordance with the requirements of the Credit Union act 1997 as amended.

CEO Summary of Accounts (Damien Hutchinson)

The CEO Damien Hutchinson summarised the accounts and asked members to ask any questions should they have any. He opened by highlighting the positives.

Income Performance

Total income increased by 27% year-on-year, driven by:

Higher investment interest, following ECB rate hikes.

Growth in the loan book, resulting in increased loan interest received.

He took the opportunity to thank the lending team for their efforts to drive this core income stream of the credit union.

Expense Trends

Total expenses rose by 32% (€500,000), with key contributors including:

- Loan provisioning: A swing of over €270,000 due to increased arrears, moving from a €91,000 write-back last year to an additional €178,000 provision this year to meet Central Bank of Ireland requirements.
- Insurance costs: Up €70,000, including LPLS and DBI.
- Deposit Guarantee Scheme Levy: Increased by €41,000.
- IT & Cybersecurity: Up €50,000, reflecting investment in protecting member funds from increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

Cybersecurity Update

The CEO share the news of recent penetration test confirmed that our systems are secure against external threats. While no system is perfect, this result validates our strategic investment in cybersecurity.

Professional & Legal Costs

These have also increased, reflecting the growing complexity of compliance and member protection.

Surplus & Member Returns

Surplus up 6% year-on-year, despite increased provisioning allows the credit union to match last year's member distribution of 0.25% dividend and a 10% loan interest rebate for borrowers, recognizing their contribution to our income.

Balance Sheet Highlights

Moving to the balance sheet the CEO commented on:

- Total assets: €72 million
- Loan book: Up 8%
- Member savings: Continued growth despite cost-of-living pressures which increased by 2.2% year-on-year

Regulatory Reserves

We have strengthened our regulatory reserves, preparing for potential future expansion into mortgage lending, which aligns with Central Bank requirements and reflects prudent financial planning.

Questions from the floor

Questions from the floor centred on the movement in the credit unions bad debt reserve and overall provisions positions of the credit union. These were answered on the night by the CEO as a restatement of provisions required to satisfy the Central Bank of Ireland.

Proposed by – Damien Hutchinson

Seconded by – Jenifer Doherty

Declaration of Dividends and Interest Rebate:

CEO Damien Hutchinson proposed a vote to the declare a dividend of 0.25% and a loan Interest rebate of 10% on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Proposed by – Damien Hutchinson

Seconded by – Pauline Kavanagh

The proposal was passed by show of hands.

Attendee Prize Draw 1

The CEO Damien Hutchinson announced that over the course of the AGM a number of draws took place - 15 envelopes, five of them contain 100 euro and 10 of them contain 50 euro.

5 tickets were pulled from a bag and the following numbers won envelopes containing cash.

The following tickets were drawn 367, 397, 380, 366 and 387, the winners came forward to select an envelope.

Two more draws were set to take place throughout the evening.

Report of The Board Oversight Committee (BOC) (Catherine Doyle)

Catherine presented the report in accordance with the Credit Union Act. BOC reviewed the performance of the board over the last 12 months and highlighted any matters that could be improved upon. The BOC were satisfied that the board of directors were compliant with all their legal and regulatory requirements under part IV and IV(A) of the Credit Union Act. She ended by thanking the Board of Directors and staff for their support and cooperation during the year and wished all members season's greetings.

Report of the Nomination Committee (Geraldine Wall)

Delivering the nomination committee report Geraldine commented on a significant year of change as three directors departed and sees three new board members proposed on the night. The nomination committee identified the need for volunteers to meet changing circumstances calling on members with relevant skills are encouraged to get in touch. She highlighted the fitness and probity checks required under the Credit Union and Co-operation with Overseas Regulations Act 2012.

The nomination committee completed a Fitness and Probity check on all Tallaght and District Credit Union volunteers and appraisal of all current directors regarding their performance for the year ending 30 September 2024.

This year there are three vacancies for the Board of Directors (BOD) for a period of three years and two for a period of one year.

Standing for a term of three years - Denise Brady Geraldine Wall and Tom Maguire

And for a term of one year - Raphael Nwafor and Declan Byrne.

Board Oversight Committee (BOC) has one vacancy for a three-year term.

Standing for election: Sarah Kinsella

Finally, Geraldine spoke of the fitness and probity process requirements noting that candidates wishing to serve on the board of directors cannot be taken from the floor during the meeting.

Appointment of Tellers

CEO Damien Hutchinson explained the ballot process with different coloured papers used. Volunteers were called upon to act as tellers count the votes of the nominees for the Board of Directors, Board Oversight Committee and Auditors.

Tellers – Maura, Eimear and Ciaran.

Voting then took place and ballots collected.

Attendee Prize Draw 2

Again, members were asked to draw the winning numbers. The following tickets were drawn: 400, 402, 405, 407 and 391

One more attendee draw and a member draw.

Report of the Credit Committee (John Raethorne)

John drew attendees to the committee report from page 33 of the annual report. The Credit Committee is appointed annually by the Board of Directors, playing a vital role in maintaining the integrity and sustainability of the credit unions lending practices safeguarding the financial health of TDCU and its members. The committee meet monthly with the Loan Officer, reviewing all loan applications submitted during the previous month, including those rejected.

Loan Performance – Current Financial Year

- Total Loans Issued: €11,225,876
- An increase of €573,466 or 5.38% compared to the previous financial year.
- Number of Loans Drawn Down: 3,112, a slight decrease of 49 loans compared to previous year.

Despite the small drop in loans issued, the overall value of loans has grown, indicating a strong demand for larger loan amounts and continued trust in TDCU's lending services.

The credit committee extended its gratitude to all our members for their continued support and encouraged all to consider TDCU as your first choice for borrowing needs highlighting borrowing interest rates that are highly competitive, offering better value than those available from Irish banks.

The report also highlighted features of credit union loans including:

- No penalties or charges for early loan settlement.
- All loan applications are assessed individually, based primarily on the member's ability to repay
- Ability to apply in-person, online, or via the TDCU mobile app.
- Approved loans are securely transferred to your bank account via DocuSign.

When making a loan application members were reminded of the required documentation:

- Proof of income (e.g., two recent payslips or social welfare slips).
- Three most recent monthly bank statements
- Identification is up to date
- And that online loan applications are quick and easy way to get loans.

Ending the report, of the credit committee, John reaffirmed its commitment to protecting members' resources by preventing inappropriate lending practices, encouraging all members to consider TDCU for their full range of financial needs as key to the sustainability and growth of the credit union.

Proposed by – Mandy Nolan

Seconded by – Geraldine Wall

Report of the Credit Control Committee (Breda Walsh)

The Credit Control Committee meets monthly with the credit controller to ensure all member loans are being repaid in accordance with the terms and conditions of their credit agreements. The committee monitors repayment activity and oversees the escalation process for delinquent accounts.

When a member begins to miss loan repayments, they are contacted directly by the Credit Control Officer via text message, phone call, or letter. If repayments continue to be missed and the member does not engage, the loan is escalated to the Loan Recovery Officer. If there is still no response, the account is referred to our solicitors for legal action. We strongly urge any members experiencing financial difficulties to contact the Credit Control Officer as early as possible, before arrears and interest begin to accumulate. TDCU is committed to treating all members with sympathy and understanding, and we encourage open communication to find workable solutions.

Breda then went through the committee's activity for the year which included:

- Bad Debts Written Off: €98,811
- Bad Debts Recovered: €122,872
- Number of Member Loans in arrears: 367
- Letters Sent: 1,275
- Phone Calls Made: 925
- The recently introduced texts messaging saw 1,550 texts sent which contributed to arrears management.

Finally, on behalf of the Credit Control Committee, Breda thanked the Credit Control Officer and supporting staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year which are instrumental in maintaining the integrity of the credit unions loan book and supporting members in financial difficulty.

Proposed by – Geraldine Wall

Secoded by – Mandy Nolan

Report of the Investment Committee (DH)

CEO Damien Hutchinson brought members through the investment committee report. Over the past financial period, TDCU has benefited significantly from the rise in interest rates, which positively impacted our investment portfolio and overall income. Sounding a note of caution the report drew attention to interest rates beginning to soften and entering a phase where income growth may start to taper. The report highlighted the following:

Interest Rate Trends & Strategic Response

- The European Central Bank (ECB) implemented 10 consecutive rate hikes, allowed TDCU capitalise on short-term investments yielding high returns.
- However, the ECB have since started reversing rate hikes leading to short-term interest rates declining ate year end by nearly 1%, reducing yield on new investments.
- The Investment Committee has proactively locked in funds at higher rates, aiming to smooth income volatility over the coming years.

Income Outlook

- While anticipating a marginal decline in investment income, the committee does not expect a return to negative interest rates in the short term.
- Strategic positioning of investment portfolio should continue to provide solid and stable income, albeit at slightly reduced levels.

Loan Book Growth as a Counterbalance

- Highlighted by John, loan book growth is helping to offset the expected dip in investment income. Reflecting a healthy balance between member lending activity and investment returns, supporting the overall financial sustainability of TDCU.

Liquidity Position

- Despite strong lending activity, TDCU maintains a comfortable liquidity buffer, ensuring it is not in a position where all available funds are committed to loans.
- This allows the credit union to continue investing strategically while meeting member borrowing needs.

Proposed by – Geraldine Wall

Secoded by – Jenifer Doherty

Any Other Business:

The vice chair Breda Walsh asked attendees for any questions or comments that they would like to add. There were none. Breda then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

Attendee Prize Draw 3

Damien Hutchinson called on members to draw the winners for the final five prize draw envelopes. The following tickets were drawn: 373, 406, 384, 389 and 394.

Member BI-Monthly Draw

Francina Dooley, proceeded to run the Monthly BI Members draw, where 6 winners will each receive €400 and 1 winner will receive the big prize €12,000.

All the winning numbers are generated by a machine, for which attending members are invited from the floor to ‘press’ the start button. The winning machine number relates assigned draw numbers not member account numbers.

Six winners of €400 were drawn on the night with the final draw winner collecting €12,000.

Election Results

Following the counting of votes CEO Damien Hutchinson announced the results.

Election to fill vacancies on the board of directors

The following were elected to fill vacancies on the board of directors:

Elected for term of *three years* - Denise Brady Geraldine Wall and Tom Maguire, congratulations.

Elected for a term of *one year* - Raphael Nwafor and Declan Byrne.

The election for Board Oversight Committee.

Sarah Kinsela was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board Oversight Committee.

Election of external auditors

Finally, Hayden Brown, were elected as auditors for one year.

Closure of meeting

Vice-chairperson, Breda Walsh closed the Annual General Meeting of Tallaght & District Credit Union at approximately 8pm, attendees were invited to light refreshments.

Note:

These minutes were prepared by Credit Union Management from notes taken on the night. The formal minutes captured by the secretary at the time, were never submitted prior to his resignation in January 2025.

Minutes Proposed by Date.....

Minutes Seconded by Date.....