

Sunart Community Company Board Meeting

Date: 5th June 2017

Venue: Dail Mhor

Attending: J Tyldsley (JT) Chair, J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, D Barker (DB), K Proctor (KP), C Millar-Craig (CMC), J Jones (JJ) Secretary, J Madden (JM) A Williams (AW), I Baker (IB). **Apologies:** P Grubb (PG), L Cameron (LC), J MacKinnon (JMCK), K Campbell (KC)

John Tyldsley formally welcomed Joan Madden as a newly elected director. Joan was previously a member of a group that was the forerunner of the community company in its early days.

ALL DIRECTORS: PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DAY AND TIME FOR THE NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

1) **Review of LDO Performance:**

- a) JH & JJ meet with LDOs periodically on a Thursday morning to review and discuss Strontian Action Plan.

2) **Minutes of Last Meeting and AGM:** Proposed JH seconded CMC

- a) JH had submitted two amendments, which were accepted. AGM minutes were noted.
- b) JH proposed to change AGM date the autumn to allow time for accounts to be audited. Agreed AGM in future will be September.

3) **Matters Arising:**

- a) Agreed to change day of meeting to Wednesdays and trialling a 6:30pm start time.
- b) JH proposed that JT as Chair and JJ seconded; JT Proposed JH as Treasurer and DB seconded. JH pointed out that the constitution required a Vice Chair so this will be carried forwarded to the next meeting. Position of secretary was briefly discussed JJ volunteered with the proviso of a review in 3-6months; JH seconded. CMC was co-opted and JH explained there were two further spaces for co-opted members and suggested these be filled with persons from the longstanding community and perhaps a younger age group of 20s -30s ideally. Also, the suggestion that the co-opted director vacancies be mentioned and potential nominees sought at the various Sunart Community Action Plan project meetings.
- c) Agreed that nominees and co-optees be confirmed at the next meeting.

4) **Finance Report:**

- a) Bank Account balance as at 6th June 17 £21,805.63 which includes transferred balance for £46.32 from the Unity Trust Account, which is now closed

5) **Action Plan Update:**

- a) Output 1: Capacity Building
 - i) Loch Development: Tourist Association are conducting visitor survey and LDO will liaise with tourist association intern
 - ii) Lifelong Learning: none
 - iii) Paths, Trails and Maps: Draft application for £1,500 for Ardnastang, Longrigg Burn and hotel path
 - iv) Transport Links: None
 - v) Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool feasibility:
 - (1) Pool meeting 7pm, 7th June 17; JH has previous experience and contacts which he will pass on. JJ & JH will attend the first meeting as SCC director reps. KP will attend and may offer to Chair this group although personal commitments may be a constraint. CMC suggested the Primary and

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Secondary Parent Council be contacted and Theresa Bolton is Chair. IB to contact.

- (2) Men Shed: a meeting was held and group were very positive. Currently a venue is being sought and the space beneath the Post Office was considered. JT approached Douglas and Douglas who is considering matters as he has an existing tenant. After a discussion agreed that JT will speak with Douglas again.

vi) Community Woodland: See update

vii) Common Good Fund: Applications are open and Information in the De tha Dol?

The application form has been amended and the closing date is 1st August 2017

viii) JH suggests the Update is sent out to Directors two weeks prior to a meeting.

Action: IB

6) **Assets**

- a) Old Schoolhouse Plot: **JH** mentioned that the company now owns the plot and an earlier announcement was deferred at the request of the Heritage Fund as they wanted to manage their own PR announcement. As it happens there was just a low-key announcement. However, the company has this land, we need to inform people locally and decide, with community input, on what we do with the plot. **JM** asked for clarification and the reasons why this was purchased. **JH** explained that part of the community company remit is to acquire land or property that is currently in the “public” domain e.g. Forestry, Local Authority, NHS, etc and which comes up for sale. As a community company we have the option to obtain it at a preferential rate and hold such land or property as a legacy on behalf of the community. **JH** explained this is what happened and currently there are similar enquiries in train with regard a number of pieces of land/ properties e.g. Old Nurses Station, Longrigg Woodland, etc. The aim is to develop these assets for community benefit. Because of the number of community projects and consultations in the last few months it was agreed the Old Schoolhouse Plot announcement be deferred for a time. However, the proposal is that an announcement should be put in the De tha dol? and an exercise to decide on usage should be made at another time. Should the outcome be a decision to sell off this asset then the Forestry would expect payment to make up to the full market value.
- b) Old Road Path – along river from high school: there is an overhanging branch that needs a tidy up
- c) A list of assets has been drawn up and JJ and DB will work on identifying exact boundaries to the various plots of land. A discussion on the various assets, what was owned and that the assets of Sunart Community Renewables (SCR) should be included. Also there was a discussion about whether or not the community company owns the greenhouse and the Old Road Path, the “lease” of land to John & Rebecca MacDonald and what might be company liabilities and responsibilities. Agreed that the SCR assets be listed; that we send a copy of the letter of agreement (MacDonald’s) for an informal legal appraisal; JJ will speak to Eilidh Ann Phillips about the Old Road Path and look through the copies of the title deeds and conveyance paperwork.
- d) The website and Facebook page will be listed and do need to be reviewed and updated. The suggestion is to explore using Word Press, the paid for version.

7) **Output 2 - potential enhanced community facilities:**

- a) Old Nurses Station: Mentioned above
- b) Plot of land near High School: on going
- c) Longrigg Woodland: on going
- d) Facilities for the Elderly – Men’s Shed: mentioned earlier

8) **Output 4 – Sustainable Community Company:**

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- a) A paper prepared by AW was tabled and discussed. The assumptions made and the general principles for income generation and fundraising were agreed and approved, namely:
 - Board Agenda Item should be to agree options for projects that could be developed with specific aim of generating income whilst also contributing to overall aims and objectives
 - Going forward, recommend that more LDO time is spent on development projects that can contribute income.
 - Directors will increase fundraising efforts to improve profitability of existing events and to run at least one other Fundraiser per year. **Suggestions/ volunteers welcome!**
 - b) Use of Hydro money was discussed and there is the possibility of two further schemes. These additional schemes probably would not generate the level of income of the current scheme but might be worth exploring. The Feed In Tariffs (FITs) have changed considerably. AW will make enquiries with Renewable Energy Scotland
 - c) The Proposal that Income Generation be a standing agenda item was accepted.
 - d) SCC needs to register for Gift Aid
- 9) **Other Matters:**
- a) Fisheries: The current stock had died so no more rent this year. However Peter Madden is preparing a request that the monies allocated be carried forward to next year and he will be making a similar request to the Community Council with regards their funding.
 - b) Drimnatorran Farm: Noted
 - c) Mine: Noted
 - d) Tree Surgery: item above
- 10) **Correspondence:** - None
- 11) **Any Other Business:**
- a) JH passed company paperwork to JM, for return to the Secretary.
- 12) **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 6:30pm at Dail Mhor