

Sunart Community Company Board Meeting

Date: 21st February 2018

Venue: Strontian Hotel

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

Attending: J Tyldsley (JT) Chair, J Madden (JM), K Campbell (KC), J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, D Barker (DB), L Cameron (LC) J Jones (JJ) Secretary, C Millar-Craig (CMC) K Proctor (KP), A Williams (AW)

Apologies: P Grubb (PG), J MacKinnon (JMck) I Baker (IB),

2) **Review of LDO Performance:**

a) Nothing to discuss this month

3) **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Acceptance of minutes of 10th January 18, proposed by JH seconded by DB.

4) **Matters Arising:**

a) Insurance: Currently the SCC insure through Keegan and Pennykid and the premium for 2018 is £730.80. Treasurer and secretary agreed that alternative quotes should be obtained. Secretary is speaking with Zurich Insurance but needs to clarify the annual income and whether or not the children's playground is covered by the SCC or by HC policy. Secretary will contact Dot Ferguson.

b) Funding Paper by A Williams (LDO) – See item 9a

c) Re Public Land and Policy on land purchase – The Board of Directors confirmed their policy regarding the Company's response to the sale of publicly owned land or property. (Public refers to land owned by Highland Council, NHS Highland, HIE, Forestry Commission, Visit Scotland, Scottish Water, Scottish Government or any associated bodies.) It is the position of the Board that it does not generally wish to see publicly owned assets sold into private ownership. If it can use its legal structure and relevant legislation to secure that asset for future generations it will attempt to do so, where resources and prevailing circumstances allow. When the Board becomes aware of a sale or potential sale it will consider whether that property offers a strategic or operational fit with the aims of the Company and or the Sunart Community Action Plan (sometimes referred to as the CADISPA report.) If so, it will consider undertaking an initial or detailed feasibility study to confirm the potential for asset purchase. [Note this policy does not imply that every property will be purchased, but confirms the intention of the incumbent Board to examine the potential for each property, as part of its duty to future generations. Where the asset acquisition appears to offer limited opportunity, viability or prevailing resources prevent acquisition, then no action will be taken.)

d) Regarding the rumours about Dail Mhor: The Board confirmed their support for the Sunart Community Council in making every attempt to secure the reopening of Dail Mhor to provide adult care services for the community and to retain local employment. Directors have no desire or intention to seek to acquire the building or surrounding land for any other purpose other than residential and respite care, which they and other members of the community clearly designated for care services and sheltered housing in the 2015 Strontian Master Plan – subsequently adopted by Highland Council in its local development plan OSCR Scottish Charity Survey – board agreed secretary to complete the return. **Action Point:** Agreed secretary to write to Sunart Community Council to reiterate item 4d and 4c above. With regards to the current primary school building, SCC has an interest as to influence what future use it may have once it becomes vacant in July- September 2018. Rather than wait for the HC the company and community council needs to be proactive for example in particular in line with developing surgery and medical

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services for the short and medium term as school will be used and the current medical facility is not fit for purpose and there is need for better facilities in Strontian.

- e)
- 5) **Finance Report:**
 - a) Balance at 20th February 2018 £23,183.64
 - b) The Common Good Fund will need to be re-named, as this is a specific title used by councils.
- 6) **Action Plan Update Output 1: Capacity Building:**
 - a) Loch Development: We are obtaining quotes for three visitor moorings and seeking to include these moorings in the insurance quotes
 - b) Paths, Trails and Maps: Paths for All report has been submitted. Ardnastang will need more work, as the top and bottom end is still very wet. . Phemies Walk and woodland path: comments had been received about horses using the path but it JM had been on the path and could see no signs of horses, rather more it was cyclists, and the issue is more a problem with the weather in wintertime. JJ will speak with LDO and organise a meeting and include consideration of bridal ways.
 - c) Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool feasibility:
 - i) Mr Harkiss on going
 - ii) The George Fox collection – the family are open to a Heritage Lottery application.
 - d) Community Woodland: DV has been instructed and will be visiting the site next week.
 - e) Lifelong Learning: none
 - f) Transport Links: None
 - g) Housing: None
 - h) Common Good Fund: None
- 7) **Assets**
 - a) Old Schoolhouse Plot: At the EGM meeting agreed this to be an amenity plot and progress benches and paths to make it more accessible.
 - b) Composting Site – The EGM agreed this should be the focus for the Men's Shed location.
 - c) Website: This is ready to go and we now need the access details, which is being progressed
- 8) **Output 2 - potential enhanced community facilities:**
 - a) Old Nurses Station: no action
 - b) Plot of land near High School: on going
 - c) Longrigg Woodland: Ongoing
 - d) Facilities for the Elderly – Men's Shed: See item above
- 9) **Output 4 – Sustainable Community Company:**
 - a) Fundraising – LDO funding finishes in July. AW has applied to funders, however we now need to identify projects that will attract funding.
 - i) See AW Paper.
 - ii) All sub-committees/ groups will have no admin support so they will need to produce own minutes and organise meetings etc.
 - iii) SCC should ask CGF to fund £10,000 – proposed and approved
 - iv) An action is to write to all local land owners and pursue this with Conaglen
 - b) Staffing: JJ & JH meet and discuss with LDOs
 - c) Office – On going
- 10) **Other Matters:**

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- a) Fisheries: Fishing club have a bill for 3-year lease which has increased from £100 to £150 pa. Lease for 2018 has been paid. However need to clarify payment for the future; there is money ring-fenced for this.
 - b) Drimnatorran Farm: Noted
 - c) Mine: Noted
 - d) Tree Surgery - Noted
- 11) **Correspondence:** -
- 12) **Any Other Business:**
- a) EGM agreed SCC explore acquiring Visitor Information Centre (VIC) to be retained for the community. AW in touch with Visit Scotland and trying to get feedback and update as to where the process is at present. It may be that in early April 18 Visit Scotland will be asking for bids. However, they appear committed to achieving community benefit and actively explore bids and have to consider best value. SCC will advertise for expressions of interest
 - b) Pharmacy Booth for the whole peninsula will be located at the Ardnamurchan Library in Strontian from the 28th march 2018
- 13) **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 4th April 2018 at 6:30pm venue to be notified