

Sunart Community Company  
Loch Development Working Group  
**Agenda, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 6pm**

**Present:** Isobel Baker, Peter Ford, John Jones, Brian Evans, James Hilder, Barnaby Edwards, Karl Bungey, Louise Cameron.

**Apologies:** Chris Morgan, Kate Proctor, Chris Evans, Michelle Hilder

- 1. Terms of Reference** document agreed with amendments – will be circulated to group by JH.  
Chair – Peter Ford,  
Vice Chair- Karl Bungey

## **2. Ownership of Land and Jetty – progress**

Currently Highland Council hold the lease of the jetty from Crown Estate. This is in the process of being re-assigned from Highland Council to SCC. When it does SCC will be liable for up to £100 per year rent. Highland Council own the green tin shed and gravel car parking and are supposed to be transferring this to SCC but progress is very slow.

## **3. Crown Estate**

JH has asked Crown Estate for an update on progress but not heard back.

*The Crown estate are the Land Owners below the high tide mark. A lease or management agreement is required from the Crown Estate for occupation of their land. In our case the Jetty, Slip and Moorings.*

## **4. Marine Scotland Licence**

Moorings Association letter (item 10.b) to be sent to Marine Scotland along with request for renewal and change of name on the license to Sunart Community Company.

*To use an area of the sea bed, eg for moorings or a pontoon, a Licence must be obtained from Marine Scotland. Marine Scotland are the body who manage what activities occur.*

## **5. Valuation of Stables**

JH explained that the Community Council and Community Company had both approved that the Community Company investigate taking ownership of the stables as it was on the open market for circa £70,000. If it could be held in community ownership this would guarantee control over that piece of land and potentially enable the “stables “ to be redeveloped for business use. Need to investigate if application for ‘Change of Use’ to domestic that was filed some months ago was declined. *(Note from James – as of the 4<sup>th</sup> May this was still pending a decision.)*

Ask if HIE would pay for District Valuation

Karl Bungey declared interest in renting space within the stables building for marine and land activity business if the community were to own it.

## **6. Funding Applications – Consideration of scope of study for Stage 1 Land Fund Application**

Group agreed that preparation of SLF stage 1 application should be started *(See attached information note.)*

## **7. Progress on Market Research**

On the spot survey for yacht users in different marinas would be useful to see what facilities they would like to see and if they would come up the loch.

## **8. Progress on Fusion Marine etc**

Barnaby to call FM to ask about a site visit for advice on our options

## 9. Update from SMAATA (Sunart, Morvern, Arnamurchan, Ardgour Tourist Association)

JH confirmed in Michelles absence that SMAATA are preparing their annual survey of visitors. This will include questions about what could be done to enhance their enjoyment / understanding of the loch, and also if visiting, is there a need to rent equipment (boats, kayaks etc) or if they preferred to bring their own.) The results of this survey will not be available until late autumn.

## 10. Update from CAOLAS

Application to Awards for All to increase CAOLAS Capacity and set up CAOLAS as a charity. Then they are also likely to apply to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for support for a employing a development officer.

Talk in Sunart Centre 24<sup>th</sup> May about Loch Sunart by Marine Biologist Mark Woombs, with great underwater photography. These talks are aimed at collecting/boosting membership of CAOLAS – all are encouraged to join.

## 11. Moorings Association Matters

- a. **Raft** – Agreed that we want to keep the raft but it needs a new mooring as it currently is on Chris Morgans mooring. Either need to use an unused mooring or should create a drying mooring using the available anchors. Speak with Chris Morgan about any spare moorings.
- b. **Sunart Moorings Association** - Brian Evans and Peter Ford wrote and signed a letter stating ‘The Sunart Moorings Association hereby relinquishes its interest in the slipway and moorings in favour of the Sunart Communtiy Company’. This will allow the Community Company to progress with ownership and agreements with the Crown Estate and renewal of the Marine Scotland Licence
- c. **Overheads, Fees and Finances** –
  - a. **The slipway** will cost the Community Company circa £135 rent / year plus insurance. Suggested donation for slip users is £10.
  - b. **The Jetty** – Costs are unknown plus there will be an insurance cost.
  - c. **Moorings** – SCC Treasurer had agreed with Chris Morgan, former Moorings Association Treasurer and current moorings treasurer that fees will be the same as previously charged by the Moorings Association - £50/year. £10 of which will go towards overheads and insurance, £40 paid to Crown. Chris is circulating a revised application form to get the database up to date.
  - d. **Finances** – Peter confirmed he holds the cheque book for the old Moorings Association bank account which has a residue of funds in it.

Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm, Dail Mhor

## Key Action Points

- |       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| i.    | Chase up Crown Estate, send copy of Moorings Association Letter                           | IB/JH   |
| ii.   | Send the letter and request to renew and change name on license                           | IB/JH   |
| iii.  | Investigate the status of ‘Change of Use’ filled for the stables                          | JH/JJ   |
| iv.   | Ask HIE about valuation of Stables  | AW      |
| v.    | Preparation for SLF Stage 1 Application   | IB / AW |
| vi.   | Develop Survey for Yatch Users  | ?       |
| vii.  | Arrange a site visit with Fusion Marine for advice on our options                         | BE      |
| viii. | Talk with Chris Morgan about the Raft and any moorings which are not being used this year | IB/JH   |