

Sunart Community Company - Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th January 2019

Venue: Fire Station

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

Attending: D Barker (DB) Chair, J Jones (JJ) Secretary, J Madden (JM) Vice Chair, J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, L Cameron (LC), C Millar-Craig (CMC), I Baker (IB), J Tyldesley (JT), A Carmichael (AC), K Campbell (KC), C Skeath (CS), K Proctor (KP)
The Chair, JT welcomed Colin Skeath to the meeting.

Apologies: M Simpkinson (MS), J MacKinnon (JMK)

2) **Review of LDO Performance:** JH, JJ and IB had met in December 2018 to discuss and review performance.

3) **Minutes of the last meeting** 14th November 2018 Proposed: JT Seconded: KP

4) **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:** The secretary explained that this would be an abridged agenda focussing on:

a) The Treasurer wanted to thank all Board members and all the people who provided their time and the prizes for the Christmas Auction; it was a very successful event.

b) **Sunart Community Company Annual work review:** JH went through the attached paper that had been previously circulated. The traffic light: red, amber, green, is one used previously. The addition of the purple, are items we should progress further. Generally, we are progressing well. There have been some things we have done that have taken longer or been sprung upon us e.g. the examination of Glen Hurich, the shed and car park at Polloch, wind turbines on Anaheilt grazings, and the Longrigg Woodland took longer to get started due to various factor, but it is moving forward now. A discussion followed and some items highlighted:

i) **Transport:** Is identified as a key issue and we may be able to address this more in conjunction with Lara Van de Peer the Project Worker

ii) **Men's Shed:** This is proceeding well. They would like more members and not just men, as it is open to all. Perhaps a change or modification of the title: People's Shed. There is also a need to attract more work/ activities. They have finished the benches for the Paths Group, so some other things, maybe wooden house signs. Also, there is a project for developing and siting a custom designed build on compost site land behind Dail Mhor – something the community agreed at the EGM.

iii) **Recycling:** This might be something for the future and might be something in conjunction with the People's Shed.

iv) **Common Benefit Fund (CBF):** There were comments made at the AGM that that the Community Company should be giving a clearer steer to the CBF Panel, even though at the outset some directors were adamant that the Company should have no influence or control of the CBF. However, when the CBF was established a review after 3 years of operation was suggested. IB reports that the CBF Panel apply appraisal and decision-making and take their role very conscientiously. They would welcome some guidance criteria and the chance to review progress. JH is preparing a Newsletter, which will include CBF information and other Company news. The indications are that for every £1 awarded by the CBF this attracts or releases a further £2 of funding from elsewhere, which is a very good ratio.

(1) The suggestion is that we update the SCC membership records and email/ despatch Company information for checking, the SCBF newsletter and a blank application form for potential new members. It is proposed to have a CBF

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review meeting in March/ early April 2019 with SCC Directors, CBF Panel and Community Councillors. **Addendum** - JH - Suggests date 7pm to 9pm Monday 1st April or Wed 3rd April

- c) **Election of Office Bearers:** Treasurer, J Hilder Proposed JT seconded KC; Secretary, J Jones, proposed JT seconded JH; Chair D Barker, proposed JH seconded JT, Vice Chair, J Madden, proposed CMC seconded JT
- d) **Sunart Village Hall:** an issue has been raised with people saying that the in the Primary School Transition Project minutes it is quoted that the Community Company are interested in acquiring the old Primary School buildings to build houses. It was agreed this is a rumour and the Sunart Community Company is not seeking to take on this building. The company is here to support the community and are here to support community wishes, and are keen not to let public assets go to waste. The minutes state that the NHS and Highland Council estimate the life of the buildings, including the Village Hall to be 5-7 years. It was pointed out this is their estimate and is not the actual life of the build, purely their view before they would need to have further expenditure on maintenance/ upgrade etc. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that JH as the company representative, present this at the Community Council meeting on the 10th January. The correction would then be reported in the Community Council minutes, which appear in the De tha dol?
- e) **Anaheilt Grazings, Scottish Water disposal of assets - two collection tanks:** The Community Company has no interest in these but will be guided by the Grazings Committee. IB is the grazings committee representative and has contacted the Scottish Government to ask them to buy the assets as the grazings members were concerned that an external purchaser might buy them. The grazings members would find it useful to have this area is hard standing. However it appears that these sites, which are in the middle of the grazings, have no right of access except to Scottish Water. The Scottish Government (SGRPD) turned down the original offer to purchase because it would then prove too legal fees and too expensive to fill them in etc. This has highlighted that there may be costly liabilities to ownership. JH pointed out that if Scottish Water don't sell then they are probably required to maintain them. The proposal is that the Community Council be asked to contact the agent and ask that Scottish Water provide details of the "burdens". Then there will need to be another meeting of the grazings committee, so a request to extend the deadline beyond 31st January 19 is also required.
- f) **LDO extension of contract:** IB was funded by HIE to the end of July 2018. Since then her salary has been paid with the support of the CBF. The VIC is funding one day per week but the Board are asked to support an extension of contract to the end of February 2019. Treasurer will explore options for funding including approaching HIE again as the rules for funding LDOs were not clearly stated to Sunart Community Company as other communities are being funded. Request to extend agreed.
- g) **Visitor Information Centre (VIC):** JH declared an indirect interest as his wife is Chair of SMMAATA, and KC declared a direct interest as a committee member. IB and JH made a presentation. There had been a meeting with several "Crafters" who were thinking of leasing display space. The meeting went well and an information sheet was drawn up. Two papers were tabled, one for the meeting and one as a result of the meeting. It was proposed that there should be a panel of directors, producers and volunteers. It was agreed that AC and KC are the linked directors on the retail side and DB for the building, fixtures and fitting, refurbishment, maintenance side, a list of volunteers to be developed, JJ volunteered. It was agreed that Sunart Community Company becomes a retailer in its own right, with space to sell "local" products, e.g. soap. The Arisaig Visitor Centre and shop are willing to liaise with ideas, product placement and joint purchasing, etc. This avenue to be explored further.

5 Finance Report:

Balance: £41,830.01

6 Capacity Building & Enhanced Employment:

- a) **Loch Development:** See item above re points raised by Peter Ford. **Action:** JJ to schedule a Loch Meeting **Done** Next meeting 15th January 2019
- b) **Paths, Trails and Maps:** Next Meeting 14th January 2019 with the Paths Leaflet as the item on the agenda. The group are also taking responsibility for the Old School House Plot and organising working days
- c) **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** See item 4b) iv) above.

7 Assets

- a) **Old Schoolhouse Plot:** Nothing to report
- b) **Back Road** (path along the river): Signs to be erected; this is being done with the **Paths Group**. DB and JJ have walked along the Back Road and Anaheilt to check for any fallen branches or other issues that may have arisen due to the recent gales. DB & JJ suggest that the company adopt an approach of reviewing the state of the trees on company property at least once and preferably twice a year and that judicious pruning be carried out as required. The inspection and report should be conducted by a trained, qualified, experienced tree surgeon, holding the appropriate certificates and insurance. This would demonstrate that we take both health and safety and due diligence seriously. It will also allow the company to maintain the assets on behalf of the community. A discussion agreed that the secretary should speak to Kenny Turnbull and Richard Livet to see if they would be interested in this work. Any major work would be subject open competition. JM offered to contact Kenny. Kenny is on leave until 20th January but JJ will contact. Back Road now needs a scrape and routine maintenance
- c) **Composting site:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Community Woodland Plot** (Behind V&D Barker's): Nothing to report.

8 Potential/ enhanced community facilities:

- a) **Longrigg Woodland:** See item 12c below
- b) **Men's Shed:** See item 4b ii) above
- c) **Visitor Information Centre (VIC):** See item 4g above
- d)

9 Output 4 – Sustainable Community Company:

- a. Fundraising
 - i. Fund Raising & Income Generation: None
 - ii. Gift Aid: None
- b. Board Development: None
- c. Strategy Review and Business Planning: See item 4b above
- d. Staffing: See item 4f above. Lara Van de Peer is the new Project Officer, funded by the NHS Highland, managed by the Community Councils Working Group but employed by the Sunart Community Company, as none of the other community groups/ organisations were able to provide the necessary systems and support.
- e. Website: Is up and running thanks to excellent work by Dean Mann.

10 Other Matters:

- a. **Fisheries:** None
- b. **Drimnatorran Farm:** Noted
- c. **Village Hall And Old Primary School Building:** See item 4d above
- d. **Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool:** None
- e. **Lifelong Learning:** None

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- f. **Transport Links:** None (see reference to trying to explore this as per strategic review)
- g. **Housing:** None

11 Correspondence: -

- a. Letter from Marine Scotland outlining the new counting system for 2019 – passed to P Madden

12 Any Other Business:

- a. Items from the Community Council: None
- b. The Loch Group meet on the 15th January and one of the items is a proposal to build a rowing skiff
- c. Longrigg Woodland: there is a meeting scheduled for 6th February 2019 where the consultants will present preliminary findings to the Board, Community Council, the Longrigg Working Group and members of the public. There will then be a further Working Group meeting to discuss the consultants findings and proposed options with recommendations to the Board for the 20th March 2019. The March Board meeting will be on Longrigg Woodland

13 a) Date of Next Meeting: 6th February 2019, 7pm in the Sunart Centre, Strontian

- b) **Date of next Board Meeting Tuesday 20th February at 6:30pm TBA**