

Sunart Community Company

Board Meeting (Tele conference) 27th May 2020

Attending: D Barker (DB) Chair; J Hilder (JH) Treasurer; J Jones (JJ) secretary, J Tyldesley (JT); J Madden (JM); D Calver (DC)

Apologies: None

Acceptance of minutes of 25th March 2020 – proposed J Hilder, seconded J Madden

Staffing: Jane Mellis, see Oakwood item below. Lara Van de Peer works for the Company but under the Community Council's Dail Mhor working group. However, as Dail Mhor is in lock down Lara has been assisting with the Sunart Community Council Helping Hands and assisting JH with some funding applications.

Oakwoods – Jane Mellis has been working on sourcing items needed for when it can re open e.g. sanitizers, etc. Jane is also doing some administrative duties although she has said she is not comfortable maintaining the website. She has also said that if the lock down continues and Oakwood is not able to open she is happy to reduce her hours. However, if it can reopen she is also flexible and happy to do more hours if some of the volunteers are unable or uncomfortable with working in Oakwood. Jane Mellis will be contacting volunteers and doing preparations for opening.

Longrigg Woodland: a Zoom meeting was held and the key points are: to explore an idea of an exchange of land with Ranachan; we are expecting a draft final report from the consultant, JJ is seeking quotes for widening the bell mouth on Longrigg Road to turn left onto the A861; for the part of the report looking at the route and we may need to consult with the Grazings Committee; the consultants revised draft report is expected in the next two weeks. If the Board are minded to proceed to purchase, we need to get an application to the SLF before the end of August 2020. There will need to be a public consultation and to publicise the report. A public meeting, which complies with social distancing guidelines, should be possible in the village hall – though there might be the need to be 3-4 sessions. JM asked if there is a requirement for a minimum percentage of the village population/ members needed to decide whether or not the application can go ahead i.e. proceed to the next stage. It was clarified that that particular requirement is no longer necessary. JH mentioned that there might be some relaxation of the SLF requirements because of CV19 creating problems for public consultations.

Men's Shed: Water application enquiry is being made. There is a need to clear the site . Shaun Corrigan has offered to donate an electrician for two days to connect the electricity. JH will submit a funding bid to Foundation Scotland.

Loch Moorings: DC will take over the secretarial role. JH received a call from the Crown Estates allowing a deferment of the annual moorings fees, with the possibility of further concessions. We need to:

- Notify Crown Estates of name of chair, secretary, treasurer and office bearers
- Send out Annual mooring invoices in September
- Wallace Stone have been approached to do a proper jetty feasibility study, and have quoted circa £6,000. HIE have referred JH to the Highland Council (HC) as HC have been allocated funds from the Crown Estate

- An amendment to the lease of the jetty has been submitted and Crown Estates have come back with two minor amendments which are standard clauses
- HIE have indicated there is a small fund for capital projects and HIE may be interested in funding.

Website/Communications: DB, JJ and JH have been looking at the website, it is very out of date. DM/JJ are looking at updating and DB would like the information and appearance to be altered. We need someone with IT skills to set it up and maintain it, and it really needs a to have a small group to take this task on. JH had posted a Facebook message re asking for volunteers to help with the website. JJ/DB will progress and arrange a Zoom meeting with Dean Mann. JM will ask Dugald McIntyre if he is interested and if so to speak with JJ/DB

Administrative post: the suggestion was made to keep the application in with the CBF for the post, which would be part-time paying £8-9 per hour. JJ supported the proposal, stating his view that the Company needs a dedicated person to maintain the books and free up JH for funding applications. DB seconded the proposal, which was approved.

Assets: No action

Income generation: There will be no burger stall this year and no Water Festival so we will need to look for grant funding applications, for which we will rely heavily on JH. The Scottish Government will be looking at providing funding for communities post CV19. There might be a need to mothball Oakwood but this can be kept under review.

Finance: Currently £46,908 including £8,500 grant funds re CV19 for the Community Council. JH explained the Scottish Government was using HIE to distribute grant funds to community councils via community companies as these have all the necessary systems and processes already in place. Monies have already been sent to Ewen's Room and an allocation will be made to Ardgour CC. The Oakwood account stands at £5,175.

Community Benefit Fund (CBF): JH has been corresponding with Eilidh Anne re applications. The Company don't have a representative director at the moment. DC will cover for this round of applications. JJ offered for the future if no one else stepped forward.

AOB: JH floated an idea for a business income opportunity re possible house that will be coming to the market. The proposal would be to purchase, perhaps via SLF, for sessional letting to provide additional income for the Company and employment opportunities for local person/people.

Next meeting: Wednesday 1st July 2020