

## Sunart Community Company Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Venue:** Village Hall

**Attending:** P Sharples (Chair), J Hilder (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), N Brooks

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: L Macgregor, S Traynor, R Henderson, A Hughes
2. **Acceptance of minutes:** Proposed by J Hilder, seconded by N Brooks
3. **Community Company Planning:** James queried whether or not the minutes and the slides of the Planning meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and Nick's presentation on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 24 had been circulated. John will check and circulate if not sent out already.
4. **Updates:**
  - Longrigg Woodland:** As Andy was not available James gave a brief update: the FLS have offered to enter into a licence agreement that will replace the 40p per ton charge or a "servitude". James and Jamie McIntyre have examined the proposals and submitted comments and queries to McPhees. It is hoped that the licence should be issued by July and that we can then proceed to purchase.
  - Oakwood:** John had inadvertently omitted to include Karyn and Becky in the invite and agenda so there was no update from her. However, James explained that Karyn is keen to get a banking card so that she can pay in takings at the Post Office in Strontian – the Post Office cannot accept payment with a card. James is finalising the arrangements for the issue of a card. James has also managed to get the CCTV working. John and Karyn will be fitting the UV film to the Velux windows on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 24
  - Men's Shed:** James submitted an application to the SCBF for funding for a Craft Hub Officer and the application has been approved. James and Rowena will finalise the job description and organise a recruitment exercise. The post will be advertised in the De tha dol? and posted on the Facebook page. Paul raised a question about the PAT testing suggestion in the April 24 minutes and James outlined Rowena's suggestion and it was agreed this is carried forward to the next meeting
  - Lochs and Moorings:** James outlined that the three mooring have been sold for £500 each. Also, Robbie Grieves from Kinlochleven had been to service these moorings and fit new sections of chain; they had also repaired and serviced an number of other moorings and will invoice the owners directly. James has still to organise a moorings meeting and this is carried forward to the next meeting
  - Paths:** There was a paths volunteer session on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> May and work had been carried out on the footbridge to the Community Woodland, path clearing and repair and the path to the Sunart Hotel and removal of the rotten benches and picnic tables. There will be further work in this area at the June working day. John passed a receipt from Eilidh-Ann to James for payment. The group would like to purchase materials so the benches and picnic tables can be replaced, and there was a brief discussion about wood versus plastic, however, the decision rests with the working group. Eilidh-Ann has suggested that if anyone has any suggestion for work that needs doing then to contact her or Christine Nater
  - Website:** Nick has spoken to Andy Lock and it would be £2,000 for a redesigned website. Tony Gowland created a "sand box", which is an online space to play and design. Nick is building a new site and this will replace the current website in due course. The need for a newsletter was again discussed and the suggestion agreed was that there should be two per year. An A5 leaflet has been produced and was available for the paella day but it needs a QR code, which James/Nick and Becky will sort.

**Heritage:** The church acquisition for £50,000 deadline for the finding bid was today. James has done a budget; the Highland Council (HC) appears to own the graveyard but will sell this to us for £1 plus the legal costs. James explained that it appears we are able to claim the legal fees with this particular grant application; this is something of which he wasn't aware previously. James will circulate the application document to the Board members.

**Social Activities:** The paella event was a great success and the weather allowed the event to be held on the village green. We wish to express our thanks and congratulations to: Robert and Justine Dunn; Neil and Jane Mellis, Eilidh Wilson, Rowena and Laura, Stuart Carmichael and all involved in the preparation, loan of equipment, setting up the gazebos and tables, preparing and cooking the food and serving. There were many comments of how much people had enjoyed the event. There are plans for further events and activities throughout the year.

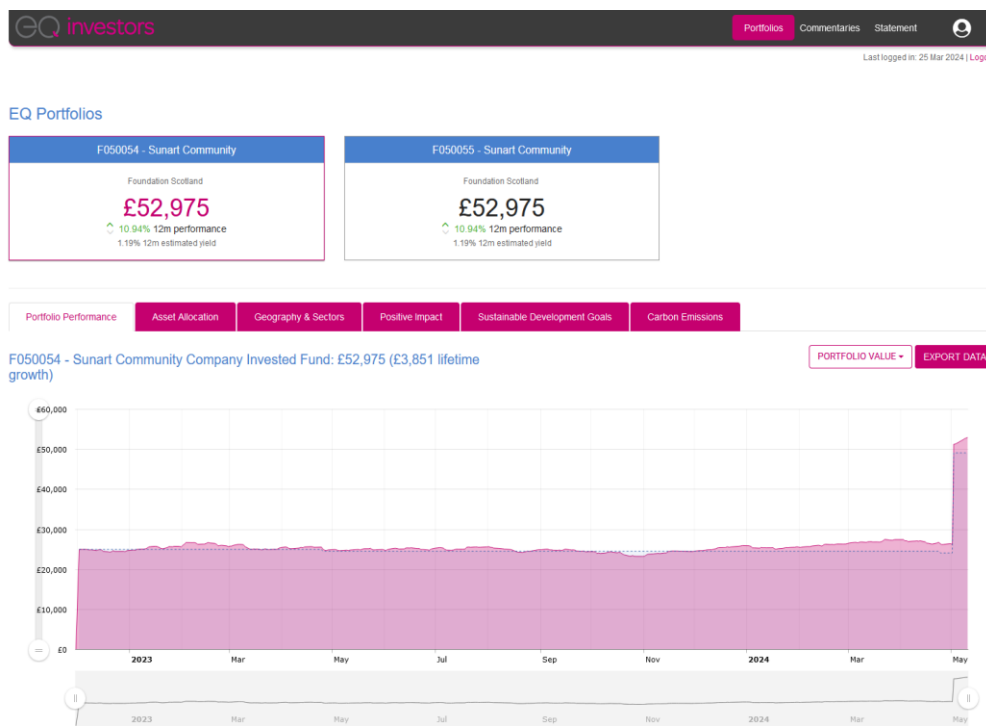
5. **Assets and risk register:** Nothing at this time

6. **Income generation:** Nothing at this time

7. **Finance, including the community benefit fund & Oakwood:** the Oakwood Bank Account stands at £6,569.44 but there is over £800 cash to pay in. The main bank account stands at £59,743.87

**Endowment Fund**

The performance of our shares and the sudden addition of the extra £25k from Sunart Community Benefit Fund into the Endowment Fund, so if we were to cash in our shares today, ignoring admin fees, our investments will have raised an extra £5,950 (2 x 2,975) James has yet to progress finalising which interest bearing ethical bank account we will transfer more of our residue of funds as he has been pretty tied up with Moorings and the £90k application for the church buyout which was sent in today for a decision in August. James has provided the graphic:



**8. Staff matters:** The Company has been awarded grant funding towards employing a member of staff to organise the Craft hub and James will produce an advert for the De tha dol? for recruitment.

**9. AOB**

**Polloch Shed:** FLS have agreed a price of £2,500 with no claw back clause unless the site is sold as a building plot. The application for funding to the Sunart Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) has been approved. We are awaiting contact from the FLS legal team.

**Insurance:** The information for our quotation for cover for Zurich has been updated to include the defibrillator and to increase the public liability fro £5,000,000 to £10,000,000. This increase is necessary so that we can work with the FLS on the Faeries Road Bridge and when we come to work with FLS after we acquire the Longrigg Plantation.

**Faeries Road bridge:** James has been looking at the FLS 30-page contract that we need to complete. John also has suggested that he get back in touch with Johnny Grey, who is ex FLS civil engineer, who worked on bridges and advised the Community Council.

**Marketing and Communications:** See Website item above

Date of next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7pm, Village Hall