

Sunart Community Company Board Meeting

Date: 23rd August 2017

Venue: Dail Mhor

1) Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Tyldsley (JT) Chair, J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, D Barker (DB), K Proctor (KP), J Jones (JJ) Secretary, L Cameron (LC), J MacKinnon (JMck) I Baker (IB), C Millar-Craig (CMC)

Apologies: J Madden (JM), K Campbell (KC), P Grubb (PG),

The secretary apologised for printing out the June 17 minutes instead of July 17. However, meeting was able to proceed, as there were two copies of the appropriate minutes available

2) Review of LDO Performance:

- a) JH is due to meet with AW on Monday to discuss work in progress. IB has been taking annual leave in the last few weeks to reduce the accumulation that had build up.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting: Proposed JH seconded JT

- a) JJ Apologised wrong meeting date in the minutes.

4) Matters Arising:

- a) JMck queried the change of meeting to Wednesdays and 6:30pm start time. JJ and JH explained it was to assist KP with childcare and JM has prior commitments on Mondays, and it was being trialled.
- b) Strontian Stores – major licence variation – JH pointed out that JMck raising this as an issue had prompted the Community Council to call an extraordinary meeting. The meeting was well attended and the majority voted for the new licence. The Community Council supported the application and explained the concerns of residents living in the immediate vicinity. The licence was granted with the requirement for no music or drinking on the outside area after 10pm, which is acknowledged as fair and reasonable.
- c) Item 4c) from June minutes: Agreed that nominees and co-optees be confirmed at the next meeting: JH proposed Joan Madden and LC seconded the nomination.
- d) Dates of meetings: the suggestion to move the 9th September Strategic Planning meeting to 16th September, however, it was pointed out there is a music fest which clashes. Also DB explained he could not see the dates of meetings, as the table in the minutes didn't print on his printer. **Action:** JJ to recirculate the dates of meetings. JJ to reformat the Excel Update spread sheet.

5) Finance Report:

- a) Bank Account balance as at 23rd August 17 is 42117.76 which includes a £25,000 payment from the SCH for the Common Good Fund (CGF). So the balance looks inflated, however, that money is ring fenced. JH provided a printout of payments made for directors to peruse. The burger stall took £1677 which after deductions of: Hotel 187.80, Gas £32.99 and buns £88 leaves a balance of £1368.21, which is in line with our forecast expectations. The treasurer on behalf of the board expressed thanks to Denise Anderson for the loan of the generator and to all the volunteers who assisted on the day.

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6) **Action Plan Update Output 1: Capacity Building:**

- a) Loch Development: JH had forwarded an email on progress. Progress is slow but in hand.
- b) Paths, Trails and Maps:
 - i) Going well. Funding from Paths for all £1500 75% received remainder on completion. IB, Thomas and Murdo have been doing work and the path is now in although cannot be used for several months to allow it to drain and firm up. There was extra work done by Murdo and his original estimate was £900 although this will now be £2000. However he has said he would accept £500. After discussion it was agreed to approach the CGF and Community Council to make up the shortfall in funds rather than go back to Paths for All. If £1000 is requested this will still leave monies for benches and materials for other paths in the project, as it was hoped to put benches in other place i.e. the Teddy Bears Picnic. JT commented that the Men's Shed project when up and running might build benches at a very reduced cost. **Action** JH and JJ
 - ii) Hotel Path: the working party cleared the surface, ready for stone/ballast to be laid which hopefully may stop the issue of flooding. So thanks to all the volunteers who turned out. Also some of the group also cleared some of the woodland path behind the hotel.
 - iii) The Paths Group are meeting next week.
- c) Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool feasibility:
 - i) A Mr Harkiss has been in contact with the Community Council about selling his plot of land, located behind the hotel, adjacent to the community wood, along the hotel path which has just been cleared. When this was last mentioned about 2 years ago it was valued at a maximum £5000. The Community Council discussed this and see it as something which the community should own and have asked the Community Company to explore this matter further. **Action** JH will speak with Mr Harkiss.
 - ii) George Fox Collection: Fiona and Eilidh have approached JH with regards to George's collection which comprises Filing cabinets full of papers, shelves of books, which fill a room at the house, and larger items from the mines, most of which are stored outdoors. A discussion ensued this covered, the importance locally of the collection, the need to preserve and sift the contents, options for storage, and that it is important to start the process so materials do not deteriorate. Suggestions were to cost for an archivist to sift and catalogue materials prior to storage, finding suitable storage with appropriate heating and humidity that meets George's family's agreement. **Action:** An application will be made to the CGF for an archivist; Community Company and Community Council will explore options for storage, perhaps at Dail Mhor as it will be empty. JJ to approach R Dunn who previously offered the use of his container, to store the larger items
- d) Community Woodland: See update
- e) Lifelong Learning: none
- f) Transport Links: None
- g) Housing: None
- h) Common Good Fund: SCH have passed £25,000 to the Community Company, which we hold on behalf of the CGF. Currently there are only two applications to the CGF, although a special application will be made for the G Fox Collection archivist and possibly for paths project re Murdo's costs, which are mentioned above. Any balance of SCH funds for the CGF will be ring-fenced.

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7) **Assets**

- a) Old Schoolhouse Plot: JJ asked for this to be deferred as he had not been able to progress the assets "register". However, JJ and DB will meet to organise a review.
- b) Old Road Path – along river from high school: there is an overhanging branch that needs a tidy up – On going
- c) Composting Site – This is added to the assets item for future inclusion

8) **Output 2 - potential enhanced community facilities:**

- a) Old Nurses Station: Due to the closures issues at Dail Mhor the nurses have moved back into these premises, which are not up for sale (~~have we had this confirmed by the NHS H?~~) YES so valuation process will be halted.
- b) Plot of land near High School: on going
- c) Longrigg Woodland: on going
- d) Facilities for the Elderly – Men's Shed: JT and some of the "Men's Shed" Group were invited by Mr J O'Rourke to visit his shed in Acharacle. Mr O'Rourke's shed is very substantial, is dry, secure and there are many pieces of equipment which he is will to loan/ donate to the group. Mr O'Rourke is a very experienced and enthusiastic crofter and he is very community minded. The options were discussed e.g. the shed is outside the Sunart community boundary, it may be that the Acharacle community would want first options, etc. JT will keep in touch with Mr O'Rourke and there may be options for liaison and cooperation, etc. Other options for a shed location were discussed e.g. composting site, this is community owned and close to services but would need research and planning; the shed behind the hotel was offered by JH and Michelle but it will need inspecting and the electrics upgraded, however, it could be a quick temporary solution. It was also mentioned that Dail Mhor that is holding £1000 of Community money (from the Community Council and Company), which needs to be recovered as it was specifically for a Men's Shed. The £1000 together with grants available from Help the Aged and the Men's Shed Association should provide for the start up costs. **Action:** Community Company will write to Marie Law to recover the money and also ask if we can continue to use the office as power and light must be being left on for the surgery, school and village hall.

9) **Output 4 – Sustainable Community Company:**

- a) Fundraising – JH is exploring options for an event before the auction in December. JMCK and KP will look at options for raffle and entertainment for the Auction evening .
- b) Board Development – JH proposed we hold a day in October
- c) Strategic Business Planning – on going.
- d) Staffing: JJ & JH to meet to discuss
- e) Office – See above

10) **Other Matters:**

- a) Fisheries: The salmon stock have all died and so there will be further activity until new stock can be electro fished next year, and it will then take some time to get the the situation to breed from any new stock. The point was made that we as a company should be fully supportive of this project and perhaps seek to provide more support and try to encourage extra people to assist Pete Madden. The board agreed and are totally supportive of this project.
- b) Drimnatorran Farm: Noted
- c) Mine: Noted
- d) Tree Surgery: Payment can be made to Richard Livett and the tree branch on the back road, near the High School is still ongoing.

11) **Correspondence:** - Two more signatories JJ and JMack agreed at last meeting and the bank needs to be informed.

12) Any Other Business:

- a) JH mentioned paperwork to JM, for return to the Secretary – ongoing?
- b) Tabled proposed dates for meetings through to May 2018, see below, to be re-circulated as some problems viewing information:

Date	Day	Type	Time
12 th August 2017	Saturday	BBQ Show Day	8am – 4:30pm
23 rd August 2017	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
September 2017 Date required	Saturday	Strategic Review & Planning	10:30am – 3:30pm
4 th October 2017	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
October 2017	Friday or Saturday??	Fundraiser??	Evening??
15 th November 2017	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
1 st December 2017	Friday	Xmas Auction	6.00-9:30pm
10 th January 2018	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
22 nd February 2018	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
4 th April 2018	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm
23 rd may 2018	Wednesday	Board meeting	6:30pm

If there are any points we should consider with regards these days then please let the secretary know.

- c) SCSB AGM is 7pm on 26th September 2017. The Community Company hold shares and so should be represented and JH is unable to attend. JT and JJ mentioned they should be attending so there would be Community Company representation.
 - d) Richard Laybourne as a previous secretary has received notification of C Wright's appeal again the planning decision for the Stables opposite the jetty, quoting previous planning law, the new house at Achnalea. JH is drafting a response for the Community Council and it was agreed the Community Company should raise an objection too.
 - e) Forestry Commission Estate at Polloch: The shed and car park are to come up for sale - the Meeting agreed we should explore the option for purchase. A piece of forest above Polloch is also possibly coming to the market and as the local community we have first options to buy. The Community Council has asked that the Community Company explore the options and feasibility of purchase. The neighbouring estate has expressed an interest in working with the Community Company is this matter. KP will speak with her contacts and we will arrange for R Dunn and Jamie McIntyre to give us an opinion.
 - f) Dail Mhor closure and Doctor's Surgery: Dail Mhor is closing; however the surgery will still be functioning. Collection of prescriptions will initially be from the waiting area staffed by volunteers. Longer term LC and the practice are seeking to obtain a prescription-dispensing kiosk, a self-service machine not unlike a vending machine. However, longer term the surgery has been classed as not fit for purpose, and in need of updating. There will be discussions with regard to the long-term provision of service.
- 13) Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th October 2017 at 6:30pm**
venue to be notified

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