

Sunart Community Company Board Meeting

Date: 10th January 2018

Venue: Fire Station

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

Attending: J Tyldsley (JT) Chair, J Madden (JM), K Campbell (KC), J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, D Barker (DB), L Cameron (LC) J Jones (JJ) Secretary, C Millar-Craig (CMC)

Apologies: P Grubb (PG), K Proctor (KP), J MacKinnon (JMck) I Baker (IB),

2) **Review of LDO Performance:**

a) Nothing to discuss this month

3) **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Acceptance of minutes of 4th October 17, proposed by JT seconded by LC. JM asked for the “Old Road” in the minutes to be renamed “Back Road”, which is the correct and traditional name. Minutes amended. The paragraph 4d) to be amended and remove names – done.

4) **Matters Arising:**

a) Audited accounts have been received

b) We need to complete the OSCR return and send to Companies House

c) Insurance: we have had the renewal notice and treasurer has asked secretary to explore other insurers e.g. Endsleigh, NFU and include updated assets and quotes for visitor moorings.

5) **Finance Report:**

a) Balance at 10th January 2018 £27,311.16.

b) The letter of change of address of the company has been sent

c) The final payment is due from HIE; their funding stops at the end of March 2018. The LDO contracts end in July 2018 and we previously agreed balance of funds from SCHR. HIE are changing their funding basis to account management, so funding will be for specific projects e.g. the paths or Loch Development, etc. Treasurer is inviting HIE to a future meeting so we can discuss and clarify how we can best proceed.

d) Thanks to the efforts the Christmas Auction raised £1,200, which is a significant amount.

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

a) Loch Development: We will need to fundraise for the moorings and also add the visitor moorings on to the Insurance renewal.

b) Paths, Trails and Maps: On-going and the Men’s Shed group have been approached to make some benches for various sites around the village and paths. See item c.ii) below.

c) Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool feasibility:

i) The secretary spoke with Mr Harkiss who emailed some documentation to show title and access. However, the secretary’s interpretation is the plot is land-locked and the only access which ~Mr Harkiss must grant is for third parties to be given access to pipes, which run beneath his land. Mr Harkiss has indicated he this looking for around £5,000 for the land, however given it is land-locked it is not worth this figure and will be acquired purely as amenity land. The Board agreed a price range of £1,000 - £3,000 (please note that this information is commercial-in-confidence and not for disclosure). JJ and DB will speak with Mr Harkiss.

ii) Men’s Shed: The intention is to proceed with using the building behind the Strontian Hotel in the short term. This will allow the group to start making benches for the Footpaths Group, as there is some urgency on this as the

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funding for completion is drawing near. The treasurer mentioned that the NHS Manager of Dail Mhor is holding £1000 which was granted to the Men's Shed by the Community Council. Treasurer/ Chair will speak to the NHS manager. LDO has presented a draft proposal to develop the Old School House plot as a long-term location for the Men's Shed. Action: Secretary to take proposals to Community Council

- iii) Tourist Information Centre (TIC): At the present time Visit Scotland can't sell the property however, the Community Company should seek to acquire the Public Right to Buy and the treasurer has sent off a copy of the Company's constitution to the Public Right to Buy Dept in the Scottish Government.
 - iv) Pool: No progress so far. There are mixed views in the group, some wanting 25 metre pool others just a leisure and exercise facility. Group are awaiting draft proposals and then can discuss a feasibility and viability assessment.
 - v) Dial Mhor: HC will be handing it back to the NHS and the NHS is commissioning a full survey and report. There is a meeting re Dail Mhor next Thursday.
 - vi) Primary School and Village Hall buildings: these were discussed as the school will be vacated later this year and we need to ascertain what HC plans are for the builds. It was agreed that we should be proactive rather than reactive, waiting for HC to tell us about their plans/ proposals for the building. The suggestion that we ask HC for a copy of the survey and report which they commissioned 4 years ago when refurbishment was an option. Action: Secretary/ treasurer.
- d) Community Woodland: DV has been instructed and will be visiting the site next week.
 - e) Lifelong Learning: none
 - f) Transport Links: None
 - g) Housing: None
 - h) Common Good Fund: None

7) **Assets**

- a) Old Schoolhouse Plot: See above.
 - i) Back Road Path: vehicles have driven along the full length of the Back Road and churned up some of the surface. It is that peoples' SatNav tends to direct people that way. There are signs indicating no vehicle access but these will be reviewed.
- b) Composting Site – This is added to the assets item for future inclusion and the shed **Action** Secretary
- c) Website: IB has produced a mock-up website which JH demonstrated to the Board. This is a joint Community Council facility and JH will take it to the meeting on the 11th January 18. It was agreed that the appearance and the suggested pages were attractive and would meet the needs. There are questions about the ease of maintenance as it is a single laptop platform and this would be a restriction. However, it is possible to build the same in WordPress and this may be a better option.

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

- a) Old Nurses Station: no action
- b) Plot of land near High School: on going
- c) Longrigg Woodland: See 6d)
- d) Facilities for the Elderly – Men's Shed: See item above

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

- a) Fundraising – On going
- b) Staffing: JJ & JH to meet and discuss with LDOs
- c) Office – On going

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10) **Other Matters:**

- a) Fisheries: On going
- b) Drimnatorran Farm: Noted
- c) Mine: Noted

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

12) **Any Other Business:**

- a) **Planning Application** for Mussel Farm in Loch Sunart. The Board are supportive of employment opportunities in the area, and the visual impact in this case was not a concern. However, this application may restrict i.e. narrow, the channel for sailing boats and this might be in conflict with what we are trying to do to make Sunart and Strontian a destination for leisure craft and sailing boats, Secretary to take these points to the Community Council meeting on 11th January 18.

13) **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 6:30pm
venue to be notified