

# Sunart Community Company Board Meeting

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

**Venue:** Fire Station

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

**Attending:** J Tyldesley (JT) Chair, J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, D Barker (DB), J Jones (JJ) Secretary, C Millar-Craig (CMC), J MacKinnon (JMck) I Baker (IB),

**Apologies:** J Madden (JM), K Proctor (KP), L Cameron (LC), A K Campbell (KC)

2) **Review of LDO Performance:**

Nothing discussed

3) **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Acceptance of minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> February 18, proposed by JH seconded by DB.

4) **Matters Arising:**

a) No "Matters Arising"

5) **Finance Report:**

a) Balance at 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 is £34,734.23. The HMRC have written to the Directors of Sunart Community Enterprises Ltd with regards outstanding tax liabilities. However, this company has been mothballed and so no tax liabilities are outstanding. The Sunart Community Enterprises Ltd is an asset of the Sunart Community Company and is available when needed.

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

a) Loch Development: A paper proposing the "Sunart Water Festival" was tabled (copy is attached) presented by IB and JH. The proposal is for a Water Festival in 2018 and 2020 is the Year of Coast and Water in Scotland and for which funding is available if we can demonstrate momentum. For 2018 the proposals are in the paper, there will be many activities, for which there will be a nominal charge. The intention is to invite groups who have lots of experience in this e.g. the Open Water Swimmers and who will have done their risk assessments and have their own insurance, and from whom we can learn and develop. The idea is also to launch a "Friends of..." group, as supporters of Sunart and with an annual donation, which will go towards the costs and upkeep of the loch facilities. We will need to check on insurance for the event. **Action:** Secretary to contact Zurich Ins. Proposal for a Loch Festival: Approved

b) Paths, Trails and Maps: A meeting is to be arranged before 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to explain that the Paths Group need to take responsibility for administration and management of the group as the group is now established and functioning well. Also the LDO resource is needed for other projects. With regards to paths, a member of the public has raised an issue about dogs running loose on the Old Road by the river.. Following a discussion it was agreed that JH, whose is now the Community Council representative on the board, will take this to the Community Council; and there should be a sign placed at both ends of the paths asking people to keep their dogs under close control and to clean up their dog mess.

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

i) Mr Harkiss on going

ii) VIC – on-going

d) Community Woodland: LDOs have prepared the brief for consultants to tender for feasibility, viability of the current timber and for future replanting and potential usage e.g. leisure, amenity etc. Brief will be sent out in the next two weeks with replies back by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. This will then go to the Scottish Land Fund in mid-July for a decision in August. The question was asked if the application can include some element of cost for LDO time for managing the application process.

- e) Lifelong Learning: none
  - f) Transport Links: JH has received some correspondence on a car share scheme from “Care Lochaber” who are working with Acharacle CC. Acharacle CC have asked if SCC wishes to participate. After a discussion it was agreed that we support community transport initiatives in principle and on that basis we support the initiative in Acharacle but are not supportive of funding a partnership.
  - g) Housing: Rent to buy house is available in School Road
  - h) Community Benefit Fund (CBF): Nothing to report
  - i) Umbrella support for Community initiatives: New Primary School on going
- 7) **Assets**
- a) Old Schoolhouse Plot: Passed to the Paths group to work on the plot. A near neighbour mentioned that there was some Japanese Knotweed. IB has checked with Robert Dunn, there is very little knotweed and located in one place. Provided this is not cut or disturbed during the growing season it is ok to work on the plot. The knotweed can be treated in the autumn.
  - b) Old road, path along the river: See item 6b) re signs to be erected
  - c) Composting site: The old Primary School Transition Project met and discussed what will happen to the site. JH has sent the Cadispa report and the Master Planning link and the SCC Business Plan for information as Community Councils are seeking to work with the Highland Council (HC) and NHS Highland with regard to site redevelopment. CMC suggested that the information also be sent to Dorothy Gibb at HC.
  - d) Website: This is now up and running.
- 8) **Output 2 - potential enhanced community facilities:**
- a) Old Nurses Station: this is now off the list and will be removed as an agenda item.
  - b) Plot of land near High School: Off the list and will be removed as an agenda item
  - c) Longrigg Woodland: On going
  - d) Facilities for the Elderly – Men’s Shed: This heading is to be renamed as Facilities for the Community. The Men’s Shed is up and running and currently has 7 members. There must be a minimum of two people present, for safety reasons and the hours are 10am – 1pm Mondays and Wednesdays
- 9) **Output 4 – Sustainable Community Company:**
- a) Fundraising – Application to Fore Trust has been rejected, which was expected. An application to Scottish and Southern Energy is in for the VIC bid. Treasurer is looking at Gift Aid and there would then be a box on the membership form and any sponsorship application forms. LDOs are funded to the end of July 2018 with 50% coming from HIE and the CBF providing £5,000 in two blocks of funding. The Sunart Community Company is very appreciative of this support. We are making applications for projects e.g. the jetty, the Men’s Shed construction of permanent building in order to secure LDOs for a further period as the HIE funding rules have changed. We have not used all our budget from HIE and whilst this cannot be spent on wages there can be some virement within other budget heading e.g. office costs.
  - b) Board Development:
    - i) Directors formally acknowledged the Peter Grubb has missed meeting for 12 months and his name should be removed from the list of directors and Companies House be informed. Secretary to write and inform Peter of the decision and thank him for his support and explain he is welcome to reapply when his circumstances allow. Item proposed and agreed. **Action:** Secretary to inform Companies House and write to Peter Grubb.
    - ii) The number of directors has reduced and new board members are required. After a discussion the suggestion that Colin Skeath, Matt Simpkinson, Alison

Carmichael and Debbie Carver be approached and ask if they might be willing to serve as directors.

c) Staffing:

d) Office – The Community Councils are working with the NHS Highland to have Dail Mhor reopened, initially as a respite care unit and day care unit. The Community Company office will be available and facilities for holding meeting will be available too. It is suggested that maximum use be made of Dail Mhor as efforts are made to secure its future.

**10)Other Matters:**

a) Fisheries: The Angling Association has paid the lease for 2018/19. They have been informed that in future the Association will not get priority for the far north shore. The Association request that the SCC apply for an asset transfer from the Forestry Commission for the Fishing Rights for the north shore. The SCC already has the rights for the south shore. Item proposed and agreed.

b) Drimnatorran Farm: Noted

c) Mine: The SCC had made an enquiry about whether a wind turbine might be viable. However, because of the location, the minimum wind speed predictions and the current FIT then this is not a viable proposition for the community company. JH has written a report with the conclusion to withdraw and proposed sending a report to Joan Richards, John McDonald and Ross Dunsmore at Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division. As part of his research JH was given the suggestion that hydro schemes were a better option. There is still one location that might provide a possibility for a small hydro scheme. After discussion the proposal was for DB to ask SCR if they would be interested to explore this option. Proposal approved.

d) Tree Surgery – Remove as completed.

**11)Correspondence: -**

a) One item of post had been passed to the treasurer.

**12)Any Other Business:**

a) A draft Privacy policy has been drawn up by JH and after discussion the proposal to implement the policy was approved. The policy will be circulated to all members

b) Piece of land behind the police houses in Strontian. The plot is for sale and the Police have a formalised asset disposal procedure. JH has lodged a formal expression of interest on behalf of the SCC. The SCC seek to avoid a situation where inappropriate infill might occur, as has happened previously elsewhere in the village

c) Dates of future meetings proposed are:

(1) 20/6/2018

(2) 18/7/2018

(3) 11/8/2018 Saturday (Agricultural Show)

(4) 19/9/2018

(5) 31/10/2018 including AGM

(6) 30/11/2018 (Friday) Christmas Auction

(7) 9/1/2019

(8) 20/2/2019

(9) 27/3/2019

(10)8/5/2019

These date to be emailed to board for any comment suggestions for any amendment that might be necessary

**13)Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6:30pm venue to be notified