

## Sunart Community Company - Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Venue:** Fire Station

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

**Attending:** J Tyldesley (JT) Chair, D Barker (DB), J Jones (JJ) Secretary, J Madden (JM), L Cameron (LC) C Millar-Craig (CMC), I Baker (IB), Peter Ford

**Apologies:** J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, K Proctor (KP)

2) **Review of LDO Performance:** LDO Update:

**Water Festival:** The main festival event was cancelled to high winds forecast. However, a Plan B was implemented and there was a mini festival with lots of children's activities, a burger stall, live music, hot chocolate and marshmallows, CAOLAS and a great effort from Laura McC and Richard Livet with their parachute tent. The plan is to re-schedule the event for May 2019. CMC commented that it was good that there was a Plan B, which proved a success, too.

**Website:** There have been problems with the website and the Mobirise software which crashed and could not be resurrected. However, Dean Mann who is a website and Internet applications builder has offered to assist with the website. The Community Company have purchased a WordPress website template and we hope to have the basic website up and running in the next 3-4 weeks and we can then continue the development. In the meantime, IB is emailing minutes to those enquiring.

**Longrigg Woodland:** The application has been submitted to the Scottish Land Fund for their meeting on the 8th October 2018. The two tenders that came back were very close in price and everyone who wished to review the tenders and input into the discussion all agreed on the same consultant to carry out the work, if the funding application is successful.

**Paths Group:** Grant funding and the current project have received £1,400 from paths for all for the next phase of the project to create and print a new leaflet, "Walks around Sunart" and to purchase and install signage around the village.

3) **Minutes of the last meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018** Proposed: D Barker Seconded: J Madden

4) **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:** The Chair had invited Peter Ford to the meeting so Peter could present some questions and information: The cost of the annual rent and whether this was for the jetty or the slipway; what was the rent and why had this gone up; what was the proposal for the jetty; why the urgency, given there have been no proposals for future use of the jetty; what is the community benefit for owning the jetty/slipway; what are the insurance requirements for maintaining the jetty. And on the mooring fees was the £10 donation over and above the £40 i.e. £50, mandatory or voluntary? Discussions followed and various points were clarified e.g. as with all insurance company requirements, the community company is to keep in a reasonable state of repair; the rent is £300, down from £380 as the raft is not on a mooring and this is an increase but one that takes account for previous years when increases were not paid; the jetty and mooring purchase was agreed and supported by the Community Council as it was felt that the jetty should be owned by the community rather than risk it being sold to private hands; with regards community benefit JM pointed out is that it is something that has always been part of the community, and it was clarified that this is since the times of the puffers delivering coal and goods to the village communities; proposals for the jetty improvements were down to be looked at by the Loch Development Group. LC explained that these points had been discussed at the Loch Development Group and it was more for that group to explore options and present proposals for the future use and development of the jetty and slipway. The Chair intervened and these points were for the

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Loch Group. It was proposed and agreed that JJ take these matters to the Loch Group and organise a meeting explore options and produce proposals for the Board to consider. The Chair thanked Peter for attending.

### 5 Finance Report:

a) Balance: Secretary to contact the Treasurer who is absent

### 6 Capacity Building & Enhanced Employment:

- a) **Loch Development:** See item above re points raised by Peter Ford. **Action:** JJ to schedule a Loch Meeting
- b) **Paths, Trails and Maps:** The Paths Group met on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and minutes will be circulated. Next meetings - 6.30pm 8th October, 12th November - fire station. Walk Sunart Days - 9.30 on Tuesday 2nd Oct, Wednesday 17th Oct, Monday 29th Oct Locations TBC.
- c) **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** DB and IB mentioned that Sunart Community Renewables had raised issues with regards the posting of the minutes of the CBF Panel meetings and the awards granted. And the perceived lack of transparency of the allocation of the hydro funds by the Sunart Community Benefit Fund (CBF) Panel. The suggestion that the procedures are not being applied was inferred, however DB explained that there was no suggestion of impropriety being implied by the SCR board. There was a discussion and it is recognised that the problems with the Sunart Community Company Website has created issues with publishing SSC Board minutes, etc. which doesn't help with communications and perceived transparency. DB mentioned that the SCR Board suggest that the CBF guidelines are not being followed but he said these guidelines are 7 pages long which is too long and so do not lend themselves to be at each meeting, perhaps an abbreviated note should be produced. CMC commented that people do not tend to read more than a page and so perhaps an A4 page of bullet points be produced. The comment was made that minutes are written up, although with the pressures on LDO time the schedule may vary, and that information has been sent to the De tha dol? However, the minutes and points agreed, grants awarded and reasons for variation in amounts requests are written up at the meeting and read back to the CBF for them to agree. Also, if anyone wishes to have a copy of the minutes they can ask the LDO, who will email a copy of the minutes. A copy of the minutes has been emailed to Robert Dunn. It was agreed that the CBF Panel should read the abbreviated terms at each meeting.

d)

### 7 Assets

- a) **Old Schoolhouse Plot:** Nothing to report
- b) **Back Road** (path along the river): Signs to be erected; this is being done with the **Paths Group**. DB and JJ have walked along the Back Road and Anaheilt to check for any fallen branches or other issues that may have arisen due to the recent gales. DB & JJ suggest that the company adopt an approach of reviewing the state of the trees on company property at least once and preferably twice a year and that judicious pruning be carried out as required. The inspection and report should be conducted by a trained, qualified, experienced tree surgeon, holding the appropriate certificates and insurance. This would demonstrate that we take both health and safety and due diligence seriously. It will also allow the company to maintain the assets on behalf of the community. A discussion agreed that the secretary should speak to Kenny Turnbull and Richard Livet to see if they would be interested in this work. Any major work would be subject open competition. JM offered to contact Kenny.
- a. [JJ saw Kenny on the ferry and mentioned this; Kenny said his quotes are free]
- c) **Composting site:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Community Woodland Plot** (Behind V&D Barker's): Nothing to report.

**8 Potential/ enhanced community facilities:**

- a) **Longrigg Woodland:** See LDO update, Item 2
- b) **Men's Shed:** JT mentioned there be an open afternoon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October, all community residents are welcome to call and visit.
- c) **Visitor Information Centre (VIC):** The Community Company, having secured the grant, has submitted an offer of the full asking price i.e. £27,000. This has to be approved by the Visit Scotland board and if accepted, then to the Scottish Government for ratification. The Visit Scotland board meeting is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- d)

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

- a. Fundraising
  - i. Fund Raising & Income Generation: None
  - ii. Gift Aid: None
- b. Board Development: None
- c. Strategy Review and Business Planning: None
- d. Staffing: LDO is currently employed for three days a week. There will be a new post for the Dail Mhor Development Officer, this post is funded by the NHS for 18 months and SCC will be the employer as we have the systems in place but the peninsulae Community Councils will line manage the worker through Jennifer Hodgson.
- e. Office – The company office in Dail Mhor will be cleared, two desks will be kept and a lock on the door provided. The LDO and Dail Mhor Project Officer will be based here.
- f. Website: See LDO Update item 2.

**10 Other Matters:**

- a. **Fisheries:** None
- b. **Drimnatorran Farm:** Noted
- c. **Village Hall And Old Primary Scholl Building:** JM mentioned that the Village Hall committee have had no communication with Highland Council since they were told that with the Primary school moving to new premises the Education Department will no longer be subsidising the Village Hall. Also, they committee have applied for the Public Entertainment Licence (PEL) but have not received any response for HC. CMC mentioned that currently the Village Hall and the current primary school is the High School Emergency Centre assembly point, should the High School need to be evacuated. At the moment the Village Hall and Primary School are the only suitable premises. The Village Emergency Plan was briefly discussed and comment made that this might need to be reviewed, which may be something for the Community Council to consider at a future meeting. JJ explained the Community Council is currently in abeyance due to the resignation of Tony Dobson. And elections for the councillor vacancies have been advertised. It is hoped that the community council will be able to reconvene in October or November
- d. **Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool:** None
- e. **Lifelong Learning:** None
- f. **Transport Links:** None
- g. **Housing:** None
- h.

**11 Correspondence: -**

- a. Letter from Marine Scotland for annual fish survey – passed to P Madden to complete and reply.

**12 Any Other Business:**

- a. Items from the Community Council: None
- b.

- 13 a) Date of Next Meeting: AGM Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Strontian**  
**b) Date of next Board Meeting Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Strontian**