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- b) **Paths, Trails and Maps:** The Back Road has been cleared of debris and the signs are still to be erected/replaced. The benches need to be sited and installed. The Paths Leaflet has been agreed and printed and the Board wish to thank the IB and the Path Volunteers for all the work and effort involved. The electronic maps and GPS are being developed with Karl and Dean, and with volunteers logging the various routes. The money for the signs and signposts is available and the Men's Shed has been asked to price materials. The secretary is in the process of organising the next Paths Group meeting.
- c) Community Building - Hub, Heritage, etc. – No action
- d) Community Woodland - No action
- e) Lifelong Learning - No action
- f) Transport Links - No action
- g) Housing - No action
- h) **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** The date for the next meeting is being arranged. The treasurer will ask for £5,000 towards wages. At the outset, when the CBF Group was being established it was agreed that there should be a review after 3 years to consider its operation, how group members are replaced, whether there should be money set aside for future legacy when the FIT payments cease, etc. The proposed date for the review is 1st May 2019 with Company Board, the Hydro Board and the CBF Panel attending.

7 Assets

- a) **Old Schoolhouse Plot:** Nothing to report
- b) **Back Road JJ/DB** will arrange to have the trees inspected.
- 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:** KP is the lead director on this and has arranged a meeting for 1st April 2019. There have been issues with people on the email list not replying or acknowledging receipt of the email. Amanda Calvert has indicated that high value wood is commercially viable. On the 1st, the Steering Group will consider whether or not the consultants should prepare to proceed to the next stage i.e. the preparation of the full business case and make recommendations to the Board. Also, it appears that the Common Grazings Committee have not yet been formally contacted. These points will be taken to the working group meeting on 1st April.
- b) **Men's Shed:** JT gave an update and informed the Board that they have made a bench, bird table, an Owl Box to replace the one in the Community Woodland, they are looking into signposts for the Paths group and Wooden stobbs for the car park outside the Oakwood Centre. The question "how do we get a shed?" was raised i.e. the Who? What? Where? When? How? etc. JH pointed out that the Men's Shed is up and running, there is now "a story to tell", a track record of progress and increased attendance in the last twelve months. All of which will help with applications for funding bids to build a permanent Men's Shed. The Extraordinary General Meeting in 2018 identified it as a priority, and the old compost site as a good, central location close by other facilities. This is now an **action point** and so funding bids are the next step and JH will report back at the next meeting. It was agreed there needs to be a proposal to the Board at a later date outlining possible options and costs.
- c) **Oakwood Information and Tourism and Centre (formerly the Visitor Information Centre (VIC)):** Since opening on the 18th March sales have been £450.70 with the biggest category being books. The Producers are happy with the good range of sales, and this is before being fully operational. Currently the opening hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm and Saturday 12noon – 2pm. A major commitment has been on training for volunteers but this should reduce, and the paperwork/ systems

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side of things and the Facebook page. The budget: there is money in hand but items still to pay. Initially there was £5,000 for the Common benefit Fund, £2,500 from the Scottish Land Fund and most recently £1,000 from the Community Council. To date: the refurbishment is £5,400; stock i.e. Company items stock, £1,700, leaving a current balance of £1,700. There will be a stocktake on 31st March 2019 as this is the last day of the financial year.

The Board thank Tim and Lynn Coldwell, Colin Ferguson and all the volunteers and directors who have been involved with the refurbishment and preparations for opening. It was agreed there should be an official opening – a party for all the people involved. The insurance is with Zurich, and at the moment there are issues with insurance for the third party stock.

Alison Carmichael is the linked director for the producer side and DB with the building and maintenance. IB will work towards producing a monthly business report.

There is to be a review of operating procedures and costing models in the middle of the year. Currently there are three rates for selling products: a) rent only; b) commission (local); or external commission, sales or return, or C) buy up front. The suggestion is that the payment options and the level of commission be reviewed.

The Chair complimented IB on all her work getting the centre up and running.

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: See item 4b above
- d. Staffing: None
- e. Office: IT is now working is Dail Mhor and Lara is based there in the Company Office.
- f. Website: None

10 Other Matters:

- a. **Fisheries:** None
- b. **Drimnatorran Farm:** Noted
- c. **Village Hall And Old Primary School Building:** See 12c
- d. **Community Building – Hub, Heritage, Pool:** None
- e. **Lifelong Learning:** None
- f. **Transport Links:** None
- g. **Housing:** None

11 Correspondence: -

- a. None

12 Any Other Business:

- a. Items from the Community Council: See items 5 and 8c)
- b. Longrigg Woodland – See Item 8a)
- c. Agenda item 4c) re D Gibb who chairs the Primary School Transition Project has been criticised for the inaccuracy of the minute keeping and reporting. The chair and Secretary of the Strontian Community School Building Ltd resigned from the project group as contents of minutes agreed by the group have been mis-recorded or deliberately changed even after the Chair asked for inaccuracies to be corrected. The Company has experienced this also, when Lara Van de Peer asked for corrections to the minutes. JH had replied to an email and circulated an email to the Board from the Chair of SCSB Ltd - this re-states our position that the community company has no interest in the building other than to try to ensure good services for the local community and that the existing building does not deteriorate. Also a rumour had been started when Marie Law (NHS) reported that the Sunart Community Company was interested in acquiring the village hall and primary school building,

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which was incorrect. The situation with the Village Hall and primary school building remains unchanged and will continue until the NHS and Highland Council make some decisions.

- d. Board meeting dates 2019/20: the secretary will circulate a list of proposed dates to Board members and asks to highlight any issues or clashes with other activities, etc.
- e. The Board thank Sunart Community Council for the £1,000 donation to the Oakwood Centre

13 a) Date of Next Meeting: 8th May 2019 7pm in the Fire Station, Strontian