

## Sunart Community Company - Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Venue:** Fire Station, Strontian

1) **Welcome and Apologies:**

**Attending:** D Barker (DB) Chair, J Jones (JJ) Secretary, J Madden (JM) Vice Chair, J Hilder (JH) Treasurer, I Baker (IB), J Tyldesley (JT) K Campbell (KC), L Cameron (LC), Pete Madden, Clerk Ardnastaing Grazing.

**Apologies:** C Millar-Craig (CMC), K Proctor (KP), A Carmichael (AC), J MacKinnon (JMK)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) **Review of LDO Performance:** IB attended to present an Oakwood Centre update.

3) **Minutes of the last meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019:** Proposed: JH Seconded: DB. In the intervening period there was a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May, which was not quorate and JH is providing a note of the points discussed. The scheduled meeting for the 12<sup>th</sup> June was cancelled, however, the Chair, Treasurer and secretary met to review current business and essential actions; JJ will produce outline note points discussed.

4) **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:**

a) Meeting Dates for 2019/20 – Auction will be Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019; 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 is confirmed. And the AGM will be Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Village Hall

b) An email has been received from Hugh Donaldson, of the Loch Sheil Jetties Trust. The Trust has become “moribund of late” and he is asking if the Sunart Community Company wish to consider nominating a director or managing the resources of the LSJT as there are pontoons at Polloch. The Sunart Community Council had a nominated director, Jim Kirby, however he is not now involved. There was a discussion to try and clarify what the assets might be, where these were located, and possible implications for our Company, and what might happen if management of these assets were to lapse or possibly sold. It was agreed that a first step was for JH to take this to the Sunart Community Council for their consideration. **Action: JH**

5) **Finance Report:**

Balance: £41,714.63. The balance includes NHS grant for Lara Van de Peer. The Company now has two bank accounts, a second one for the Oakwood Centre, which allows them to take card payments as well as cash. The signatories for the new account are the same as the other account i.e. J Hilder, J Jones and J Mackinnon. The Scotstown Grazing Committee has repaid the monies loaned to them by the Community Benefit Fund. I Baker circulated a report on the Oakwood Centre a copy is attached. It was agreed that I Baker and A Carmichael are asked to explore options for an official opening of the Oakwood centre and a volunteers’ thank you session. **Action: IB & AC.** Community Land Scotland is having a Community Land Week which co-insides with the Sunart Show. Jamie McIntyre approached JH and suggested a joint stall/ exhibition to show how the Scotland Fund money was spent on the Primary School Building and the Oakwood Centre. JH has applied for the £300 grant and Jamie McIntyre will arrange for people to be shown round the Primary School.

6) **Capacity Building/ Projects:**

a) **Loch Development:** There is a proposal for a community meeting in the autumn to look at options for the jetty and slipway, the parking area and the green shed. Heads of terms for the lease have been agreed and our solicitors are awaiting the information from Highland Council’s solicitor and can then finalise the assignation of the lease.

b) **Paths, Trails and Maps:** The paths group have met and discussed actions required and met a second time to discuss the location and style for the signs. JJ asked JT if

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the Men's Shed still wished to be involved, and they are, but they are quite busy at the moment and were awaiting details of the specifications and number of items required.

**Action: JJ.** The paths group have asked to site some of the benches and the proposal is for a bench at the jetty; Teddy Bear's Picnic, and on the green behind the Oakwood Centre. The jetty and Teddy Bear's Picnic will need to wait until we receive them from the Highland Council, which should be imminent. After a discussion it was agreed the one on the green, together for a request for a replacement bench/ table from Eric McVicar, opposite his house, be taken to the Community Council for their consideration. **Action JH.** The paths group have also discussed tidying up the area around the composting site/ greenhouse area and are willing to assist with this - the Board are happy with this. There was also the suggestion to site a bench on the Back Road, overlooking the river; this was agreed. **Action JJ**

- c) Community Building - Hub, Heritage, etc. – No action
- d) Community Woodland – This will be removed and listed just under assets
- e) Lifelong Learning - No action
- f) Transport Links - No action
- g) Housing - No action
- h) **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** £10,000 has been allocated from SCR and there may be a further round later in the year. The next meeting will be delay slightly to October and the panel will review the actions from the review meeting and consider options for an endowment fund as the contribution from Foundation Scotland is still available. **Action: JH.**

### 7 Assets

- a) **Old Schoolhouse Plot:** Nothing to report, however, JJ pointed out that it is becoming very overgrown and needs cutting back and strimming.
- b) **Back Road** No action.
- c) **Composting site:** The portable cabin has been located there pending a planning application to the Highland Council for this to be used for the Men's Shed.
- d) **Community Woodland Plot:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Oakwood Centre:**

### 8 Potential/ Future Community Facilities/ Projects:

- a) **Men's Shed:** JT reported that a new person was attending. JH reported that the Men's Shed group and volunteers cleared the site so the portable building could be stored there. The option to obtain this building came at very short with the offer that the Company can pay when the funding is obtained. However, the treasurer suggests that we should look to pay clear this by December. Shaun Corrigan gave his time and that of two of his employees to move the building and contributed to the cost of the crane hire.
- b) **Longrigg Woodland:** Pete Madden, Clerk of Ardnastaing Grazing attended to explain in detail his email reply to the Company letter request to meet with the Grazing Committee. Pete said it was difficult to refuse a community request and five out of the six shareholders attended the Grazing committee meeting. There had been a lengthy discussion and Pete wished to explain. He said that the grazing is split in two, east and west and Longrigg Road divides the grazing. The west grazing is relevant to the letter, comprising about 16 hectares and for last 10 years they received funding from the Agriculture Environmental Management Rural Stewardship Scheme for conservation and control of scrub and rhododendron control, the funding being in excess of £15,000 over the period, which ended a few years ago. Entrance on to the Rural Stewardship Scheme required a lot of work and preparation work done by Pete and local archaeologist and environmental survey. Pete, given his background made the presumption of the type of road and standard that would be required for the extraction of timber would amount to approx. 0.5 -0.6 of a hectare and this he found

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unacceptable. Pete said he done much of the background work felt it would be personally difficult to go back to the people involved in conducting the original surveys and say they had allowed a road across the west grazing. Questions were asked about the basis of the funding, whether there would be any “claw back”, Pete didn’t think there would be any. Pete emphasised his concern for the morality of giving permission where there were environmental, agricultural and archaeological concerns. He said this decision would not be revisited. Pete said there was a place on Longrigg road to access the woodland and it is normal practice for timber lorry loads to be taken out via Acharacle and Strontian; there is a turning point about a mile up the A861, which can be used to facilitate this. J Jones explained that the request was to meet with the grazing committee to discuss issues and concerns and there was no proposal for any specific option. However, since the decision the Company has been in touch with Mark Smith, Senior Engineer, Highland Council and asked about the use and suitability of Longrigg Road and we are awaiting information. If when we receive details from the Highland Council we would like the opportunity to contact the Grazing Committee. Pete feels that if prospect of the community being unable to acquire the land was there would be no other buyer and the responsibility would be with Forestry and Land Scotland. The Chair thanked Pete for attending and presenting his information.

### **9 Developing the 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:** None

#### **e. Office:** None.

#### **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. Email re item 4a

### **12 Any Other Business:**

#### **a. Items from the Community Council:** None

- b. Sunart Show: There was a discussion about preparing for the burger stall. It is hoped to have BBQs from Jodie McGarvey at the Strontian. JM asked if director would be available to as there too few last year. JJ agreed to draw up a rota chart and circulate it.

### **13 a) Date of Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 7pm in the Fire Station, Strontian**