

## Sunart Community Company Minutes of Meeting

**Board Meeting** 7:30pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Zoom)

**Attending:** D Barker (DB) (chair) J Hilder (JH)(Treasurer) J Jones (JJ) (Secretary) J Madden (JM), J Tyldesley (JT), P Sharples (PS), Jane Mellis (Oakwood Manager P/T); Becky Drinkwater (Admin Officer P/T)  
Apologies: D Calver (DC)

### 1. **Welcome**

D Barker initially chaired the meeting to welcome people and for the acceptance of the previous minutes 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes** last meeting (24<sup>th</sup> February 2021) Proposed: J Tyldesley  
Seconded: J Hilder

### 3. **Appointment of Office Bearers**

D Barker explained that he is stepping down as the Chair but will continue as a director and will happily get involved with practical issues e.g. Oakwood. After discussion the office bearers appointed are:

Chair: P Sharples

Treasurer: J Hilder and the bookkeeper will be Wendy Wilson

Secretary: J Jones

The Director's Board wish to express thanks to David Barker, the retiring Chair, for all his hard work.

### 4. **Update:**

- **Longrigg Woodland:** After the last meeting JH and JJ hosted a Zoom meeting for the Longrigg Woodland group and went back to Jamie McIntyre and Robert Dunn to discuss the next steps, having received the consultants' final report. It has been agreed to slow down and not do an immediate community consultation at this time. It is felt that with COVID and other issues e.g. not being able to hold public meetings, etc now may not be the best time. Also, the view is there is not the pressure to submit a funding application at this time. Therefore the information leaflet has been amended and the full report has been placed on the website. We propose to move the consultation process to later in the year to around September or October.

At the AGM Jamie Tait asked if the Company might do some sort of a survey to see what issues local employers and businesses might have or expect when the economy is restarted and the lockdown and restrictions are eased. This prompted our thinking about planning and the consultation exercise that we had planned as part of the Longrigg Woodland community consultation and the CADISPA Consultation, which was done in 2014 and is now becoming very out of date. If more finance resource was available we could employ someone part-time to do the research/ survey.

- **Oakwood:** The website is ready to go and will need to go "public" to test the platform. Oakwood will open it's doors on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the online purchasing one week later. Tony Gowling might be able to do a "soft" launch to test the site, JH said he was very impressed by the number of items displayed. There is a need to look at the Wi-Fi and the telephone, which are dead. JH mentioned that the BT contract is up for renewal and that might be the reason for the

telephone not working. Jane said she had swapped the telephone with one from home and it worked, so it is the handset that needs replacing. David Barker will turn the water back on next week.

- **Men's Shed:** Callan Wilson and John Tyldesley have moved a lot of the timber from Louis' cottage to the store at the Men's Shed behind the Strontian Hotel, and James Hilder and John moved some of the sheet material. A workday on Saturday is proposed, to dismantle the shed. A vehicle and large trailer is needed to move the rest of the timber to the new Shed. Callan has been making bird-nesting boxes. The cost for payment of the water connection of £1,100 was approved, as was for the cost for the electricity connection.
  - **Loch/ Moorings** – Jetty and Green Shed: Julian Morris has reroofed the shed and will treat the woodworm in the rafters and he is donating a window which he will install on the seaward wall. Eric Shackleton has mounted the handrail. The claim for funding from HIE is being sent. CAOLAS will do posters. On the moorings: invoices have been sent out by Debbie Calver; JH is contacting Mallaig Marine to see if they can survey the private moorings, the Company visitor moorings are ok as they were surveyed last year.
  - **Paths:** Nothing to report
  - **Website/ Communications:** Becky will put a “Donate” button on the website; Tony Gowland will do a blog linked to the News page – Becky will progress this with Tony. On the social media front: there have been 849 searches and 332 engagements. Becky suggests doing a “guess where” feature of pictures/ photos. A “Strontian in the Past” item was considered but it was pointed out that Alisdair McIntyre has a Facebook history group and we wouldn't want to detract or compete with that.
5. **Assets** – K6 Telephone Boxes in Scotstown and Polloch: Mark Embling has provided a £250 donation, which he asked is earmarked for £100 for Scotstown and £150 for Polloch. The Treasurer acknowledged receipt of the payment and the secretary has emailed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Board.
6. **Income generation:** JH gave an update: we are hoping for a reasonable season for Oakwood; the Water Festival is still to be decided and waiting to hear whether or not the idea for a Coast and Waters idea will go ahead, so we may need to do a local festival - JH will follow this up with Michelle Hilder. The Agricultural Show is still uncertain, so there may not be a burger stall this year. We hope to do a Christmas Market.
7. **Finance, including Common Benefit Fund (CBF) & Oakwood:** Current Account £48,496.35 includes money from the Sunart Community Renewables (Hydro) and Oakwoods £4,792.61. £1,482 has been received for receipts from the Christmas Auction, £986 grant for the website and £3,329 from HIE for costs for the jetty and green shed. The Treasurer on behalf of the Board expressed thanks to Tony Gowland for the work on the website. For the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) the Treasurer thanks Becky for setting up the CBF applications and meeting; there are applications from the Feis nan Garbh-Chriochan and Angling Association; and we are seeking more panel members especially in the 16-25 years age group.
8. **Staff matters** – None
9. **AOB**
- De tha dol? – A new committee has been formed and they are exploring options for continuing publication

- CBF application to Update CADISPA – Treasurer had sent a document round and explained that at the AGM the suggestion was made for a of local businesses and employers, which prompted thinking about reviewing the CADISPA survey and so approval was sought for an application to the CBF, to draw down funding later in the year. The CADISPA report was produced in 2013-4 and is has become less relevant and less applicable for when we approach funding organisations. It is perhaps time to do a review. Also with the Covid pandemic people in the community may have a different focus and priorities from 8 years ago – the world has certainly change in the last 12 months. The idea is to do a survey in the autumn. Agreed that the Community Action Plan review be the main agenda topic for the next meeting.

**10. Date of next meeting** 7:30pm 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Zoom)