

## Sunart Community Company - Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Venue:** Dail Mhor, Strontian

- 1) **Welcome and Apologies:** Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
**Attending:** D Barker (DB), J Jones (JJ), J Madden (JM), J Hilder (JH), J Tyldesley (JT), H Ricketts (HK)  
**Apologies:** D Calver (DC), J Tyldesley (JT) gave apologies and left after 30 minutes due to the snowy conditions
- 2) **Review of LDO Performance:** - JJ gave an update: there had been 8 requests for a job advert and application form; 3 applications had been received by the closing date and one person emailed to say they would not be proceeding with the application. JH proposed that all 3 applicants be interviewed: proposal accepted. After discussion it was agreed the interviews be on the 9<sup>th</sup> March (as per the advert) and JJ, JM and Michelle Hilder will conduct the interviews. The secretary will write to the applicants and invite them to interview.
- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 proposed: JH seconded: JM
- 4) **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:**
  - a) **Board Meeting dates:** The list of dates is attached. JM pointed out that the water Festival Ceilidh on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August will clash with the Film Club. After discussion, it was agreed that the Water Festival set the dates and people had a choice, and they could always attend the ceilidh when the film finished. The September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be for presentation of accounts to the Board, prior to the AGM in October. There will be a brief Board meeting after the AGM to appoint office bearers. **Action:** The date for the Christmas lights switch-on and fair is still to be arranged.
- 5) **Finance Report:**

The bank balance Deposit A/c 28,366.86 Current A/c 3,731.19. £13,000 is for the NHS post and £5,000 is for the Church of Scotland roof
- 6) **Capacity Building/ Projects:**
  - a) **Loch Development:** On-going. A letter has been received from Jeremy Taylor with regards indicating to "boaties" that open water swimmers use the area around the slipway and head of the loch. After discussion it was agreed the matter be passed to the Loch Group for consideration and action. The items to be discussed: marking of moorings area, Users at own risk; Open water swimmers: please follow open water code.
  - b) **Paths, Trails and Maps:** On going. Item: collection book for car parking donations to be mounted on the hatchery shed. Update from the Paths Group re School House Plot: JJ to do spec for signs and benches. Old School House plot: JJ explained that the members of the group feel that they are now unable to maintain this plot. Also the proposed path along the Strontian River, on the Anaheilt side, is too much for them, too. Options for clearing and use of the Old School House were briefly discussed: getting a contractor to clear the scrub, replanting native wildflowers, a community orchard. At one time it was only an idea, but the School House plot, the Community Woodland, the greenhouse and the composting area might be something a community group might want to take on e.g. gardening, etc but members of the group think this is too much for them. One director said that currently there does seem to be some interest within the community. **Action:** This can be discussed further at the next meeting. DB suggested the School House plot need to be properly mapped and JJ mentioned using the Company GPS handset and the potential of having access to

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LIDDOR equipment might be a possibility. Also we can ask Kate Proctor to take a look to see if there are any important plants needing protection. Action: JJ

- c) **Community Building** - Hub, Heritage, etc. – No action, Carried forward
- d) **Lifelong Learning** - No action
- e) **Transport Links** – AGM suggestion of a community transport scheme and an option to do a feasibility study to buy a car is something we might want to discuss further. Also at the AGM, mention of a charging point was raised – JH will speak with Alistair McLean
- f) **Housing** - No action, Carried forward
- g) **Community Benefit Fund (CBF)**: There have been no new nominees for the CBF. JM reminded that previously Ben and Dougal had been mentioned (?) and JH suggested that if no one comes forward perhaps an advert is placed in the De tha dol?.

### 7. Assets

- a) **Old Schoolhouse Plot**: mapping the area?
- b) **Back Road** No action
- c) **Composting site**: No action Izzy has expressed interest in using the greenhouse. Benches are stored there but these will need to be moved, as it is too dry for them. Agreed that greenhouse could be used on a quid pro quo basis **Action** Secretary
- d) **Community Woodland Plot**: Nothing to report. Carried forward
- e) **Oakwood Centre**: There is still work to finish: painting, putting up the TV, notice boards and groundwork i.e. clearing weeds, laying the gravel, which can be done through the winter. DB, JJ and HR said they could do this work: DB to organise. Painting will be done in March 2020. JH presented a paper which set out options and costings for revising the Oakwood charging regime. The aim is to move producers from shelf rental charges to one of commission, and one that takes account of whether or not the producers do “volunteer” hours in the shop. A 20% commission rate is proposed for 2020; following a thorough discussion this rate was agreed.

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

- a) **Men’s Shed**: On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, JT and Harry Witney will attend the presentations at the High School for the competition for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, if the Men’s Shed is chosen they will get a Grant for £3,000. JH has applied to the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund for ££720 and to Foundation Scotland for £3,500. The application is for users of Men’s Shed and a Community Craft Hub.
- b) **Longrigg Woodland**: On going: the consultants had produced a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft report, the report from the road consultant had also been received. JJ presented the outline options for a Ranachan route for timber extraction and the draft letter to send to Paolo Berardelli. **Action**: secretary. It was agreed the letter and options paper be sent to Paolo and copied to Laura. JJ has asked Izzy, before she leaves, to make enquiries for a visit to Kilfinan, so we can get a better idea of what woodland crofting entails.

### 9. Developing the Community Company:

#### a. Fundraising

- i. Fund Raising & Income Generation: None
- ii. Gift Aid: None

- b) **Board Development**: JH showed a presentation of the progress of the Community Company, from when it started in 2005 to the present day. He had been asked to make a presentation at a recent event. He suggested it was useful for new members and highlights the progress the Company has made of over the year. It is also 15

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years since the company was founded and a suggestion is whether we mark it in some way, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary is Chrystal

- c. **Strategy Review and Business Planning:** Following the item above, JH asked about what items should be on the Board's agenda, either immediately or over the horizon. There is a need to broaden the Company's income stream, Oakwood has some potential and the aim is to increase income so we would be able to employ a part-time development officer, which currently is being done on a volunteer basis, falling to directors. A suggestion mentioned was acquiring a holiday let; jetty, car park and green shed will be improved this year, there may be further scope with the loch group, or Water Festival. The Dail Mhor Community Councils Working Group is getting information about the building and the old primary school. Indications are the neither the NHS nor Highland Council plan to renovate the buildings and they have been given 5 years remaining life span. The Joint Community Councils group is exploring potential options for the site, which will keep NHS and care services on the peninsulas. The local community have indicated the wish to have a heritage and community centre. The Community Council have met with the Church of Scotland Elders to explore fund raising options to help mend the roof and broaden the use of the building, there may be a role for the Company but that is for the church elders to decide. The future of a permanent police presence in the village was raised and if there is no police office then what might be the future of the police station and outbuildings and the police houses. A potential site and location for heritage centre, Men's Shed and houses for rental to priority groups?

- d. **Staffing:** Izzy finishes on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, JH has organised her hours to allow for a handover with the new Oakwood co-ordinator

- e. **Office:** None.

- f. **Website:** None

### 10. **Other Matters:**

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

### 11. **Correspondence:** -

- a. Letter from Rory Green re Courses being offered in Strontian. A suggestion, Dail Mhor group for food handling if the community café continues. Share link of Facebook site???
- b. Letter from J Taylor See Loch Development

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

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

### 13. **Date of Next Meeting:**

- a. Next Board meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, 7pm Venue TBA, probably Dail Mhor