

Sunart Community Company

Board Meeting 7:30pm Wednesday 23rd February 2022 (Zoom)

Attending/ Invitees: Directors, J Mellis, B Drinkwater, S Traynor, D McDonald

Apologies: S Traynor, H McDonald, L Roberts

Agenda

Appointment of Office Bearers

P Sharples was invited to host the appointment of office bearers: Chair: J Hilder proposed P Sharples, seconded by J Jones, Treasurer proposed J Tyldesley, seconded by J Jones; secretary proposed J Hilder seconded P Sharples.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting 12th January 2022 & any matters arising:

Minutes proposed by P Sharples and seconded by J Hilder

3. Community Company planning – No action at this stage

4. Update (brief; as required) on:

- Longrigg Woodland: visit to the woodland is now scheduled for 19th March 2022 at 10:30am. J Willis has made contact with Craig Millar of the FLS. The Longrigg Woodland Group 17th January 2022 meeting appointed A Hughes as Chair/ Convenor, R Drinkwater as Vice Chair, and Secretary is D McDonald. The next meeting scheduled is the 19th March, woodland visit. Diarmaid has also been in touch with Chris Tracey, Planning Manager at FLS Fort William office. It will be necessary to obtain an updated valuation, have a community consultation and develop a business plan. The intention is to plan to submit an application in the autumn. J Jones asked if the timescale was achievable and J Hilder indicated that although a number of things need to be done October 2022 is feasible, though the trickiest aspect of a proposal to FLS is the assessment of community benefit.
- Oakwood: Jane Mellis has tendered her resignation; she has extra hours with the school and hostel as is very busy at the moment. Jane has offered to stay on to do the end of year stocktake and will train the new manager when they are appointed. The Tourism Association contacts have been a bit on and off, the website uploading has taken more time and effort than anticipated and some of the producer stock is difficult as there are a number of one off items. The suggestion is that the new manager should review the posting of items to the website. J Hilder explained that an extra hour has been added to the standard hour and the manager post will be advertised in the De tha dol?. It was hoped to submit an application for funding solar panels and a battery system but it was not possible to do this by the application closing date. The funding will be available again later in the year and it is hoped we can submit an application then. The electricity contract is due for renewal and T Burke will look at our best options for suppliers. The BT contact is also due for renewal and T Burke will look at options for this, too. A lorry has hit the rear corner of the building dislodging the guttering and breaking the end stop, down pipe and displacing several slates. J Jones said he had seen Alistair McLean and N Traynor looking at the damage and Alistair had said eh would push the guttering back.
- Men's Shed – J Tyldesley explained that things are packed up and waiting to be moved. T Burke asked if the electricity contract could/should be combined with the Oakwood account, which J Hilder supported. J Jones has been in touch with S&K MacDonald to move the electricity, water and sewer groundworks forward. He will be speaking to Kenneth this week. Date for moving is the 16th March 2022.

- Loch/ Moorings – Jetty and Green Shed - the collection box needs to be mounted on the green shed; J Hilder has spoken with Tim Coldwell who is going to install the window in the green shed; a jetty clean up is planned for March and co-insides with the village litter pick organised by the Community Council. Aly Ray's mooring buoy went adrift in the storm but has been recovered, and John Mays mooring gear, which he'd brought ashore for safety during the recent storms, has gone missing so J Hilder will put a note on social media asking for it to be returned.
 - Paths – The benches will be moved from Val & David Barker's as they are moving house. There is a working group going to site a bench on the green at the weekend and it is proposed to site one at the Jetty by the green shed and one on the Teddy Bear's Picnic. A paths group zoom meeting will be arranged.
 - Website/ Communications – Social Media – scenery shots will be uploaded to the website and it is proposed to a Spring Newsletter and a quarterly newsletter thereafter. J Hilder seconded this proposal. Community Benefit Fund: More panel members are needed; Becky and Eilidh Anne are meeting to prepared for the next CBF panel which is 6th April 2022 and currently there are three applications for support: P Madden for the Angling Association, the Primary School and the Mallaig and Ardnamurchan Pipe Band; on the Christmas Auction, there are a couple of payments outstanding but these will be progressed.
 - Heritage – This is now a standing item. J Madden provided an update: Sarah Traynor an item about the Strontian Church on the Facebook Forum "Strontian over the years" page which received 117 responses including 70 people in the village area, which might one of the best responses there has been. A Dualchas Sunart Heritage Group has been formed with Sarah Traynor as Chair, Jennifer McDonald as secretary and Laura Wilson as minute taker and there a further ten members on the group, which includes J Madden. There has been a meeting with the Church group, Church Elders and the Minister, Donald McCorkindale. The minister had informed the group that the building may go on the market; he has been asked to suggest to the Trustees that it is transferred to the community, with the understanding that the church could still use the building. The minister had also been in touch with Community Enterprise consultants. A suggestion has been made to the group to record the gravestones in the churchyard before they deteriorate further. There will be a pop-up exhibition of the Church School on the 14th -17th April and Sarah Traynor has set up an email address and Facebook page. J Tyldesley offered assistance and explained that the Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and Donald McCorkindale had a meeting and the Bishop is very supportive to keep a building, which can be used for worship in the village. T Burke offered the used of his Family Trust software account to the group. J Jones asked about the current situation for the building as previously an estimate of £100,000 to save the building had been mentioned. After discussion it was clarified that the aim is to acquire the Church as a community building which is multifunctional and can be used for meetings for worship. J Hilder suggested that the group submit an application to the Community Benefit Fund for a "fighting fund" and for the exhibition, etc.
5. Assets (standing item) – David Barker has donated his Muck Truck, a motorised wheelbarrow, to the Company, along with the awning/shelter and the signs, which we use for the burger stall at annual Agricultural Show.
 6. Income generation (standing item) – Hopefully there will be a burger stall at the Agricultural Show, which is in its 70th year, 2021 was the actual 70th but as postponed due to covid; there is also the Christmas Auction and Market stalls. There was a suggestion about a water festival for the year of coastal waters but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. However there are thoughts of a lower key event/ day in the summer but this is still to be decided.

7. Finance, including Common Benefit Fund (CBF) & Oakwood – Company account is £20,484.13, which includes monies ring-fenced for various projects; Oakwood account is £10,540.74. The accounts are being finalised for the audit and will be presented to the Board in due course
8. Staff matters (standing item) – Jane Mellis has resigned as the Oakwood manager see Oakwood item. The CBF have allocated some money for a community consultation, which would include aspects for the woodland, the school, church/ Heritage group and would be a local exercise for information that can be used for the Lottery and other funding applications.
9. AOB
 - Recruitment of Oakwood Manager: there is an advert in the De tha Dol? and interview set for 22nd March 2022 and J Madden and J Jones will be on the interview panel.
 - Meeting dates for 2022-23 – Deferred to the next meeting
 - Sunart Community Enterprises Ltd – this is a registered company that has been mothballed but will now be reactivated on the 1st April 2022 as the holding company for Oakwoods. Currently here are three directors: J Hilder, R Dunn and R Laybourne; Richard and Robert will be resigning and J Hilder asked if anyone was willing to step forward to be a director, J Jones offered to be a director
 - Colour printer – J Madden asked if the company has a colour printer that the Heritage group might use. The company has a B&W printer held by J Jones, a B&W A3 printer in Dail Mhor and P Sharples and J Hilder offered the use of their printers, for the cost of replacement materials.

Date of next meeting: 30th March 2022