

Sunart Community Company - Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 15th January 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),
Apologies: D Calver (DC) and H Ricketts (HK)
- 2) **Review of LDO Performance:** - JH informed the Board that Izzy Baker had tendered her notice with effect from the 31st March 2020. Izzy has obtained a permanent post as a ranger at Glenborrodale with the RSPB. The RSPB have had a vacancy for a while but couldn't afford to fund training a new ranger. Izzy, having worked for the RSPB previously, is an ideal match. Izzy wishes to thank the Sunart Community Company and Board for the opportunities created. The Company will need to consider a replacement for the LDO. The Company has a contractual requirement to service the CBF and there is the work and organisation for the Oakwood Centre. After discussion it was agreed to place an advert in the De tha dol? for a part-time worker.
- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting** 20th November 2019: A Carmichael was noted twice as attending and apologies. Proposed: JH Seconded: JT.
- 4) **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:**
 - a) Board Meeting dates: Please see attached list of dates.
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 or the Church of Scotland roof
6. **Capacity Building/ Projects:**
 - a) **Loch Development:** 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 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.

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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
- d) **Community Woodland Plot**: Nothing to report. Carried forward
- e) **Oakwood Centre**: There is still work to finish: painting, 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.

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

- a) **Men's Shed**: A group from the High School filmed the Men's Shed and interviewed the members. The pupils involved are making a film and submitting an application for a competition for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative for a Grant for £3,000, which if successful will go to the Shed and the school also receives a cash award. Also, to update directors, JT explained that respite residents from Dial Mhor have been coming along to use the Shed facilities.
- b) **Longrigg Woodland**: On going: the consultants had produced a draft report which was not thorough. The group has discussed this with the consultants who are redrafting the report. Foreland Group: JH explained that this group has offered to fund a visit to other woodlands e.g. Kilfinan.

9. **Developing the Community Company:**

a. **Fundraising**

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

- b. **Board Development**: This is something which needs to be done and training for the new directors.
- c. **Strategy Review and Business Planning**: None at present and JH proposed that this be the main item for the February 2020 meeting.
- 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**: 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???

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- b. Letter from J Taylor See Loch Development

12. Any Other Business:

- a. Items from the Community Council: None
- b.
- c. Recruitment of new directors: JJ to contact Alistair McDougal and Mike???
- d. Discussion re Church of Scotland CBF award of £5,000 for roof, this is still unused. The Community Council are writing to Donald McCorkindale to explore progress and offer support to progress the situation.
- e.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

- a. Next Board meeting: 26th February 2020, 7pm Venue TBA, probably Dail Mhor