

Sunart Community Company Minutes

Board Meeting 7:30pm Wednesday 30th March 2022 (Zoom)

Attending/ Invitees: J Hilder, J Jones, J Madden, T Burke, H McDonald, B Drinkwater,

Apologies: J Tyldesley, P Sharples, S Traynor

Agenda Item

1. Welcome – JH welcomed people to the meeting
2. Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting 23rd February 2022 proposed J Hilder
Seconded T Burke. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda
3. Community Company planning: JJ said this has been an item on the last few agendas, as it had not been discussed. JH explained the need for the Board to take stock and update the new directors including the CADISPA Community Consultation and JH gave a brief overview explaining how the consultants held meetings in the village to help identify potential issues, concerns and priorities. Eventually a long list was refined to 25 items and then to the top 10. The review was in 2014 and needs to be updated and we have £3,000 towards doing this and JH would like to get some matched funding. A comment that plans need to be flexible was acknowledged, also the need to communicate plans and achievements and where something has not been achieved. The suggestion for a quarterly newsletter as a means to update the community and perhaps a part time worker if matched funding can be found. JM mentioned that information was put in the De tha dol? but this has stopped due to Covid and David Barker moving away. **Action point:** JH to research match funding for a worker to develop an updated community plan.
4. Updates (brief; as required) on:
 - Longrigg Woodland: there was a site visit on the 19th March with seven members of the committee attending and meeting on the 28th March in the Sunart Centre. A follow-up visit is arranged for 6pm 25th April to walk other parts of the woodland. Andy, Jake and Becky will meet with the FLS. It has been confirmed that we have received the Stage 1 Funding from Scottish Land Fund (SLF) and so we will be in the queue for Stage @ funding.
 - Oakwood – JJ gave an update on the recruitment of the new co-ordinator and Karyn Simpkinson has been appointed. Karyn will liaise with Jane Mellis on the handover and training. The reopening for the season is scheduled for 6th April; JJ will draft a letter to the producers introducing Karyn, which she can send to the producers.
TB has been looking at electricity suppliers for Oakwood and he submitted information and proposal. Electricity prices are increasing and the forecast is for this to continue. Currently we are locking into a fixed price contract, which is very cheap. Things will change in July when contract ends. We can
 - Men's Shed – Men's Shed are in the portacabin. JJ & TB will meet to discuss the water and electric connections.
 - Loch/ Moorings – Jetty and Green Shed – The village litter pick is on Facebook and JH will email jetty users/ boaties to do some basic clearing of seaweed etc. and organise for some of the concreting to be done. He also mentioned that this group would cast a plinth for the bench which is to be located between the green shed and the bridge.
 - Paths – A meeting is arranged for Monday 4th April and details have been put in the De tha Dol?
 - Website/ Communications – Becky gave a brief update and asked for any good photos of the area or work being done to be send to her to update the website. Becky will work with Karyn to promote Oakwood and the website.

- Heritage – There will be an exhibition in the Strontian Church on 14th – 17th April. The technology teacher at the high school is making cabinets for the display. It is understood that communications with the church minister is proving a little difficult. The Company is trying to help Sarah Traynor and the question was raised as to whether or not the Board should write to the minister and if no response to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. The suggestion was that a letter from the Company to Sarah asking what is the current situation with the Strontian church and if there has been any progress and whether there is anything the Company can do to assist.
- 5. Assets (standing item) - Trees on Anaheilt; we are still awaiting quotes from the two tree surgeons, though it is likely that any work may have to wait until later in the year. JJ will contact Kenny Bannerman for his quote.
- 6. Income generation (standing item) - We are still planning to run the burger stall at the Agricultural Society Show on the second Saturday in August 2022; this will be the Show's 70th year, which was cancelled last year because of the Covid pandemic. Finance, including Common Benefit Fund (CBF) & Oakwood – **Bank Account:** Oakwood is currently closed but it is planned to open for Easter. The Community Benefit Fund meeting is scheduled for the 6th April 2022.
- 7. Staff matters (standing item) – The Board wish to express thanks to Jane Mellis for all her hard work with Oakwood. We wish to welcome the new co-ordinator, Karyn Simpkinson who has recently been appointed, and to all the producers and volunteers who help keep Oakwood running. JH will arrange to meet Becky
- 8. AOB
 - Accounts for 2020-21 – the very detailed copy of the accounts had been circulated. A question was asked about the insurance, there having been none in February 2021: JH explained that this had also been raised by the accountants and JJ stated that Zurich, our insurers, had given us a three month extension due to the Covid pandemic and periods of lockdowns.
 - Meeting dates for 2022-23 – JJ will list potential dates, at six-weekly intervals, for the next meeting
 - Paul Ashburner - JH explained the background to the request that the Company explore the possible acquisition of the of the land between the Fire Station and the School Road roundabout and shared a picture of the original plan, the first stage would be a valuation

Electricity Supplier - Summary of the status of the Visitor centre electricity renewal.

Background

Current contract with BES expires 15/7/2022.

Annual expenditure is approx £850 on a usage of ~3200kWh

Energy prices are now significantly higher due to global effects ...and likely to rise further.

Options

Please see below renewal tariffs from BES together with an alternate tariff obtained using <https://www.loveenergysavings.com/>

		Stand.		
Supplier	Expiry	Chg/day	Cost/unit	Annualised cost
Octopus	14/07/25	£0.43	£0.3169	£1,229.35
BES	14/07/25	£0.64	£0.4654	£1,809.02
BES	14/07/27	£0.67	£0.4389	£1,731.48

Best-value offer is a 3-year fixed tariff using 100% renewable with Octopus

No one knows what will happen to energy prices. Going for a fixed term, eliminates the impact of further price rises, which could be significant. If prices should fall during this fixed period, then they are unlikely to fall dramatically so the extent of any overpayment will not be significant.

Proposal

Set up Octopus contract to run from end of BES contract

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9. **Date of next meeting:** 11th May 2022 via