

## **Sunart Community Company**

**Board Meeting 7:30pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 (Zoom)**

**Attending/ Invitees:** P Sharples (Chair), J Hilder (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), T Burke, H McDonald, B Drinkwater, and R Henderson

**Apologies:** J Madden, K Simpkinson, S Traynor

### **1. Welcome**

On behalf of the Board, the Chair expressed thanks to John Tyldesley for his 14 years serving the Company and as a director and chair of the Board, and especially for all his hard work organising the burger stall and Christmas auctions, etc. We wish John and Maureen well for the future in Arnside. The Chair welcomed Rowena Henderson to the meeting, to observe and consider joining the Board as a director.

### **2. Acceptance of minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

Proposed J Hilder, Seconded J Jones. Amendments: H McDermott correct to H McDonald.

### **3. Company Planning** see June 2022 minutes "Possible Actions for 2022/3"

- Recruitment of directors: J Hilder mentioned that he was previously the Angling Association representative but will ask them to nominate a new representative to be a co opted director.
- Conduct Community Consultation: A grant of £3,000 has been obtained from the CBF towards the cost of producing, conducting and analysing the community consultation. J Hilder had circulated a draft Community Consultation questionnaire for discussion. Points raised:
  - Why respondents were asked their age. The age is included as this can have a bearing on grant applications, also it helps to identify if there are sections of the community that might be overlooked.
  - The number and length of questions. There are fewer questions than in the 2014 survey questionnaire
  - The background/ explanation paragraphs can be taken out and attached in a clarification/ explanation document
  - In producing the draft it is intended as a "starting point"
  - It was agreed there should be a "working group" comprising Hannah, James, Tony and Becky to produce a document.

The questionnaire then can be sent to every household in the area in November, which allows time for a note to be placed in October's and November's De tha dol?, and results collated for the AGM in January 2023. A Survey Monkey will be run in parallel with the questionnaire. The topics can include Longrigg Woodland, social care in the community, etc.

- Endowment Fund: this is ongoing; contacting local estates and businesses to promote the fund and canvas support is still to be done. Foundation Scotland will be contacted about submitting the £25,000 already raised, verifying the matched funding and clarifying when the cut off date for match funding will be.
- HIE Application re valuation of land around School Road: on going, this item had been raised by the directors of the Sunart Community School Building Ltd. Paul Ashburner is visiting Strontian and J Hilder will speak with him if required
- Ash die back: some trees on Anaheilt and one on the back road require attention. J Hilder has contacted Highland Council, as the trees on Anaheilt are within two metres of the roadway. He will also mark the trees as they will be difficult to identify when the leaves fall. J Jones to speak with Jake Willis and email K Trees for quotes

- EV Car Club feasibility Study: Urram have applied for EV which could be booked by members of the local community the exact details to be finalised

#### 4. Updates

- Longrigg Woodland: Becky Drinkwater provided an update. Becky and Diarmaid McDonald met with representatives from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to discuss submitting an application to the Land Fund to purchase Longrigg Woodland. It will not be feasible to submit an application for the November round, as FLS have to obtain a survey and valuation. The next round in February 2023 is more realistic.
- Oakwood: Karyn Simpkinson has provided information on sales:
 

*A report for the period April - August to gives a picture of how Oakwood is doing so far this year. We have had a very positive five months with net profit at £4,426.33 compared with £3,562.01 for the same period last year. Of course, we opened later in April last year due to lockdown. The average spend per transaction is £15.13 for this period, compared to £14.24 for the same period last year (increase of 6.3%). September has also started well, with gross sales currently sitting at £4,088.89.*

T Burke has provided an email update, which is attached
- Men's Shed
  - Electric tariff is ready to go; meter being installed 4pm 21/9. Order placed for fixed electrical inspection immediately after activation of electrical supply
  - Order placed for portable appliance testing
  - Water and sewer connections... awaiting inspection by business stream; possible charge to re-submit request.
  - Will investigate a water tariff once meter details are available
  - Fire/smoke alarms needed (to replace existing single unit of unknown heritage). Order placed
    - SCC liabilities: Need to investigate risk assessments, safety checks and "training records" to ensure only authorised people use equipment. **NB** may need key control to prevent unauthorised use of equipment
- Loch/ Moorings inc Jetty and Green Shed: The invoice from the Crown Estate has been received though the information is out of date as it is based on 16 moorings and the Kilcamb Hotel wish to take their mooring out of the Moorings Association; also, two new moorings members have moved to the village and wish to join the Company Moorings Group. There is also some work required to stabilise the jetty concrete; J Hilder will send information to Paul Sharples who will take over as Moorings Secretary and will invoice mooring holders
- Paths: On-going. The Community Council have received a request that a bench be sited at the Teddy Bear's Picnic to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II. There is a further bench to be sited at the jetty car parking area, beside the Green Shed.
- Website: B Drinkwater explained that this had fallen out of date and members and minutes list require updating. There will be an update on activities, a newsletter and the De tha dol?
- Heritage – There has been a meeting of the Church of Scotland and Dualchas; the Church of Scotland wants to sell the church and are organising a valuation and surveys. An expression of interest has been made and an application for a grant from the Crown Estate Community Fund, as it is agreed the Church of Scotland will need to spend some money to stabilise the building to keep it even in its present state.

#### 5. Assets - on going J Jones and T Burke to progress

- 6. Income generation** – Income: Oakwood £12,594, current account; Main Bank account: £38,738 most of which is ring-fenced for the various projects
- First, a note of thanks to everyone who helped with setting up and running of the burger stall at summer show.
  - There will be a Christmas market, auction and Christmas Lights switch-on the 26<sup>th</sup> November, this being the last Saturday in the month
  - There was discussion about sourcing a BBQ for the next summer show; something sizable and robust with additional gas ring for cooking onions and the veggie burgers
  - A ceilidh for Jan/Feb was suggested as an event to coincide with the AGM
- 7. Finance including Community Benefit Fund & Oakwood** – There is a meeting of the CBF grant awards on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. There are vacancies for the 16-25 year age category and Cameron Morris and Cameron Bungey's names were mentioned. There is a space for 25-44 year category and J Jones mentioned that he may have a possible nomination but would approach the person first.
- 8. Staff Matters** - The Board expressed their thanks to Karyn and Becky
- 9. Any Other Business** – Salen Woodland Wood School have requested for a temporary banking facility until they become a constituted group. Logistically and legally the Treasurer foresees no issues, however an email is required from J Matheson or Acharacle Community Company saying that there is no issue with this request.  
AGM date: this will be Saturday afternoon 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and we will check with Pat Adams and Kate Campbell to see if they are staging anything for Burns Night which might clash  
Secretary: Induction Pack to be sent to Rowena Henderson and recirculate the meeting dates information  
Charging point: T Burke and R Henderson to explore progress
- 10. Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 venue to be confirmed

## September Update - T Burke

### Oakwood:

#### Electric:

- Supply changed over to Octopus 15/7 (DD has been set up)
- Elect meter cupboard lock replaced

#### Water:

- Supplier comparison completed... No benefit to change (especially as we have a cancellation charge on existing tariff)

#### Phone/broadband

- Tariff changed to exclude "anytime landline calls". Saving £25/month
- Provision of Wi-Fi to village hall... Tony G. reviewing options

#### Solar panels:

- Proposal is not optimum as panels face East and West. (There is possibility of a bigger future project with ground-mounted south facing arrays. Agreed to proceed with E&W panels anyway as it can coexist with a bigger scheme). Funding body calculate "there is long term financial benefit and it wouldn't dip into the negative in the early years".
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- 15/9: Fund application approved for 80% .. Order to be raised.
- Application for remaining 20% now able to be made.
- Estimate completion mid December.

#### Improved Lighting of Oakwood sign:

- Order placed for electrical supply
- Quote received for an "inverted-trough" full width led @ £184+vat... will trial 2off £30 floodlights first

#### Energy efficiency:

- Change lighting to LED (as lighting is estimated as 1/3 of annual £3000 bill); will not save full amount as, by moving to cooler lamps, there will be need for more heating in winter.
- Dampness is a problem in winter, propose buying a dehumidifier to tackle dampness; use of dehumidifier will also reduce heating load. Approx £250 (<https://www.screwfix.com/p/ebac-2250e-dd295rwh-gbsf-15ltr-dehumidifier-with-smart-control/8256x>)

#### Electrical safety checks:

- Order placed for fixed electrical inspection and PAT testing

#### Men's Shed:

- Electric tariff is ready to go; meter being installed 4pm 21/9. Order placed for fixed electrical inspection immediately after activation of electrical supply
- Order placed for portable appliance testing
- Water and sewer connections... awaiting inspection by business stream; possible charge to re-submit request.
- Will investigate a water tariff once meter details are available
- Fire/smoke alarms needed (to replace existing single unit of unknown heritage). Order placed
- SCC liabilities:
  - Need to investigate risk assessments, safety checks and "training records" to ensure only authorised people use equipment. **NB** may need key control to prevent unauthorised use of equipment
  - Need to check council tax, public liability insurance

#### Community resilience team:

- Am SCC rep on this team
- Have reviewed/updated volunteer details for accuracy

**Strontian BT phone box:** this had been decommissioned but would be useful during a power cut for visitors and/or locals who do not have landlines; have challenged BT and they have agreed to re-commission it (I am chasing as it was scheduled for early Sept). Once working, I'll tidy the kiosk. We should then publicise its availability so we can increase its usage and prove its worth.

**De-fib unit in disused Polloch Phone box:** awaiting check on existing cable by Cameron Morris, have documented options should supply not be available