

Sunart Community Company Meeting 8th April 2024-04-15

Venue: Village Hall

Attending: J Hilder (Treasurer), L Macgregor (Vice Chair), J Jones (Secretary), N Brooks, R Henderson and S Traynor

Apologies: B Drinkwater, K Simpkinson, A Hughes and P Sharples

1. **Welcome:** Laura welcomed people to the meeting
2. **Acceptance of minutes and matter arising:**
 - Item 4, Social Activities first and second sentence deleted. Magpie Mates changes to Magpie Makes
 - Minutes Proposed: J Hilder, seconded: N Brooks
 - The agenda for 8th April shows an incorrect date of the 4th March
3. **Company Planning:** the meeting on the 25th March has produced a number of actions that will be circulated
Jacob Green has resigned, we wish him well and if in the future he wishes to apply again we would welcome the application.
4. **Updates:**
 - **Oakwood:** here's a quick list of Oakwood items:
 - Total income so far 28th March to 8th April is £2k, which is on par with last year, so on the right track so far
 - We can't get the CCTV on screen in the shop. I assume something not reset/ re plugged properly after PAT testing. Could someone have a look, I haven't found the problem
 - Velux windows to be measured for UV film, to protect items from fading. Karyn to order once size known
 - Need more Volunteers. Advertising for them, please spread the word!
Tony Burke informs us that the electricity contract is due for renewal and has recommended we continue with Octopus; this recommendation was approved
 - **Men's Shed:** Rowena went to the Highlands and Moray Men's Shed AGM and Networking event, which was a very good day and very informative. There were lots of ideas and suggestions e.g. visits to other Men's Sheds – Rowena would like to take members/ prospective members on a trip. There is an application that James is making to the SCBF for a development worker who would open up the shed two mornings a week and promote use of the shed. Rowena would like to develop a tool library and proposes we consider purchasing a PAT testing machine as we can then, with a suitably trained and qualified person, do our portable appliance testing. Rowena proposed doing research on a PAT machine, John seconded the proposal and this was approved. The trained person could potentially also offer this service to others. Laura expressed Board's thanks to Rowena for attending the meeting and her proposals.
 - **Lochs and Moorings:** Nothing to report on the jetty or green shed. James will be calling a meeting of the jetty and moorings users. There was a discussion about the three company moorings, which need to have part of their riser chains replaced and whether or not these should be sold are there are people who are requesting moorings. James has been informing local people that NW Marine can check chains for £250 per mooring. It was agreed to sell our moorings equipment i.e. block, chains and buoy for £500 per mooring.
 - **Paths:** There was the first event for the new paths working sessions on April 7th, hosted by Eilidh-Ann Phillips. This was to start tidying the area outside the front on

the Village Hall and the old primary school building, which involved replacing and replanting the old barrel planters, clearing the paths, etc. Fourteen people attended and volunteered, which was excellent and tea and cakes were provided, too

- **Website:** Nick made a presentation about the website and he explained the proposals for updating the pages and information. A copy of the presentation has been circulated to all Company directors. At the next meeting the suggestion is consider the terminology and the way the Company is portrayed, to help both members and people in our community, learn about and recognise what the Company is here for, how it operates and what it does that benefits our community.

The suggestions are that we:

- Have a Company banner made that can be displayed at our various events
- Promote the Company and our aim as “Keeping Sunart a great place to live, work and visit”.
- Need to make greater use of a QR code for donations
- Should have an annual mailshot to all members
- Have a MS Cloud drive for all Company information and records and pictures which can be used in mailshots, newsletters, the website and the De tha dol?, etc.

Nick will liaise with Tony Gowland and James proposed Nick check with Becky about identifying a suitable cloud based secure system.

- **Heritage:** Sarah mentioned that there is not much to report. James mentioned that we are still chasing the Highland Council for an asset transfer for the graveyard, as potential funders need to see that we have secured this. Becky has submitted an outline planning consent application, and this will cost £600. The Scottish Land Fund has a much-reduced budget and so they have changed their applications timetable. We have missed the May deadline, so our application will need to go to the August applications round. Laura mentioned land at the side of the church graveyard; James asked if it is possible to obtain something in writing, to give us consent e.g. perhaps an email saying “we don’t mind the Company exploring potential purchase options,” etc. Laura clarified whether a letter from the person with power of attorney would be acceptable, and James confirmed it would. Sarah said that there needs to be a drive to get more people involved with Dualchas, some new blood, and to share the workload, etc.
- **Sunart Socials** - The arrangements for the community paella event on the 28th April are full swing. The event will be in the Village Hall and there has been a series of meetings to organise arrangements. There is a suggestion to print leaflets that explain what the Company is, what it does and how it benefits the local community; this can be handed out at all our events: this was agreed and approved. The two gazebos will be needed and Rowena asked to borrow James’ lights
- Laura mentioned that Ronnie McIntyre would like to do a World Cup Football “fan park” – James seconded the proposal. There was some discussion on whether the dates would clash with the Mod and felt this would therefore not be possible

5. **Assets and Risk Register:** Nothing at this time

6. **Income Generation:** Not discussed

7. **Finance, including CBF and Oakwood:** Bank balances: Company A/c; £90,513.68 ; Oakwood A/c; £6,650.76 . James explained £73,000 has been transferred from SCR and he proposed that £25,000 of this should be placed in the Community Endowment Fund, as Foundation Scotland have agreed to match fund our contribution again. This will mean there will be a £50,000 “community fund” element and a £50,000 “Foundation Scotland” element on which we gain the interest i.e. we gain from £100,000 invested in

ethical shares. Access to our £50,000 is available at 10 days notice. John seconded the proposal, which was approved.

8. **Staff Matters:** James will prepare a job description for a part time 10 hour per week person for promoting and organising the Men's Shed/ Crafting/Community hub

9. **AOB:**

- FLS sale of Polloch shed – the FLS have agreed a valuation of under £4,000 and James proposed that we approach the CBF or Community Council for the funds as an application to the Scottish Land Fund for such a small amount will require a lot of work and which may not be successful
- Draft marketing plan – see Website item, and Nick has circulated a copy of his presentation
- Insurance – John will update the Company Outline requirements and send it to Zurich Insurance, Keegan & Pennykid, NFU and any others that people might think of
- Faeries Road Bridge: the replacement has been raised at the Community Council and John brought the matter to the Board at their request. We need to write to FLS to agree requirements for installation, ownership and maintenance. James will progress.
- Play Park Swing: The Parent Council is aware that there is £6,000 being held by the Company
- Village Hall, Care Home and old Primary School buildings: James informed the meeting that Urram have submitted an expression of interest for a Community Asset Transfer for the whole site i.e. the care home, surgery, hall and old school building and the associated land. John will take this information to the next Community Council meeting.

Next meeting: 13th May 2024, 7:30pm, Village Hall

Laura thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

Month	Date	Day	School Holiday	Comments
May	13 th	Monday		
June	17 th	Monday		
July	22 nd	Monday		Agricultural Show prep: organise, plan and volunteer rota
August	10 th	Saturday		Burger stall at Agricultural Show
September	9 th	Monday		
October	14 th	Monday		Agenda item for prep/ planning for Xmas market/ Auction 29 th or 30 th Nov???
November	29 th /30 th	Friday/Saturday		Xmas Market, auction tree lights switch on. Venue: outdoors or Sunart Centre?
December	31 st	Tuesday		Hogmanay event
December				Oakwood closes 31 st until March 2024 – Producer stock cleared and stock take done for end of year accts. Maintenance work done.
January	25 th	Saturday		AGM & Burns' Night Supper
February	3 rd	Monday		Inc post AGM for appointment of office bearers
March	3 rd	Monday		