



Minutes of Sunart Community Company Board meeting 14th July 2025

Attending: J. Jones (Chair), L. Cameron MacGregor (Vice Chair), A. Gainsford (Treasurer), N. Brooks (Secretary), P. Sharples, N. Mellis.

Apologies: J. Hilder, S. Traynor, H. Taylor A. Hughes, A. Harpur, K. Simpkinson, B. Drinkwater.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted: proposed by J. Jones, seconded by P. Sharples.
2. Following the resignation of R. Henderson the Board were unanimous in expressing their thanks for her hard work, commitment and enthusiasm during her time as a Director.
3. Sunart & District Annual Show: Pre-show logistics and on-the-day organisation are being shared between the Directors. In particular, L. Cameron MacGregor will source catering supplies and J. Jones will organise the gazebos and BBQs (a new gas BBQ is being ordered).
4. Craft Hub and Men's Shed: This is due shortly to reopen. It was agreed by the Board that as funding for the continued role of coordinator has not been forthcoming from third party sources that the salary cost would instead be covered from SCC and/or SCBF. Also, that the role would be expanded to encompass fund raising for the Heritage Centre. J. Jones/A. Gainsford to set up appropriate salary provisions. N. Brooks to discuss the expansion of the role with A. Harpur.
5. Rainforest project: report from J. Hilder: A. Gainsford and J. Jones had attended the most recent meeting. Some Lots are being retendered or renegotiated. Further funding of £150,000 is available, which the group want to spend on repairing or replacing the strategic deer fence to try to give the existing rainforest a chance to recover from overgrazing. This will buy us time to look at more holistic approaches to the rest of the area.
6. Dail Mhor/village hall/old primary school: no further developments.
7. Play Park: report from J. Hilder: The Council has reviewed the results of the children's and parents' survey and is now awaiting designs and budgets from different equipment suppliers, which can be put to a public meeting.
8. Heritage Centre/Church: the purchase is now due to be completed on the 18th July. Insurance issues are currently being resolved with Zurich Insurance. It was agreed by the Board that if funding is not released in time to enable completion that the SCC covers any shortfall from its own funds. It is unclear if the repairs to the roof have been started, but it was felt that we should continue to completion regardless.
9. Oakwood: Laura Wilson has agreed to continue managing the social media posts (2/week) during her maternity leave.
10. Longrigg: Scottish Woodlands has applied for planning permission to construct the bell-mouth for the new access road. As part of this project it was proposed that an offer of £20,000 be made to cover the cost of resurfacing the section of Longrigg Roda leading to the bell-mouth.
11. Faeries Road lower bridge: It was proposed that the final cost be split between the SCC and the Sunart Community Council, supported by funding from HF Holidays. A. Gainsford is currently sourcing further quotations for the installation of a new bridge and is liaising with HF Holidays.
12. Moorings/Jetty: report from J. Hilder: The BBQ and activity day raised over £300, covering this year's rent. Further work is required to complete the concrete repairs, and to repair the seaward end of the jetty as the undercutting is getting worse. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers,



especially Liz McLure and Chris Crosbie. It was also noted that there should ideally be better signage to encourage donations from businesses and visitors using the jetty.

13. 20th Anniversary: L. Cameron MacGregor has booked a band and will focus on organisation once the Sunart & District Show has finished.
14. Land adjoining Tigh-na-Feigh: N. Brooks to discuss use of the land with the owners of Tigh-na-Feigh.
15. Articles of Association, Employee contracts and review of policy documents are in progress, with N. Brooks.
16. Local Place Plan: in progress with A. Gainsford. It was noted that with new projects and growing revenues, especially from Longrigg Woodland, that the SCC would in future need to have an official end of year audit and be registered for VAT. It was also agreed that the dormant Sunart Community Enterprises Ltd be activated and new Directors appointed; it was proposed that these should initially be the existing office bearers, plus a representative from each of the Oakwood and Longrigg committees.
17. A second-hand wind turbine had been offered to the SCC, but although it was agreed that this was a generous offer, it was further agreed that it would not align with any of the company's ongoing projects.
18. SharePoint: N. Brooks and B. Drinkwater have now set up the test platform and login details have been sent to office bearers. Once initial feedback has been received and any changes made, access will be provided to all Board Directors.
19. Finance: the Board expressed its thanks to A. Gainsford for her work in finalising the year end accounts.
20. Next meeting: Monday 18th August at 19:00 in the village hall.