



Minutes of Sunart Community Company Board meeting 18th August 2025

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

Apologies: P. Sharples, H. Taylor, A. Hughes, A. Harpur, K. Simpkinson, B. Drinkwater.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted: proposed by L. Cameron MacGregor, seconded by N. Mellis.
2. Sunart District Show:
 - a. The Board expressed its thanks to all the volunteers who:
 - i. Helped with pre-show preparation and publicity.
 - ii. Provided or lent equipment.
 - iii. Set-up and dismantled the Burger bar.
 - iv. Worked on the stand during the day.
 - b. For 2026, it was agreed to:
 - i. Investigate the costs for purchasing SCC owned equipment (tables, Bain Maree, urn etc).
 - ii. Establish a specific sub-committee to manage pre-show planning well in advance of the date, including appropriate training and stand planning and layout.
 - iii. N. Mellis to draw up an initial list of items that will require consideration.
 - c. There was a brief discussion about the merits of continuing with the Burger Bar, but it was agreed that it provided an important source of revenue that contributes to everyday operating costs.
3. Church purchase/Heritage Hub:
 - a. BBC Alba interview: to be timed to coincide with launch of fundraising – date TBC. N. Brooks to update the journalist.
 - b. Key codes/Door locks: J. Jones to set new codes.
 - c. Agreement for use: J. Jones/N. Brooks to draft a suitable document.
 - d. Roof and ceiling repairs: It is hoped that the local Presbytery will still contribute to roof repairs – negotiations to be restarted once we have quotes.
 - e. Signage to be posted in the building advising visitors of possible risks arising from the current state of repair.
 - f. It was agreed that a Church Refurbishment Sub-Committee would be formed to advance professional quotes and fund raising – S. Traynor will lead on this project.
4. Craft Hub/Men's Shed:
 - a. The open day was well attended and a programme of activities is now being developed.
 - b. A request has been received to book part of the space for a regular hair dressing session. It was discussed that although this was not strictly a craft, it was nonetheless an activity



that would help contribute towards the cost of operating the Hub. N. Brooks to discuss the details with A. Harpur.

5. Rainforest project:

- a. A new funding bid is being submitted to contribute to the cost of a deer fence and tree nursery. J. Hilder to progress.
- b. It was noted that if the above is successfully then the total revenues for SCC in the current FY will necessitate a financial audit.

6. Dail Mhor/primary school: Urram is in discussions with NHS Highland about the care facilities and is also examining potential use of the old primary school for childcare.

7. Oakwood: It was noted that the terms of the new insurance policy require an annual inspection of the solar panels.

8. Longrigg: No further updates.

9. Faeries Road lower bridge: awaiting quotes.

10. Jetty:

- a. Local businesses that use the jetty to be asked for a donation to contribute to operating costs.
- b. It was noted that the pontoon on Loch Shiel, at Polloch, is to be moved or sold. It was discussed whether the SCC should purchase the pontoon, and decided against, unless either the Polloch Men's Shed or Angling club teams felt there was value in such an action. J. Hilder to progress.

11. 20th Anniversary:

- a. It was agreed that J. Hilder would investigate options for an independent audit of the value the SCC has brought to the community. This will be of use both for future funding applications and to demonstrate the work of the SCC to the wider community.

12. Other actions:

- a. The revised insurance policy is now in place.
- b. SharePoint access needs to be resolved – Directors experiencing problems accessing the platform to contact B. Drinkwater in the first instance.
- c. Recruitment of New Directors: to be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Employment contracts: new contracts have now been issued.
- e. Finance report: A. Gainsford provided a detailed interim report.
- f. Web site: Donate facility to be changed to Charities and Foundation Bank once a suitable account has been set up. A. Gainsford/N. Brooks to progress.

13. Next meeting: Monday 29th September at 19:00 in the village hall.