



## Minutes of Sunart Community Company Board meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Attending: J. Jones (Chair), A. Gainsford (Treasurer), N. Brooks (Secretary), L. Cameron MacGregor P. Sharples, N. Mellis, H. Taylor, J. Hilder (co-optee).

Apologies: S. Traynor

1. The minutes from the previous meeting (27-10-25) were accepted: proposed by L. Cameron, seconded by N. Brooks.
2. The minutes for the AGM (25-10-25) were agreed but will be formally approved at the next AGM.
3. Following a discussion about Director's roles and responsibilities, J. Hilder agreed to stand down as a co-optee.
  - a. The Board were, however, keen to retain his skills for two ongoing projects: major fundraising for the Church/Heritage Hub and the Rainforest Project. It was agreed that J. Hilder would act as a volunteer on both projects, the latter until it reaches the conclusion of the current phase in Spring 2026.
  - b. J. Hilder will continue to manage the existing Rainforest Coordinator, assisted by a Board Director.
  - c. It was agreed that The Board needed a better understanding of fundraising processes, to enable it to facilitate future projects. To this end, J. Hilder agreed to provide a training workshop.
  - d. It was also recognised that the Board currently has a limited capacity to manage multiple projects and that the recruitment of new Directors was a priority.
  - e. The Board unanimously recognised that J. Hilder has been instrumental in major projects undertaken in recent years by the SCC. The Chair (John Jones) noted that had it not been for J. Hilder's commitment and inspiration, especially several years ago when the Board had only five members, then the SCC may not have developed into such a successful and thriving enterprise.

#### **4. Dualchas/Church and Heritage Hub:**

- a. Promotional materials: Calendars have been printed and are selling well. A history booklet is also being produced.
- b. S. Traynor and A. Harpur are meeting to set up the project group.
- c. It was noted that Tony Burke has volunteered to help with this project.
- d. Damage to the boundary wall has been reported to the police,
- e. N. Brooks to investigate progress of the roof repairs.
- f. J. Hilder agreed to investigate the contribution to repair costs, as agreed with the Church of Scotland.
- g. It was agreed that notice boards are required; N. Brooks to research options and costs.
- h. Hire agreement form has been drafted. To be circulated to all Board members for comment.



- i. It was noted that problems with the heating system being slow to function is prompting hirers to use fan heaters. Future hire costs may therefore need to include a separate fee to cover the cost of electricity.

#### **5. Rainforest Project:**

- a. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a Polycrub, to be sited close to the existing Men's Shed and Craft Hub, as co-location will be beneficial for both projects. Concerns were raised about the potential risk of flatworm and emphasis was placed on the need to take appropriate measures in preventing the spread of this invasive species.
- b. Purchase depends on funding, which in turn requires provision of suitable quotes. J. Hilder to progress.
- c. It was noted that prior approval from Highland Council may be required for the exact position of the Polycrub.

#### **6. Men's Shed and Craft Hub:**

- a. It was noted that the operational readiness of the defibrillator near the Men's Shed on Polloch needs to be checked. B. Brown has this in hand.

#### **7. Oakwood:**

- a. The main door requires maintenance, with a push-button/wheelchair accessible door opener to be considered. J. Jones to action.
- b. It was noted that external decoration would need to be carried out for the new season in 2016.
- c. The solar panels require an annual inspection. J. Hilder to contact local contractor.
- d. A recent producers meeting was held. Minutes to be circulated by H. Taylor.
- e. It was agreed that a higher level of promotional activity would be beneficial, including the distribution of promotional leaflets to local holiday cottages, B&Bs etc. N. Brooks to discuss with B. Drinkwater.

#### **8. Longrigg Woodland:**

- a. The new entrance road has been constructed.
- b. We are currently waiting for SSEN to clear timber and create a safety zone either side of existing power lines.

#### **9. Other Activities:**

- a. Playpark: It was noted that a development (non-SCC) committee exists but lacks a Chair or lead to move funding forward. A design exercise is currently underway.
- b. It was noted that the Resilience Group (non-SCC) has proposed conducting a house-to-house survey in Strontian.
- c. Christmas Auction: volunteers - N. Mellis auctioneer, J. Hilder bar, A. Gainsford payments/administration.
- d. Hogmanay social event: L. Cameron MacGregor organising drinks license and promotion.
- e. Annual show: N. Mellis to confirm costs for purchasing tables, water boiler etc and to liaise with A. Gainsford.



**10. Visioning exercise:**

- a. R. Macintyre has volunteered to conduct a new visioning exercise to help with future planning. The Board asked that he present his ideas at the meeting in February.
- b. Meeting dates 2026 agreed.

**11. Next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 19:00 in the village hall.**