

Minutes of Sunart Community Company Board meeting 23rd March 2026

Attending: J. Jones (Chair), N. Brooks (Secretary), L. Cameron MacGregor, S. Traynor, H. Taylor.

Apologies: A. Gainsford, N. Mellis, S. Willis, P. Sharples.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting (23-02-26) were accepted: proposed by J. Jones, seconded by N. Brooks. These have now been added to the web site.
2. The Board expressed their condolences to the family of Harry Witney, who was a founder of the SCC and contributed to its early success.

Major Project reports:

1. Oakwood:
 - Following interviews, Laura Wilson has been appointed as the new Shop Manager. She is already in place and instigating measures for the shop opening on April 3rd.
 - The Chair expressed the thanks of the Board to H. Taylor, A. Gainsford and N. Brooks for their work in facilitating the recruitment process.
 - Inspection of solar panels: J. Jones and T. Burke to organise.
 - A new laptop may be required. A. Gainsford to action.
2. Dualchas Heritage Centre:
 - An open day and exhibition is scheduled for April 18th/19th.
 - A request for a voluntary architectural survey was approved by the Board, subject to a suitable risk assessment.
 - A fault with the smart meter and heating has been reported; an engineer will be carrying out an inspection.
3. Longrigg:
 - Concerns have been raised by a number of people about the security of loads being transported away from the site. This matter has subsequently been discussed with Scottish Woodlands and the haulage contractors. All loads will now be photographed prior to leaving site. The Board expressed its thanks to those in the local community who reported the issue.
 - Firewood is also available by the load or half load; J. Jones to confirm transport costs.
4. Men's Shed/Craft Hub:
 - It was agreed that Project Officer A. Harpur is doing an excellent job in arranging workshops and events. It was also noted that a number of people had requested evening or weekend workshops for those unable to attend during the day. N. Brooks to discuss with A. Harpur.
5. Rainforest Project:
 - The initial funding programme has now concluded. Further funds to continue the project are being sought.
 - Regardless of the outcome of new funding requests, the Board expressed its thanks to Project Officer E. Palmer for his work and achievements in taking the project through its initial stages.

Other activities:

1. The Playpark Group have begun fund raising and have submitted requests to the Community Council to supplement those currently held by the SCC and Highland Council.
2. Visioning/strategic planning exercise:





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- a. R. MacIntyre has offered to run a workshop, which it is anticipated will take place in June or July. N. Brooks to liaise with R. MacIntyre.
- b. It was noted that local housing needs should form a key consideration of the exercise.
3. Marketing:
 - a. N. Brooks reported that the web site has had new sections added to promote the new Heritage Centre, and that a further section to promote Oakwood will also be added.
 - b. A programme to produce short promotional videos has also begun.
4. SCC stand at the agricultural show 2026:
 - a. This is a major contributor to the operational costs of the SCC. The challenge is to recruit sufficient volunteers to organise and operate the stand. This will be discussed in detail at the next Board meeting.
5. Next Board meeting will be on the 27th April 2026.



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www.sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk
Oakwood Centre, Strontian, PH36 4HZ