

Mull and Iona Community Trust

Minutes for the 144th Directors Meeting Final

At the Craignure Village Hall on 14th December 2009

Meeting Started 8.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Crawford Morison (CM), Mike Story (MS), Derek Crook (DC), Chris Baker (CB)

In Attendance: James Hilder (JH), Siân Scott (SS)

Apologies: Susie Calderan (SC), Babs Whyte (BW), Maureen Dehaney (MD), Lesley Quirk (LQ), Sam Jones (SJ), Morven Gibson (MG)

Other Business

- As this was the first meeting after the AGM SG thanked all outgoing Directors for their support. **Action:** Agreed to send them Christmas cards with thanks. JH to action.

2. Election of Office Bearers

- Chair- One nomination received. SB appointed after being proposed by CM and seconded by CB.
- Vice-Chair- One nomination received. DC appointed after being proposed by CB and seconded by SB. It was agreed to postpone a decision on the second Vice-Chair until the next board meeting.
- Treasurer- One nomination received. MS appointed after being proposed by DC and seconded by CB.

3. Approval of Minutes of 25th October - Proposed by CM & seconded by SB but with the following correction: Minutes state MS was present however MS did not attend.

Other Business

- Action:** All Board members to review draft AGM minutes and send any corrections/clarifications to Vanessa.

4. Financial Update

4.1 Management Accounts & Year End

- The Board approved the figures in the 2008/09 accounts. DC enquired as to the inclusion in the accounts of a note about Brook Partnership's declaration of interest. JH confirmed that is in progress with the Accountants.
- JH presented the latest finance status to the Board. The Butcher's Shop debt of £1,299.81 is still outstanding despite the fact that all outstanding issues with the Butcher Shop Board are now resolved. **Action:** Agreed to pursue this with their Chairman, John Mitchell. SB to telephone John. The SNH reports for the Woodland and Ranger projects have not been completed and are holding up the release of the grants. This is having a negative impact on the MICT cash flow. JH confirmed that the issues holding up the reports are being dealt with.
- Unity Trust £15k overdraft facility. The Board approved the go ahead for the overdraft facility and the attached Board resolution was passed.

4.2 Ratification of Expenditure Requests

- MESS Wage Increase Proposal:** The Board reviewed Mairi's proposal to increase wages for the staff who are taking on more responsibilities to cover parts of Mairi's role while she is away on maternity leave. It was noted that this revised responsibility and wage structure is not temporary. It is envisaged that the operational staff will continue within this structure even when Mairi returns and that Mairi's future role will be purely line management and MESS/MICT development. The Board approved the proposal however SB raised a concern about how MESS will offset and/or appose the proposed Council SLA cuts (currently 5% per year over 3 years). JH explained that Mairi has already put MICT's case to the Council and that JH has been in discussions with Council staff on Mull plus lobbying via ABSEN. **Actions:** 1. If not already sent Mairi to send the letter to the Councillors. 2. JH to book a slot to put the case forward at the February Area Committee Meeting. 3. MS to lobby Councillors on the issue.
- MESS Proposal to Rent the Craft Shop in Craignure:** The Board reviewed Mairi's paper regarding the proposal to rent the craft shop. Agreed to reject Peter Butterworth's business proposal at this stage and to investigate a rental direct with the owner (Archie MacCallum). It was also agreed to proceed on the basis of an interest in renting the property initially but with the possibility of an option to buy in the future. **Action:** CB to speak to Archie regarding such a rental arrangement (including costs).

5. Matters Outstanding

5.1 Mull & Iona 2030

- No further action to report. **Action:** JH to speak to Mary-Jean about progress with 2030 plus to chase the response to CM's letter regarding the Iona Wall project.

6. Special Items

6.1 Ross of Mull & Iona Community Transport Proposal: JH reported on the meeting held last week in Bunessan to discuss the need for a community mini-bus for the Ross of Mull and Iona. As an outcome of the meeting JH agreed to complete a Community Transport Application to seek Council funds to contribute towards the purchase and running of the bus. It was noted that if an electric bus is suitable then it could be 100% funded via the Climate Challenge Fund. Tim Capper is helping with investigating the options.

6.2 Personnel- Energy Information Point Job Vacancy & Admin Worker Vacancy: JH reported that no applications have been received for the Energy Information Point Worker. At present Tim Capper is covering the role himself. Circa four applications have been received for the Admin Worker post with interviews taking place on 8th January. The interview panel will be JH and SS. JH to ask a Director to join the interview panel too.

6.3 Post-AGM Analysis/Comment: Overall the Board concluded that the AGM was successful. JH reported that Tim Capper would be including three news articles (on the Powerdown work, community generation and loft insulation) in the January Round and About and as part of the paper's special feature on renewable energy. The Board agreed to hold another community generation public meeting on 27th Feb (starting with a lunch and then into presentations etc.) to follow up on the hydro and wind site investigations. The detailed programme, format and anticipated outcomes for the meeting will be confirmed nearer the time.

6.4 Dates for 2010 Meetings: Agreed to change Sat 13th March 10 board meeting on Iona to become MICT's annual strategy day. Agreed to make 15th Feb 10 the Feb Board meeting and to hold surgeries on Iona instead of this board meeting. CM suggested attending the Iona Community Council meeting as part of these surgeries. **Action:** CM to check suitable dates and times. **Action:** All to check other meeting dates and let Vanessa know if there are any problems.

6.5 Mull Slaughterhouse: JH made the Board aware his continued support to the Slaughterhouse. He warned that as a result of the amount of work required to complete their Clydesdale bank loan paperwork the amount of time he will be spending on this support is likely to increase.

6.6 Progress on the Self Store Project & MESS Depot to Craignure:

- Planning application for the MESS Depot now in however there have been a few delays due to queries on the paperwork from the planners. These have now been answered and application re-submitted.
- JH reported that MICT may have to move the storage containers from Crannich Farm as soon as the planning application approved (or earlier if the Forestry Commission will allow this).
- CB suggested that a price for moving the shed should be sought from the scrap dealer who works on Mull and SB suggested MacDougall's Garage. **Actions:** CB to contact the scrap dealer and Mairi to contact MacDougall's.
- The Board agreed to the sale of two containers to the Mull Theatre, providing approval was gained from the Brook Partnership and Mull Theatre would arrange and pay for uplift.

7. Working Group Updates

7.1 Income Generation: No update given.

7.2 Membership: Agreed to circulate the recent paper from the membership sub-group to the rest of the Board for discussion at the next Board meeting. **Action:** JH.

7.3 & 7.4 PR & Personnel: Agreed to defer the review of all working groups and include the review as part of the strategy day agenda. Agreed to add an agenda item to the Feb Board meeting to discuss the details of the review. **Action:** JH/Vanessa.

8. Correspondence

- **Second Life:** Form from Strathclyde University to complete. Proposal is to use this to help attract business for Communities Work/CBRC and in particular the training services by providing photographs and case studies showcasing the work and experience of MICT.
- **Argyll and Bute Council Development Plan Review:** Questionnaire received from the Council for the public to complete regarding their review of the current local development plan. Details are available on their web site under LDP (Local Development Plan).

9. Members Forum

There were no members present.

10. AOB

- DC reported that the Ross of Mull Transition Group is increasing activity.
- MICT public holidays for 2010 approved- proposed by CB and seconded by MS.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm. Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th January at the Craignure Village Hall at 8.00pm.