

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Board Meeting
Craignure Village Hall on the 13th January 2009

Meeting Started 8.15pm

1. Present: Crawford Morison (CM), Derek Crook (DC), Donald MacLean (DM), Sandy Brunton (SB), Maureen Dehaney (MD), Chris Baker (CB) and Christine Gash (CG)

In Attendance: James Hilder (JH), Vanessa Moore (VM) & Babs Whyte (BW)

Apologies: Susie Calderan (SC), Michelle Cowe (MC), John Mitchell (JM), Graham Brown (GB) and Mike Story (MS)

Notification of Any Other Business: Wind farms, Health Partnership Conference, Garmony Sports Hall, Scout Hall, Personnel Working group and Mull Renewables Fair.

2. Minutes of December 8th – No corrections. Proposed by Crawford Morison and Seconded by Donald MacLean

3. Financial update

3.1 Management Accounts Progress Report

Vanessa gave an update on the current Bank Balances, Creditors and Debtors.

The main Creditors being The Natural Bag Company for the MESS bags and Michael Williams the Carriers.

The main Debtors are Argyll & Bute Council, The Big Lottery, Scottish National Heritage & the Social Enterprise Academy.

All claims have gone in to date.

Argyll & Bute Council are disputing current Invoices due to VAT, whether it can or can not be claimed. As MICT was operating under advice from HMRC, a copy of the original letter from the VAT office has been requested and interim bills to be sent to resolve the matter to release the funds.

The MESS Steering Group requires an input from the MICT Board. Directors were asked if they would like to take part, next meeting on Thursday 1pm at Craignure. Christine & Maureen agreed if they could offer something to the group they would be happy to help.

3.2 Fundraising Working group (MC,MS,BW,SC,CG)

- It was agreed that the group needs structure and a chair to run the meetings. As yet the group has not met all together.
- Christine Gash was added to the group.
- Idea of an open night to double as a fundraising event and also to address the Public Image and PR of the Trust, a 200 club or 100 club and a Fashion show using MESS clothing range.
- However, MICT must avoid placing additional burdens on residents who are already saturated with fundraising.
- It was agreed that a meeting would be organised in the MICT offices in Tobermory.

3.3 Ratification of Expenditure

- End of year accounts from Wylie & Bisset will cost an extra £1000.00 above the original quote of £1500 - £1700 for all the extra work required.
- Board were advised that this extra amount was generous for the amount of hours that have been spent on the accounts.
- Wylie & Bisset agreed that the bill could be paid in instalments and Board agreed.
- Balance Sheets which cost £500.00 each were handed out to the Board for review.
- It was agreed to send Vanessa on the Intermediate SAGE Course £108.00 in February.

4. Craignure Business Resource Centre (CBRC)

4.1 Update on Loans, State Aid and Donations

- It was agreed that the CBRC Subgroup has not lapsed as was thought due to recent issues raised being brought straight to the full board meetings.
- It was agreed that once the project was on the move again the group would reconvene.
- The Balance Sheets requested by Highland & Island Enterprises (HIE) were presented to the Board for review. These have been forwarded to HIE to release funds for CBRC project.
- A Video conference with all the major funders including the Scottish Government EU section is to be held on Friday 16th January with James, Sian and Sandy present to try to break the log jam on the CBRC funding package.

5. Membership / Friends Working Group (CM,MS,VM,DC)

- The Working Group has been set up to review the Trusts Membership and Friends and make sure that current systems are working to full efficiency.
- The current Friends system needs reviewing as the old voucher books are no longer in circulation.
- A conference call would be set up for the first meeting due to the location of the parties involved. **Action: DC**
- Vanessa gave an update on the current member status with 301 members at present and discussed those who had already signed up for the new Direct Debit Option.
- Letters will be sent out to advise current members of the new go live date of 1st March for the Direct Debit Option with the next Newsletter in the hope that more people also choose this preferred method of payment. **Action VM**
- It was agreed that membership forms should go into the new MESS bags for distribution across the Island again to raise Public awareness about both MICT and MESS. **Action VM**
- Members could be rewarded for starting up new members.

6. PR / PI Working Group (SC,MD,JM,JH)

6.1 Website & Newsletter

- Meeting to be arranged to start discussions, strategies and Newsletter for January. **Action JH**
- It was agreed that the minutes need to be clear to anyone who is reading them from outwith the Trust and up to date minutes need to be put up on the web. **Action : JH & VM**
- The layout of previous minutes was discussed and needs to be addressed. **Action VM & JH**

7. Matters Outstanding

7.1 From Minutes of 8th December

- The web minutes still to be put up for the public to view and it was agreed that the website should reflect where we are at with the Craignure Project.
- Letters have been sent out to all those who have pledged or donated but it was agreed that we should advise the Community as a whole of the stage we are at. **Action : SS & JH**
- A letter is still to be written to the Clan MacLean. This will be done once website online donations page is functional. **Action : JH**

7.2 Board Strategy Day 14th February 10 – 4pm

- James looking into Torosay Castle as a possible venue for the day.
- It was agreed that the Board should look at the Strategy Document prior to the day.
- The Mull & Iona Community Swimming Pool was mentioned as a possible topic of discussion for the day (facilitating the community with greater use of the pool and improved communications with hotel management.)
- An agenda will be issued prior to the day. **Action: JH**

8. Community Council Update

- Crawford gave a Council Update for Iona.
Graham not present next Community Council Meeting Wednesday 14th January. JH will send a briefing sheet to Graham.

9. Correspondence / AOB

9.1 Dervaig Renewables Trust

- After a recent Community Vote the Wind Farm proposition was narrowly defeated.
- It was agreed by Neil Hutton and the Renewables Board that they were not happy to progress any further.
- James mentioned other alternatives to progressing further including a Community Co operative and further discussions with the North West Mull Community Woodland Company.
- It was agreed by the Board that in the event of an invitation the Community Trust would take the wind farm proposal on board in principle.

9.2 Mull Renewables Fair 24th February

- James announced the grant application to the Scottish Executive Climate Challenge Fund was approved and there is now £56,000 available to employ a Renewable Energy Officer.
- Vanessa has been liaising with Tim Capper and invitations have been sent out to suppliers for the Fair. Each supplier will contribute £50.00 which will help with catering and hall hire.

9.3 Tobermory Scout Hall

- The Community Trust is assisting the Scout Hall committee with fundraising bids to assist with the development of a new or refurbished hall.
- Vanessa volunteers with the Girl Guides and the board agreed that a small amount of her time at work would be spent on this project.

9.4 Garmony Sports Hall

- The Community Trust is assisting Duncan Swinbanks with the new funding bids for the Sports Hall and Bunk Room facilities at the current Garmony Site.
- With James' advice the project is being approached as a Social Enterprise.

9.5 Personnel Working Group

- The Board agreed that a Personnel working group should also be set up to deal with such issues as appraisals and wage reviews.
- Appraisals will be done with all staff before the Strategy day in February.

9.6 Health Partnership Conference 27th January

- A conference based in Oban on the 27th January to outline the future strategy of how Community Health is looked at.
- The Board agreed that it would be good to have a presence at the Conference but that we should have a plan of attack and take with us Mull's issues to bring up should the situation arise.
- There was interest from Christine, Donald and Sandy. Vanessa will attend in James' absence.
- Vanessa to send through details of Conference to interested Board members.

10. Members Forum

There were no members present.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

The next meeting will be the Strategy Day in Craignure on the 14th February - Torosay Castle 10.00-4.00pm