

**Mull and Iona Community Trust**  
**Notes from Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**held at Craignure Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

**1. PRESENT:** Sandy Brunton (in chair), Derek Crook, Mike Story, Susie Calderan, Maureen Dehaney – Directors.

James Hilder, (Chief Executive Officer – CEO), Adam Dawson (Native Woodland Project Officer).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Donald MacLean, Chris Baker, Christine Gash, Babs Whyte, Crawford Morison, Sue Royle, Michelle Cowe – Directors.

**2. Minutes of board meeting May 11<sup>th</sup> 2009** Proposed Derek Crook, seconded by Sandy Brunton that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.

**3. Financial update:** JH provided a synopsis of bank accounts, debtors and creditors and read from a report prepared by Vanessa. Debtors significant as we have recently submitted some claims.

**3.1 Management Accounts & Year end.** JH reported good progress & Vanessa has nearly completed year end.

**Action** JH and MS still to meet to discuss appropriate management accounts and reporting.

**3.2 Ratification of Expenditure Requests** None

**4. “Meet the Team” – Adam Dawson, Argyll Islands Native Woodlands Project.** AD expanded on three areas of this project: providing initial site surveys as a first stop for farmers and landowners interested in woodland expansion and encouraging the management of SSSIs to bring them into favourable condition; supporting the work on NWMCWC as a director, committee member and volunteer; and innovation working in partnership with Aberdeen university to establish the feasibility of utilising bracken to produce bio-fuel. Directors are referred to Adams bi-monthly job plan for further details.

## **5. Matters Outstanding**

**5.1 Review Updated Strategy Framework The Board considered Key Strategic Area 2 – Community Services** - SB proposed adding “Help communities to build capacity 2 in section 2.1 unanimously agreed.

MICT fulfils many roles of a CVS but is only reimbursed through recruiting new members. We now have a 25% increase target. **AP** All Directors and Staff to be proactive in recruiting new members. MD raised the question of incentives for membership and agreed to contribute ideas through the membership working group.

Training provision **AP** Next newsletter to request voluntary organisations to identify training needs so that MICT can draw up a program of training events through winter 2009/10

**5.2 Review linked External activities of Staff and Board** List nearly completed by staff, some board members yet to submit. **AP** once completed circulate to Board for comments. This is important for residents to understand how MICT influences policies.

**5.3 Establishing “Communities Work Ltd” – review of Mem and Arts.** JH has taken advice from solicitors and accountants and proposed to use the model constitution provided by DTAS. Mem & Arts circulated several months ago - comments had been received. Completed, SB proposed signing off documents, DC seconded. The Board agreed **unanimously** to establish Communities Work Ltd as a company limited by shares and wholly owned subsidiary of the Mull & Iona Community Trust. One Hundred £1 shares will be invested in the company.

All 5 directors were signatories and became Directors of the board of Communities Work Ltd which will now be registered with Companies house. The Board membership of CWL will be reviewed at the AGM. **AP MS** to investigate registration of domain name/s.

**5.4 Community Investment Fund** – Proposal from DC and SB for MICT to facilitate the setting up of a financial vehicle to allow investments to be made on Mull. Many different models with benefits to investors, MICT and community projects – e.g. Community Shares, Cooperatives. **AP: SB & DC** to carry out further investigation to clarify most appropriate options. **JH** to forward contact details.

**5.5 Mull & Iona 2030** Nothing to report **AP JH** to chase.

## **6. Special Items**

**6.1 Ideas for use of 4 shipping containers to pilot the Self Store Project.** Board noted that the Agricultural Feed Store had been shut down. The operator hopes to pay balances of invoices outstanding. SB & DC declared an interest as investors in the Brook Partnership, owners of the 4 containers leased to MICT for equivalent interest. The Board considered Self Store a viable enterprise and valuable community service. JH reported two private individuals wish to rent the space immediately – containers in situ, leaving 2 currently available to move to Craignure. The cost of relocating 2 containers to the MESS site and repainting them were approved by the Board. **AP JH** to pursue this option. (The Board noted that Crannich Farm did not wish to charge rent for the containers remaining on their land but would like a nominal percentage of the rental to be given to a good cause. The Board are grateful to Crannich for their continued assistance).

**6.2 Proposal to convert Unit 2 at Bunessan Castaways into a Renewable Energy Information Point, with part time staff and volunteers. MICT is working in partnership with Alienergy who have funds to support the staffing of an Energy Advice Information Point on Mull. Staff propose Bunessan – Unit 2.** Tim Capper to be available to supervise and use it. Agreed unanimously but situation to be reviewed when CBRC is completed.

**6.3 Proposal to act as grant applicant to the Scottish Arts Council for the Big Art Project on behalf of Mull & Iona, before end June.** JH tabled papers and photos. After much discussion MICT not deemed the appropriate body for this project and the Directors expressed reservations about some of the details. The Board would back an arts project that had wider community support, utilised local skills and natural resources and had demonstrable tourism benefits and a low carbon footprint. **AP – JH** to write to Duncan Swinbanks and Curator.

**6.4 To note financial difficulties of Mull Slaughterhouse – JH assisting.** Much of the equipment requiring repair or replacement, various options for refinancing are being considered the Board agreed that JH should continue investing time into it. Martin Caldwell has put considerable time into a financial review and is assisting with funding and lobbying plans. MS spoke in support of the abattoir and of the need to expand its processing of venison to increase cutting and packing income.

## **7 Working Group Updates**

**7.1 Fundraising** Nothing to report, although JH reported that Tim Capper appears to have already sourced additional funding to expand Powerdown into examining community owned renewables feasibilities.

**7.2 Membership** Nothing to report, geographical difficulties in linking this group, the Board agreed to Vanessa travelling to Ross of Mull for a brainstorming meeting with DC & CM.

**7.3 PR / PI – Minutes circulated** matters in hand and APs allocated. MS reported his recent research into web services would be made available to working group.

**7.4 Personnel** 3% pay rise awarded, terms of employment need reviewing urgently.

**8. Community Council Update** Nothing to report

## **9. Correspondence**

JH tabled the membership pack for Community Energy Scotland – we are now Members, – newsletter from the Ross of Mull Historical Centre, leaflet on the Community Planning Partnership's major consultation on involving community groups in the CPP.

**10. AOB Distribution of Mess £5,000 funds to Community Groups** - all applications received within the deadline were awarded the funds requested, although two were excluded as they received funds in 2008. There were three late application received but the Mull Slaughterhouse was awarded £500 as it is so vital and in urgent need of cash funds for urgent repairs and safety work. Board recommended to Mairi that either £500 awarded outright, or other larger awards are amended in order to come in on the £5,000 budget for distribution.

**Meeting Closed at 10.45pm**

**Date of Next Meeting - Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> - possibly at the new Salen Church Centre!!**