

Mull and Iona Community Trust

Minutes for the 145th Directors Meeting

Craignure Inn on 11th January 2010

Meeting Started 8.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Crawford Morison (CM), Derek Crook (DC), Morven Gibson (MG), Lesley Quirk (LQ),

In Attendance: James Hilder (JH), June Anderson (JA)

Apologies: Mike Story (MS), Susie Calderan (SC), Maureen Dehaney (MD), Sam Jones (SJ),

Not in attendance: Chris Baker (CB), Babs Whyte (BW),

Introductions

- Following the Chairman's introduction both Lesley Quirk and Morven Gibson, as new Board members, introduced themselves and gave a brief outline of the various skills and attributes they bring to the Board.

Other Business

- The Board of Directors send their congratulations to Vanessa on becoming Mrs MacLean earlier this month and wish her and Callum all the very best for the future.
- The Board of Directors also send their good wishes to Mairi over the next couple of months and hope she and the baby will both be well.

2. Election of Second Vice Convenor

- This decision was deferred to the next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of 14th December - Proposed by DC & seconded by CM.

4. Financial Update

4.1 Management Accounts & Year End

- JH reported that all the necessary entries have now been made on the accounts system by Vanessa now that she is back from leave. Creditors stand at C£3K and Debtors at C£37K and the amount in the accounts, in total, is C£35K. He concluded that the cashflow is currently lean but OK. **Action:** A spreadsheet and full picture of the finances will be available for the next meeting – Vanessa MacLean
- Thanks to Jan who has secured £5,000 from Argyll and Bute Council for the Ranger Service and is working on an audit of footpaths, which will also be funded by them.

4.2 Ratification of Expenditure Requests

- None currently outstanding that are not already budgeted for. However, James may need a new flat screen monitor for his PC.

5. Matters Outstanding

5.1 Mull & Iona 2030

- JH reported that the Statement of Intent to bid for funding had not been received by the Scottish Government and that the deadline for the full bid is next week. JH is trying to meet this deadline as the potential is for 90% of an estimated £100K if a successful bid can be made. Feedback from members of the community is that the Survey and Analysis of the needs of Mull & Iona is of huge value and needs to be done. In response to LQ's question JH confirmed that the further 10% of cost could come from Argyll & Bute Council's 'Community Engagement' pot. A successful bid may result in a fee of up to £12K payable to MICT for management of the project. **Action:** JH will take up LQ's offer of help in completing the funding bid along with Rural Direct (SCVO).

5.2 Dates for 2010 Board Meetings

- Proposed dates for the 2010 meetings were approved by those present. Meetings may be conducted via teleconference if necessary otherwise they will be:

Feb	Monday 15 th	Craignure	Aug	Monday 9 th	Teleconfr 8.00pm
Mar	Saturday 13 th	Board Strategy Day	Sep	Monday 13 th	Craignure
Apr	Monday 19 th	Craignure	Oct	Monday 25 th	Craignure
May	Monday 10 th	Craignure	Nov AGM	Monday 8th	Craignure
June	Monday 14 th	Craignure	Dec	Monday 13 th	Craignure
July	Monday 12 th	Craignure	Dec	Saturday 18 th	Xmas Party

- It was agreed that a specific email about the Strategy day in March should be sent to all Directors as it is vital for the future planning of the organisation they attend this event. **Action** JH and Board members will ensure Strategy Day effectively publicised to all Directors.

5.3 Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes

- Thank you cards still to go out to previous Directors – **Action:** JH/Office Admin
- No amendments had been received regarding the AGM Minutes.
- Butchers Shop – SB contacted John Mitchell re money still outstanding to MICT. John Mitchell should now be able to resolve this issue.
- Renting of the Craft Shop in Craignure – Chris Baker was chasing but was not at this meeting to report. **Action:** JH to follow up.

- Ross of Mull & Iona Community Transport Proposal – JH updated the Board on progress and LQ had offered some help with sourcing the vehicle
- Dates for 2010 Meetings. As well as those publicised above JH had written to Iona Community Council to arrange an opportunity to host a surgery on Iona **Action:** Their contact is Joyce Watson and CM will check with her for possible dates as a number of potential projects are of interest to them (Village Hall, Pre-School, MESS & Community Minibus).
- The Admin Vacancy at the Tobermory Office has been advertised and two interviews have taken place. One more interview will be held on Friday 15th Jan and then a decision will be made.
- Self Store Project and MESS Depot to Craignure. Still waiting to find out about moving the containers. **Action:** Ongoing with CB & MG

6. Special Items

6.1 To Note James' Update Paper

- The Board considered the paper submitted by JH regarding potential changes in the staffing at MICT and agreed that the future 'shape' and 'structure' of the organisation should be one of the main considerations for the Strategy Day in March (See 7.1 below).
- JH reported that HIE are funding a much needed salary review and EVH have been engaged to do the work.

6.2 Communities Work (Scotland) Ltd.

- JH explained the purpose for setting up a subsidiary trading company (Ltd by shares – 100 x £1 shares) was to simplify the accounting process for the whole organisation. It also allows for future development opportunities for both companies e.g. the subsidiary could then have its own Board of Directors.
- JH also reported that the process to establish the new company had been hampered by recent changes to the system and proposed that it should be started again from scratch. The Board agreed and SB, DC, LQ & MG agreed to become directors and sign the forms supplied by JH to get the process going again.

6.3 Minister for the Environment Visit on 18th January 2010

- The organisation of this event had now passed to Forestry Commission Scotland. However, JH asked that a Director volunteer to be at Salen Church at 12.45pm, on the day, to represent MICT. LQ agreed to go and MG will join her if she can. The main message is to publicise that £10K has been distributed by MICT to the community this year from the activities it undertakes.

7. Director Involvement - Working Group Review.

7.1 Working Group Structure

- Following a discussion it was agreed that the Working Group Structure needs to be reviewed. The purpose for these groups was originally to spread some of the work amongst the Directors and away from staff. In practise this did not always work and the reverse sometimes happened. JH felt each group needed strong leadership from a director.
- It was also agreed that, given James' Update Paper and the potential changes in staffing in the forthcoming year, it is vital that MICT has a structure that will work. It was also agreed that this should be the main agenda item for the Board's Strategy Day in March 2010. **Action:** A questionnaire / pre-paper, to get Board Members thinking about this issue, will be circulated before the next Board Meeting. JH & LQ will work together on this & also firm up on the agenda for the Strategy Day.

8. Correspondence

- A suggestion has been received from a project partner regarding the possibility of asking a Member of the Royal Family to visit the Islands in 2010 as it is the year for BioDiversity and the 10th year of Mull Eagle Watch. LQ proposed that there should be a cost/benefit analysis to have a 'Royal' visit as it is difficult and costly (in time) to hold such an event and the benefits need to be identified.
- It was also suggested that it may be better to have a Royal visit in 2011 for the opening of the Centre in Craignure where the benefits to having such publicity are more identifiable. It was agreed to go for the 2011 option. **Action:** SB to speak to Sir Lachlan MacLean and get his advice.

9. Members Forum

There were no members present.

10. AOB

- DC Raised the issue of Board Members attendance at Board Meetings and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the Strategy Day.
- **Bulky Uplifts** – The Board considered a paper written by Mairi Greig. SB was disappointed that more of the Councils savings were not being passed to MICT/MESS and felt negotiation should centre around a proposal that was fair to both organisations. MG was congratulated for the quality of the paper and its straightforward presentation. **Action:** JH to ask MG supply a comparison chart to show savings to Argyll and Bute Council and possible savings/costs to MICT/MESS and to arrange a meeting with councillors Mary-Jean Devon and Gordon Chalmers, to highlight concerns regarding the Argyll & Bute proposal.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm. Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th February at the Craignure Village Hall at 8.00pm.