

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 211th Board Meeting
An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, on Monday 14th September 2015

Meeting Started at 19:30

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Caroline Wood (CW), Carolyne Charington (CC), Alexa Kershaw (AK), Chris Baker (CB), Derek Crook (DC), Neal Goldsmith (NG), Alexa Kershaw (AK), Andrew Robertson (AR), Babs Whyte (BW) and Rob MacManaway (RMCM) via teleconference.

In Attendance: Moray Finch (MF) Vanessa MacLean (VML), Laura Percy (LP) and 3 consultants from Connecting Scotland – Andrew Lippok, Pamela Galbraith and Gordon Carmichael.

****The meeting started with a presentation and group activity from the Mull Community Development Plan consultants – Connecting Scotland****

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

- Chair, SB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.
- Apologies were received from Maureen Dehany (MD).
- Any Other Business
 1. Tobermory Allotments
 2. Intergenerational Project
 3. Mally Gower's Cycle Fundraiser
 4. Feedback on DTAS conference
 5. Palliative Care on Mull
 6. COMAR

2. Approve Minutes of 10th August 2015

- Matters arising: LPG – AR waiting to hear back from Gleaner and Nancy Winfield. DTAS oil buying scheme – SB/MF to put paper together. Membership fees – Moved forward to next board meeting. Sam Jones and Rachel-Anne French's appraisals were postponed, to be rescheduled. New Nissan Leaf purchase going through system. No progress on Community right to buy of Craignure pier.
- No corrections to previous minutes were noted.
- Approval of previous minutes proposed by CB & Seconded by AK

3. Declarations of Interest

- NG – now sitting on Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services Procurement Fairness Committee. NG gave the board a brief outline of his role on the committee.
- BW & AR – Directors of Mull Iona Community Enterprise.

4. Finance Update

- 4.1 There was no financial report this month. VML distributed a short report on gift aid figures so far for Craignure and Bunessan which are promising and suggest we could be getting as much as £3000pa back from all gift aid sales.
- 4.2 Membership Number is 307
- New members: Tobermory High School. Renewals from John Archbold, Mike Jordan, Carol Aldred and Margaret Black who was the first member to pay subscription by card in the shop. LP circulated a list of lapsed members for board members to take and try encourage renewals.
- 4.3 Review of membership fees – already discussed.

5. Personnel

- 5.1 Ongoing.

6. Special Items

6.1 Paper on Shortage of skilled trades persons (RMCM)

Ongoing. RMCM to present short paper at October meeting.

6.2 Deputy Manager/Sustainability Manager (CC/CW/DC)

DC and CC discussed the need for improving the sustainability of both what MESS and MICT do. The board discussed the sustainability of MF's work load as well as email filtering solutions. NG asked about VML's role as a deputy to MF and LP's role as an assistant to VML. SB confirmed that VML's role is expanding due to the higher capital investments of the various projects. DC and CC suggested a combined role of sustainability manager looking after MESS and a deputy manager to MF – several board members commented on how different these roles were but others replied that at least it was a start. CC confirmed that the sustainability role wasn't discussed at the SMI meeting as she felt it was a MICT issue. The next step is to explore funding options e.g. Zero Waste Scotland and HIE. The sub group of DC/CC/CW will carry on exploring options, with MF

6.3 Preparations for AGM (ALL)

Venue and format to be discussed. The Board suggested same as last year. The date will be Monday 9th November 2015 at An Roth and will be a celebration of achievements event. BW suggested a member of MICT being master of ceremonies. The Board suggested BW find someone – and if she can't get anyone, she will to do it. Community groups to do catering, as previously.

6.4 Report on Buinessan Castaways (DC/MD)

VML updated the board. The figures from Jan – Aug 2015 compared to Jan - Aug 2014 show an overall loss in winter and profit in summer with a £1000 improvement. DC said there were very few volunteers through winter 2014 and the shop was closed several times due to this. The book shed has brought in over £900 but there is nothing to compare it to as it was new this year. MF reported that there has been a hiatus at the shop with the closure for building work, stock improvements and reorganisation of the volunteers over the summer. DC mentioned Team Up – an online tool the volunteers use to schedule with each other the days they are volunteering. The board agreed that the progress made to date warrants ongoing support and as previously minuted, there will be a further review in December.

6.5 Discussion on minimum/living wage (DC)

The board discussed the new requirement for a Living Wage to be paid to staff. The board agreed that if budgetary constraints allow then MICT should work towards paying the living wage. MF and VML to circulate figures and create a short paper within the next week.

6.6 Manager's report (MF)

Previously circulated. Campervans discussed re overnight camping. NG said it would take careful planning and demand management. Calmac won't help the matter so the community must do something. Needs to be handled correctly and sensitively so as to not alienate anyone.

7. Steering Group Reports

7.1 Mull Community Development Plan discussed at start

7.2 MESS already discussed

7.3 Ulva Ferry LDO – trying to develop solar photovoltaic panels to generate a profit to use as match funding for HIE local development officer funding, from April next year. The UK Government are undermining the returns. Need to speak with HIE. The Waterfall fund will be too late as a funding source. Housing partnership – tenders for housing projects a lot higher than anticipated, QS is in negotiations with lowest tender concluding on Friday with architects. Final tendered price will confirm funding shortfall. Possible revenue support from HIE for Helen's post. Pontoon – having to resubmit planning application due to location change of pontoons.

7.4 Ranger service SNH are going to cut back funds they give to the Ranger Service. Next steering group meeting in November.

7.5 Sea Eagle partnership future of Forestry Comissions hides in question.

7.6 Long distance path and viewpoint project Fionnphort to Creich Hall path in development.

7.7 Community broadband Moving forwards positively. AB Internet planning to take downstairs office at An Roth

7.8 SMI – possible renewables fair going to be organised

7.9 Mull Musical Minds – no update

7.10 Light Industrial Park Tobermory – application for Scottish Land fund not successful, reconsidered on Nov panel. Big Lottery Funding unsuccessful. Thorne Wyness to develop design plans.

7.11 ACCESS Project – watched video from www.acces.org.uk. Installations taking place in October. MF attending a progress meeting in Glasgow this week.

8. Discussion Items – Not discussed

8.1 Review issues list

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Tobermory Allotments – planning consent expires in October. They are wanting to extend the consent and restart the project. An issue of time and resource from our perspective , it needs 4-5 days of effort to resubmit planning application and do a couple of funding searches, particularly in light of community empowerment bill. Nothing moved forwards since last meeting. MF asked for the board to reaffirm their approval.

9.2 Intergenerational Project – NG declared an interest but gave background on the project. Crerar Hotels give 25% of their profits to community groups. A lot of aged groups and school children groups were coming forward for funding. Latest project is to give £25,000 to one opportunity in one area where there is a Crerar hotel. The whole purpose is to create a legacy rather than fund a short lived project. AR proposed and CB seconded.

9.3 Mally Gower – cycling 4 corners of Britain. MF gave an update on Mally Gower's (Cleaner at An Roth) cycling tour of Britain. MF showed the board her blog and encouraged them to donate, www.touringfortoilets.blogspot.co.uk

9.4 DTAS Scotland feedback. LP and MF gave an overview of their experience at the 2015 DTAS Conference in Inverness. Both reported a positive and interesting experience and were encouraged by the influence community groups have all over Scotland.

9.5 Palliative Care in the community on Mull – MF spoke to a Mull resident whose partner has just died. They reported a real need for better palliative care in the community as they didn't have a great experience. NG reported that Billy McClymont is already looking into this issue and rather than duplicate existing work, MF should speak to him.

9.6 COMAR – There will be a conclusion within the next week following a meeting with COMAR representatives. James Hilder is one of the consultants. Proposal for membership schemes, budgets etc.

10. Members Forum

No members present

Meeting closed at 22:00

The next Board Meeting will be held at An Roth on Monday 5th October 2015

Signed

Name

Date