

**Mull and Iona Community Trust**  
**Minutes for the 205<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**An Roth Community Enterprise Centre on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

*Meeting Started at 19:35 and was chaired by Andrew Robertson*

**Present:** Andrew Robertson (AR) & Chris Baker (CB)

**Teleconference:** Rob MacManaway (RMcM), Derek Crook (DC), Maureen Dehany (MD) & Carlyne Charrington (CC)

**In Attendance:** Moray Finch (MF) & Laura Percy (LP).

**Apologies:** Alexa Kershaw (AK), Babs Whyte (BW), Neal Goldsmith (NG) & Sandy Brunton (SB)

## **9. Any other Business**

- 8.1. Sea Eagle Ranger
- 8.2. LPG Supply
- 8.3. Ferry/Pier
- 8.4. Bunessan Shop Update
- 8.5. SMI terms of reference
- 8.6. Tobermory Youth Hostel

## **2. Approve Minutes of 9th February 2015**

- Proposed by CB & Seconded by AR

### **2.1 Review actions**

- Circulate the directors interests list to the board.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- None to declare.

## **4. Finance Update**

### **4.1 Finance Report**

- Prior to the meeting VML circulated a brief financial report. In VML's absence AR read the report to the board. There was no spreadsheet produced this month because there was outstanding data entry work to be completed on the final figures.
- MF suggested that he, CC and AK should have a meeting to discuss the finances in the near future.
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### **4.2 Membership Number is 325**

### **4.3 New Member for this month**

- Dervaig Community Hall (Ian Lowe)

## **5. Personnel**

### **5.1 Staff Reviews**

- MF sent BW the schedule for appraisals.
- LP had her appraisal with MF and VML in March.

### **5.2 Pension Provision**

- MF updated the group with a new proposal which was put together by DTAS using their Financial Advisor Amy Ballinghall, who has recommended Creative Auto Enrolment as a pension provider. MF requested approval to invite Creative Auto Enrolment to a meeting to kick off the process. The board agreed.
- The board agreed that whilst the staging date for providing pension provision is not until April 2017, as we are in a financial position to do so it is fair to the staff to go ahead with this as soon as possible
- MF asked for a board resolution to put the proposal forward. Proposed by CB, seconded by RMcM.

## **6. Special Items**

### **6.1 ACCESS Project**

- MF informed the board that Nigel Burgess attended an interview in Edinburgh last week which went very well, the feedback very positive and suggests the application will be approved fairly soon. MF requested board support for the project particularly for new steering group members. AR said he wants to stay on steering group and be with the project as it moves on. CB volunteered to be a deputy to AR. The board discussed how big the project would be for Mull, bringing the island closer to self-sufficiency.

### **6.2 Request for assistance from Isle of Mull Wood turners, Salen Resource Centre (MF)**

- MF suggested that with board approval, he could begin a campaign to gauge interest from other groups in using the Salen Resource Centre.
- The group discussed that it may already be up for sale. The board supported Moray investigating the community appetite to acquire it.

### 6.3 Representation on RET Introduction committee (NG/MF)

- In NG's absence MF informed the board of the plan to form a small group of stakeholders to discuss the implications of RET introduction in October.
- MF expressed his interested in exploring the 'land side' implications of RET, particularly the implications of increased road traffic on our infrastructure e.g. roads, passing places, viewpoints.
- The board discussed the idea of a visitor payback scheme

### 6.4 Mull Community Development Plan (MF)

- MF recapped the board on the current community development plans for Ross, Iona and Ulva. The Board previously resolved support for an island wide development plan. An application for a CARES grant was successful and an application to Awards for All was rejected due to an issue with sessional staff and national insurance. MF is planning to resubmit the application. CARES grant offer has state aid attached, MF has requested an alternative declaration.
- The grant will be used towards staff costs – 9 month contract, community consultation, document with evidence what the community wants in 5 years' time to make island sustainable place to live, includes office costs etc.
- MF working on ideas to cover shortfall.

## **7. Steering Group Reports – updates not given due to time constraints with weather deteriorating.**

7.1 MESS

7.2 Ulva Ferry LDO

7.3 Ulva Ferry Housing Partnership

7.4 Ulva Ferry pontoons

7.5 Ranger Service

7.6 Sea Eagle Partnership

7.7 Long Distance Path & Viewpoint Project

7.8 Community Broadband

7.9 Sustainable Mull and Iona

7.10 Energy Advisor

7.11 Mull Musical Minds

7.12 Light Industrial Park Tobermory

7.13 ACCESS Project

## **8. Discussion Items**

8.1 Review issues list – not discussed due to poor weather.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### 9.1. Sea Eagle Ranger

- The board have agreed an increase in salary for this post
- The board had reviewed staff salary against the minimum wage and against the national living wage and given the budgetary constraints, decided to leave the salaries as they are this year to be reviewed for the next financial year.

### 9.2. LPG Supply

- Prior to the meeting, MF forwarded the board an email from Billy McClymont re LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) on the island for transport. MF suggested that was the first port of call to ask if filling stations would be interested. If they were interested then we could go out and recruit demand. The board agreed AR should investigate further.
- AR agreed to contact Gleaner and other filling stations about LPG. MF suggested AR spoke to Martin Keivers who is involved with Ulva Pontoon steering group.
- AR declared a business interest in the equipment needed to supply of LPG.

### 9.3. Ferry/Pier

- MF informed the board that the search for mention of any conditions of the donation from Neil Cameron has exhausted all possibilities. CB will continue to investigate.
- Isle of Mull Ferry Company - Transport Minister has agreed to meeting in April with MF and Andy & James Knight.

#### 9.4. Bunessan Shop Update

- Hazel and Maureen met Brik Halcrow at Community Café with idea to recruit volunteers – managed to get 3-4. Hazel met up with volunteers in Bunessan and agreed to another meeting with them. Silka agreed to be point of contact. Hazel going to go through training with volunteers. Very enthusiastic, great ideas. Jenny and Hazel rearranged and cleaned the shop on Monday.
- The board praised Derek Crook's effort and commitment to the Bunessan shop.

#### 9.5. SMI terms of reference

- Mull renewables – David Pollard has taken over as chair and wants SMI terms of reference reviewed. AR asked if it could be left until next month to be discussed, as it needed to be looked at in more depth because there were a lot of changes. The board all agreed.

#### 9.10 Tobermory Youth Hostel

- MF and CB went to have a look at the hostel on Friday which has been for sale for the last year.
- The board discussed the practicalities of using the front room of the hostel as a shop however there is limited storage space.
- The board discussed the possibility of MICT taking over the running of the youth hostel as a viable business and commercial venture.
- MF suggested that when AK is back on the island, she is asked if she would be interested in exploring the possibilities with CB. CC also expressed an interest in being involved as she helped the Dervaig Bunkhouse increase their revenue. Wait for Alexa to get back and ask her if she's interested as well as Chris. As a board we are interested in understanding more. Is there any possibility of assistance from SYHA. We have 5 years of accounts and bed nights which show a declining number in bed nights. Not been very advertised in last couple of years. Carlyne was involved with the Dervaig bunkhouse and increasing their revenue.

#### 10. **Members Forum**

- No members present

**Meeting closed at 21:20**

**The next Board Meeting will be held on Iona (location tbc) on Monday 13th April 2015**

**Signed**

**Name**

**Date**