

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 208th Board Meeting
An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, on Monday 8th June 2015

Meeting Started at 19:30

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Rob MacManaway (RMcM), Chris Baker (CB), Andrew Robertson (AR), Alexa Kershaw (AK), Maureen Dehany (MD), Derek Crook (DC) & Babs Whyte (BW)

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

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

- Chair, SB welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially RMcM who travelled up from Iona.
- Apologies were received from Caroline Wood (CW) and Carlyne Charington (CC).
- AOB – Garmony Hydro (MF), IOM Ferry Company (MF), Community Land Scotland Conference (MF), BBC Out of Doors (MF) and Salen Resource Centre (SB).

2. Approve Minutes of 11th May 2015

- Matters arising – update on Mull and Iona Sustainable Transport: recruitment has been completed and resulted in a 3 person job share between Nancy Winfield, Terry Hegarty and Rebecca Lewis. SB commented that the interview process was very well managed and thanked the rest of the panel for their help.
- Mull and Iona Community Enterprise handover to continue, Moray progressing.
- Minor grammatical corrections were pointed out by RMcM to LP via email and corrected prior to the meeting.
- Approval of previous minutes proposed by CB & Seconded by AR.

3. Declarations of Interest

- MD informed the group she has been approached about joining the Argyll Community Empowerment board to represent Mull. She has not made a decision yet until she finds out more information but would appreciate support from MF and SB. MF and SB gave the board some background on Argyll Voluntary Action and Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network.
- MF and CB are now formally on the board for the GigaPlus Argyll cooperative company. MF is Chair and CB is Secretary.

4. Finance Update

4.1 Finance Report – VML informed the board via email prior to the meeting that there wasn't a finance report, however she added that there are no issues to be concerned about.

4.2 Membership Number is 295

- LP informed the board that since the latest newsletter was circulated, there are 6 new members and 11 renewals.

5. Personnel

5.1 Staff Appraisals – MF thanked BW for her contribution on this. MF and SB recently completed Sian Scott's appraisal. MD and HC are carrying out Jenny McDowall's appraisal on Wednesday 10th and MF and CC are completing Jan Dunlop's on 23 June. BW will slightly edit the wording of the email she sends out to directors to initiate the appraisal, to make it clear that the director must organise the time and place with the staff member and line manager. The board discussed what an appraisal consists of and how they are carried out, MF and SB assured the board that all appraisals are carried out under strict guidelines and follow a written procedure.

5.2 Pension Provision – VML updated the board via email prior to the meeting, that the auto enrolment process has started and will be finalised at the end of the month when she runs pay roll. Any glitches will be dealt with but in principal the staff are in the process of being consulted with and arrangements are being put in place for pension provision to be provided.

6. Special Items

- 6.1 Child Care Provision – MF gave some background on the topic. A meeting was convened in May with Alison Mackenzie the Principal Officer for Early Years in Argyll and Bute, Councillor Mary Jean Devon, several mothers with their children, a grandmother, young women without children and qualified early years practitioners. The outcome of the meeting was that we were discouraged from starting a nursery on Mull because it would not be financially sustainable due to the small number of children on the island. We were recommended to endorse people becoming registered childminders, which the council can offer grants towards and help with filling out application forms. MF offered to help anyone who wanted assistance with paperwork. A lot of the mothers at the meeting felt disappointed with the outcome of the meeting as they had professional ambitions beyond child minding. BW also suggested that the process of becoming a childminder is in fact very difficult. MF proposed that we ask someone who was at the meeting to do this briefing paper with MF to form a small steering group, look at a business case for how feasible a nursery actually is. MF asked for the board's views on spending up to £2K to prepare a high level feasibility study (from our core costs). The board were supportive and commented that addressing this type of issue is entirely consistent with our aims. MF said he felt confident that he could secure further funding with Investing in Ideas following the initial feasibility study. Having confirmed where the money would come from, all of the board were supportive of the work being carried out.

- 6.2 Ulva Ferry Housing and Directors Loan Agreement – MF updated the board that we are fast approaching the point where we believe we have a funding package in place and there is an aspiration to award a contract and start construction in the late summer, with tender documents currently being prepared. To avoid delays arising from sale of the plot to raise £35K as match funding, the Directors loan providers have confirmed their agreement that this amount will be repayable once the plot has been sold. MF gave thanks and appreciation to the director for their help.
- 6.3 MESS and Island Castaways – DC informed the board of his proposal which was circulated via email prior to the meeting. He suggested a reorganisation of the management structures were needed to allow new recycling and resource reduction projects to be started. MF suggested we need a post for someone to develop and revitalise MESS. AR suggested that Sustainable Mull and Iona are already tasked with that job. And agreed to raise this with SMI for their support. The focus would be on island wide reducing, reusing and recycling. We need to find funding to support a sustainability post. Action AR/MF
- 6.4 Press article and MICT staff – The board congratulated Jan Dunlop, our longest serving employee, on her 15 years of dedicated service with the Community Trust and had a discussion re the press article.
- 6.5 Terms of reference for steering groups – no progress
- 6.6 LPG supply – AR has spoken to Alan Cameron and who is very interested in the idea and already making his own plans. Further discussion needed with suppliers to check on technical feasibility at Salen Filling station.
- 6.7 MESS funding applications – MF circulated the MESS funding applications. AR declared a conflict of interest as he is related to one of the applicants. The board commented that not all of the columns were filled out indicating overall project costs. The board made a decision about each group's funding application. AR absented from decisions about the Science Club and Tobermory High School Transport. SB suggested we ask for clearer identification of project costs for the future, Hazel to address. MD absented from decisions on Mull Musical Minds. All were in agreement that the funding was highly geared towards children and agreed to give more to the older generation via Mull Musical Minds. MF will make final calculation. SB pointed out that education funding is suffering vast cuts and the point should be raised at Community Council. **Action HC/MF**
- 6.8 Tobermory Youth Hostel – CB gave an update, he is trying to set up a meeting with SYHA to get more detailed information. CB will create the A4 sized paper discussed at the last board meeting. SB will review it and AR will also take a look. There is no basis to make a decision yet.

7. Steering Group Reports

- 7.1 Mull Community Development Plan
- 7.2 MESS
- 7.3 Ulva Ferry LDO
- 7.4 Ulva Ferry Housing Partnership
- 7.5 **Ulva Ferry pontoon** – ongoing project risk. Hardening of attitude with funder. Meeting next week.
- 7.6 Ranger service
- 7.7 Sea Eagle partnership
- 7.8 Long distance path and viewpoint project
- 7.9 Community broadband
- 7.10 SMI
- 7.11 Mull Musical Minds
- 7.12 **Light Industrial Park Tobermory** – appreciation for Mairi Greig's hard work.
- 7.13 ACCESS Project

8. Discussion Items – Not discussed

- 8.1 Review issues list

9. Any Other Business –

- Garmony Hydro is up and running. MF thanked everyone involved from day 1. AR also thanked MF for his dedication at the start of the project which got it off the ground, and throughout.
- Salen Resource Centre is up for sale and had a closing date implying an Expression of Interest had been made. MF not aware if offer was made. Not progressed or followed up because there is not sufficient interest in the community to justify looking into it any further. Possibility of it becoming a nursery discussed. To re discuss in Autumn.
- Isle of Mull Ferry Company previously asked for and was given support in further investigation of a second boat on Oban Craignure route. A further meeting is to be arranged with Mull Community Council and MICT to understand the proposal more fully.
- Community Land Scotland Conference update. Very successful and inspirational.
- Out of Doors last Saturday. Amazing PR for the island and for Mull and Iona Community Trust. More articles in further shows. SB encouraged everyone on the board to listen.

10. Members Forum

No members present

Meeting closed at 22:00

The next Board Meeting will be held at An Roth on Monday 13th July 2015.

Signed

Name

Date