

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 210th Board Meeting
An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, on Monday 10th August 2015

Meeting Started at 19:30

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Caroline Wood (CW), Carolyne Charington (CC), Alexa Kershaw (AK), Rob MacManaway (RMCM) and Chris Baker (CB), Maureen Dehany (MD) and Derek Crook (DC).

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

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

- Chair, SB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.
- Apologies were received from Andrew Robertson (AR), Neal Goldsmith (NG) and Babs Whyte (BW)
- AOB – Managers report, COMAR, housing project, Scottish Government Cabinet Meeting, Graduate Internship and Succession Planning.

2. Approve Minutes of 13th July 2015

- Matters arising
 1. Nothing to report about LPG.
 2. Childcare – Sarah Fraser and Mhairi Nicholson now have contracts in place to look at feasibility of a nursery on Mull. Mhairi is on holiday on North Uist and will visit their nursery and give feedback. CW confirmed it was a brilliant set up, with a similar situation to Mull.
 3. DTAS Oil buying group – MF not looked into it yet. Carried forward, will report back after DTAS conference.
 4. MICE – more or less completed transition from Duncan Swinbanks, Barbara Weir and Susie Chalupa who have now resigned and MICT Directors BW and AR have taken over. The board asked several questions about the arrangement which MF answered. All financial issues have been resolved in writing. BW is ideally placed to represent schools' interest with the swimming pool.
- No corrections to previous minutes were noted.
- Approval of previous minutes proposed by RMCM & Seconded by CC

3. Declarations of Interest

- CB is now on the "shadow" COMAR board.

4. Finance Update

4.1 Prior to the meeting, Vanessa circulated a financial report showing the income and expenditure of An Roth. With Laura's work on the capacity building for An Roth an additional £937 has been generated in surplus funds over the past 3 months. The external rentals have been exceptionally low for the month of July but just above previous years for April to June. Left luggage has generated an additional £98 for An Roth with no overhead costs at all. Laura has secured a Health and Wellbeing grant of £406 to run a Mindfulness course at An Roth. MICT Projects are generating circa £1k of revenue each month by using the building for meetings, all of these costs have been recovered. Salary costs have been apportioned to An Roth from Core from April onwards and all other core costs have been taken out showing that An Roth is covering its costs.

There are outstanding figures from the Core costs which haven't been distributed yet.

SB commented that once Garmony Hydro's waterfall fund was set up, MICT would be able to apply for that funding.

The board discussed advertising An Roth to island businesses as a place to work, use the internet and make video calls.

4.2 Membership Number is 306

- New members: Jean Roth and Charlie Roth Strachan (Torloisk) plus 2 renewals.

4.3 Review of membership fees – Ordinary members are resident on the island and Associate members are off island. Proposal to change membership fees for Associate to £5 for 1 year, £20 for 5 years & £100 for a lifetime. A discussion was had about membership and pricing. MF asked LP to contact the bank to get a template standing order form which could be incorporated into the membership form. SB asked the board to do some research into how other charity membership schemes work financially. CC suggested getting the newsletter sponsored.

5. Personnel

5.1 Sam Jones' appraisal has been postponed. Preparations in hand for Emily Wilkins (MD – October) and Rachel French (CC – September).

6. Special Items

6.1 Replacement lease of Nissan Leaf

MF circulated a short paper via email prior to the meeting. Several board members made suggestions and commented on affordability. Everyone was in agreement that MF should not be the one to pay more. RMCM asked about VAT, MF confirmed there wasn't a VAT implication. The board discussed the running costs of the electric vehicle. The board noted that it is consistent with our strategy aims to continue with an electric car. The new lease will cost roughly £800 extra of two years. CC asked about sponsorship. The board unanimously agreed that MF should go ahead with getting the new vehicle and thought MF should look into sponsorship to help with the additional cost. The board agreed it was in the best interest of the charity and it would be detrimental to us to take it away.

6.2 MESS Sustainability Proposal

DC emailed a paper to the board prior to the meeting, which the board discussed. It was suggested that a funding application to Zero Waste Scotland could be made for funding of a sustainability manager's post. CC discussed Sustainable Tourism Manager role, it needs to be a paid position because of the amount of work needed. SB suggested Big Lottery to fund a post to do a mapping exercise. The board discussed coming up with a proposal for the SMI meeting. **MF, CC and CW** offered to help **DC, SB** and **RMcM** asked to be copied into the emails.

6.3 Community right to buy request from MCC

Craignure pier ownership – MF asked for the board's views on MICT submitting a community right to buy following the request from MCC. The board approved MF this. Would be easier to put community right to buy in place before it is up for sale. SB commented that it is possible that in the future council will consider selling off assets.

7. Steering Group Reports

- 7.1 Mull Community Development Plan – kicking off at Salen show with a questionnaire.
- 7.2 MESS – steering group meeting on 23rd August, difficulty with getting enough volunteers in Bunessan. MF said incomes are lowest they have been in 4 years. A report will be prepared for the September board meeting. It was noted that the steering group needs to be expanded.
- 7.3 Ulva Ferry – the board took a minutes silence in memory of Bert Leitch who passed away since the last board meeting. It was noted that the application to the M&S community fund was rejected for Ulva Ferry School solar panels. MF in talks with A&BC to seek their cooperation and support. Pontoon is progressing well t, the planning application has finally been validated. Community minibus – minibus has had a new clutch which was very expensive, there is a design defect with the back door and kill switch.
- 7.4 Ranger service – steering group meeting coming up
- 7.5 Sea Eagle partnership – the season will end shortly
- 7.6 Long distance path and viewpoint project – no update
- 7.7 Community broadband – signed contract.
- 7.8 SMI – not had meeting yet
- 7.9 Mull Musical Minds – ongoing. £3K grant from Santander. £379 raised at Bunessan show.
- 7.10 Light Industrial Park Tobermory – NFLS approval. Applications in for funding for development phase.
- 7.11 ACCESS Project – ongoing. Meeting next week.

8. Discussion Items – Not discussed

8.1 Review issues list

9. Any Other Business

- Manager's report – SB suggested MF gave other updates to the board that don't make it onto agenda. MF gave an update to the board on his recent work which included: he attended a forestry forum meeting , he has been to several RET meetings, a lobbying letter has been sent to Scottish Government describing the impact of changes at Westminster to incentives renewable energy projects will receive, ARTL took a study visit from South Loch Awe Community Development Trust with good feedback, Crerar Hotel group have launched a prize fund for intergenerational projects – a proposal needs to be written for the end of the month – CW and MD to be involved.
- COMAR – MF has attended meetings. Shadow board has been formed. MF has offered to advice the board and has put together a new draft constitution.
- Housing Project – had an estimate for what cost would be, 3-4 weeks ago this was increased making provision for contingency and cost escalations. 2 tenders received.
- Scottish Government Cabinet Meeting – in Oban on 24th and 25th. Tying in with a visit to Mull for various projects around island including GigaPlus Argyll.
- Graduate Internship – undergraduate intern started today, Thomas Buckle helping to put together a new ARTL website.
- Succession Planning – not discussed, to be discussed next time, **CC** to circulate a paper.
- Audit Scotland – SB attended an Audit Scotland meeting re Argyll and Bute Council.
- HMIE– inspections. DTA Scotland in discussion with how organisations like MICT report about the social outcomes of what they do. Measuring benefit to community.

10. Members Forum

No members present

Meeting closed at 22:00

The next Board Meeting will be held at An Roth on Monday 14th September 2015.

Signed

Name

Date