

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 212th Board Meeting
An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, on Monday 5th October 2015

Meeting Started at 19:30

Present: Sandy Brunton (SB), Caroline Wood (CW), Derek Crook (DC), Andrew Robertson (AR), Maureen Dehany (MD), Alexa Kershaw (AK) via Skype and Rob MacManaway (RMCM) via teleconference.

In Attendance: Moray Finch (MF) Vanessa MacLean (VML), Laura Percy (LP)

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

- Chair, SB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.
- Apologies were received from Carlyne Charington (CC), Babs Whyte (BW), Chris Baker (CB) and Neal Goldsmith (NG).
- Any Other Business: none

2. Approve Minutes of 14th September 2015

- Matters arising: MF spoke to CC about deputy manager/assistant/sustainability manager – going to try speak again before AGM.
- MF informed that the Intergenerational project proposal has made it through to the shortlist of 4. Sian Scott, NG and MF are going to Glasgow on 13th Nov – MF feeling optimistic. Going to include pupil's work from Lochdonhead Primary School in their presentation. MF is going to take electric car down to Glasgow, new rapid charge points make the journey a lot better. MF credited Sian Scott for all her hard work.
- VML showed the board Mally Gower's blog and updated them on her progress.
- MF updated the board on COMAR – he chaired a public meeting and the outcome is that there are now 4 reps from community on the transition board which will run between now and AGM in November, at which those 4 new directors will stand for election and 1 existing board member will stand down. Professional mediator has been helping to seek out common ground. COMAR is changing their membership structure. MF has now stepped back from the situation after helping. SB congratulated MF for stepping in at a difficult time and producing good results.
- Corrections to previous minutes: NG's declaration of interest relating to the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract. LP to include pa after £3000 for gift aid forecast.
- Approval of previous minutes proposed by AR & Seconded by CW

3. Declarations of Interest

- None to declare.

4. Finance Update

4.1 Finance report – VML emailed the board a financial report – with notes. First draft of 6 month report has some figures missing but still looks promising for the year ahead. SB commented on the potential for storage containers in Tobermory and asked about the potential for us to have more at the Gantry site. SB asked about alternative bank accounts for building the reserve regarding interest, at the moment it is in a Unity Trust savings account. DC asked about the Ulva Ferry bus expense claims – VML said there were 2 claims for driver's salaries and mileage which have not gone in yet. SB congratulated those who look after the finances.

MF pointed out that the issues list has not been reviewed, despite being on the agenda each month. MF suggested it was sent out with meeting's paper and is regularly reviewed.

4.2 Membership Number is 307

- New members: none. But several renewals following GEM AGM. MF asked about Sarah Fraser and Mairi Nicholson's membership. LP has not yet processed these memberships and so weren't on the database when she checked the numbers. Will update this week.
- 4.3 Review of membership fees – research from directors. DC commented that other membership schemes didn't seem comparable. SB passed around other membership flyers. MF and SB discussed the fees and membership. MF suggested asking for financial support from members on specific projects. Decision – single rate on and off island, tick box for friends, disclaimer about privacy, friends option. Gift aid tick box, standing order. No tick box asking for support. LP/VML/MF to circulate amended draft of membership form prior to AGM for a decision to be made.

5. Personnel

5.1 Staff reviews – MD doing Emily Wilkins' appraisal tomorrow.

6. Special Items

6.1 Paper on shortage of skilled trades persons (RMCM) – to be brought up in December.

6.2 Preparations for AGM (ALL), Identify a "Master of Ceremonies" (BW) – Ryan Lowe has agreed to be master of ceremonies. The board approved for the AGM to be changed slightly this year to focus more on MICT's own achievements, helping more people understand what we do.

6.3 National Living Wage (All) CONFIDENTIAL – Laura was asked to leave the room whilst this was discussed.

6.4 DTAS Oil Buying Scheme (MF/SB) email of 25 Sept refers – AR asked if there was a conflict of interest with MICT's green aims and objectives? MF to investigate the potential market, cost savings and income MICT could generate. All of the board were interested in finding out more.

- 6.5 MESS funding applications – decisions were made for all the applications. Comment was made on how the third sector was having to fund the public sector. All accepted the proposal as it was.
- 6.6 Scottish Communities Reinvestment Trust (DC) email 29 September refers – the board looked at the website. DC recommended we join. SB recommended we look into joining.
- 6.7 Manager's report (MF). SB has agreed to attend the DEC. CC and CW would like to come along to meet Mike Russell MSP. Will also talk about childcare infrastructure issue, funding for schools, paths, RET, Ulva Ferry housing, council cuts, library.

7. Steering Group Reports

- 7.1 Mull Community Development Plan – MF updated the board on the successful school visits.
- 7.2 MESS – Craignure: Hazel managed to get funding for Jenny and John to do PAT testing. Buy and Sell Facebook page has affected the amount of stock coming into the shop. Bunessan: progress maintained. Van replacement discussed, if we have resources we should look into funding for new bus. Bunessan broadband issue discussed.
- 7.3 Ulva Ferry – local development officer: concern in medium term is HIE funding for 3rd year starting in March 2016, initially required MICT to contribute 50% of cost, after discussion there was vague impression that if we could raise £5-6K that would be ok, in absence of photovoltaic project collapsing there is no funding. Kirsten Logue from HIE coming to meet MF to discuss. £12k shortfall. Housing partnership: negotiating with 1 tenderer, architect and QS are in discussion re saving money and reducing costs. Architect has identified that Passive House certification in Scotland only requires energy efficient wood-burning stove to be compliant. Application that Helen put in for Quaker Housing has had a positive initial response. Construction won't be underway until after Christmas. HIE might be able to help with revenue for Helen's position. Cally Fleming sent SB an update on new planning consents, capital expenditure can't take place until planning consent granted.
- 7.4 Ranger service – nothing to report.
- 7.5 Sea Eagle partnership – meeting tomorrow
- 7.6 Long distance path and viewpoint project – not had a meeting in a while.
- 7.7 SMI – no one on board at meeting
- 7.8 Mull Musical Minds – got money for the next year. Growing all the time.
- 7.9 Light Industrial Park Tobermory – steering group meeting at end of Sept. Baliscate discussed, confirmed by planning that it is NOT for housing. Before discounting Ardmore, valuation of Baliscate needs to be presented. Alternative plan at Baliscate. SB commented that he would like more communication from this steering group regarding the project and any potential changes.
- 7.10 ACCESS Project – community engagement events happening and formal sign up process. Installations in late October/November.
- 7.11 MIST – new Nissan Leaf has arrived.

8. Discussion Items

- 8.1 Review issues list. MF brought up several points which were discussed.

9. Any Other Business

AR – Questions about Ulva Ferry Transport. AR to discuss with MF separately.

10. Members Forum

No members present

Meeting closed at 22:06

The next Board Meeting will be held at An Roth on Monday 9th November (AGM).

Signed

Name

Date