

**Mull and Iona Community Trust**  
**Minutes for the 269th Board Meeting**  
**Via Zoom - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

**Actions from Board Meeting**

*Meeting started at 7.00 pm*

**By Zoom:** Sandy Brunton (SB), Rob MacManaway (RM), Sue Hawkes (SH), Barry Whenman (BW), Derek Crook (DC), Hayley Gray (HG), Heather Waller (HW), Elizabeth Ferguson (EF), Joe Reade (JR), Ian Jones (IJ)

**Apologies:** no apologies

**In Attendance:** Moray Finch (MF), Mairi Greig (MG)

**Notes from directors not present:** None

1. MF/MG to prepare and submit 21 applications to BSG

## 1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

Sandy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Further applications for Business Support Grant

### 2.1. Background

MG summarised the background to the Business Support Grant (BSG) in relation to Nonhebel Park. MG confirmed that MICT does benefit from Charitable relief which is one of the qualifying criteria for eligibility for the BSG. It was also noted that Charitable relief was added to the list of qualifying criteria only after the fund was launched.

### 2.2. Guidance and advice

SB asked those who have obtained advice from external sources to summarise.

- 2.2.1. MF confirmed that our Account Manager at HIE was very clear that MICT should apply for everything possible as "the tough times have not yet started" and was unequivocal MICT should maximise applications for support
- 2.2.2. HG noted that the written advice from SCVO was balanced between financial and moral perspectives and not leading. HG confirmed that A&BC confirmed that technically we could apply for all 21 properties and also highlighted the phrase in the application form "*Businesses are encouraged to refrain from claiming additional grant support unless absolutely necessary and, when making this determination, to consider on the Scheme's objectives above. Protect jobs, Prevent business closure, Promote economic recovery*"
- 2.2.3. RM noted that the advice from DTAS was to apply for all grants, and that they could see no reason not to do so. Advice from TSI similar advice but clear that the decision lies with the MICT Board. Advice from OSCR confirmed responsibility lay with the Board

### 2.3. Questions and discussion

- 2.3.1. IJ asked whether the BSG fund is capped and whether a successful application would disadvantage other bidders. MF noted that the guidance information about the fund does not state a financial limit. However, the deadline for the fund has been advanced from March 2021 to 10 July 2020 suggesting that there is an unpublished spending cap.
- 2.3.2. HW asked whether any grant awarded would be ring-fenced for Nonhebel Park? MF noted that the BSG would not be Restricted Funds
- 2.3.3. MG shared a spreadsheet summary of the BSG funds awarded across Scotland taken from the Scottish Governments website. This noted as at 16 June that 2,987 grants have been awarded in A&B, totalling £31.61m out of a total across Scotland of 77,424 grants totalling £875.41m
- 2.3.4. The Board thanked HG for the analysis of the MICT cashflow projection which had been circulated prior to the meeting. HG noted that income from Ardura is deferred and not lost compared to MESS income which will not be recovered
- 2.3.5. DC noted that MICT must remain operational to be able to benefit from the deferred Ardura income
- 2.3.6. The board discussed the latest report regarding the prospect of opening Castaways and the likely income levels compared to current projections.
- 2.3.7. RM that some of the money (maybe the 16 grants for storage containers) be kept aside so that in the event of MICT doing well we could return some of the grant.

### 2.4. Decision

- 2.4.1. In turn, the board in turn confirmed their view and the reasoning for that view and there were only 2 favoured options:
- 2.4.2. HG and EF voted for applying for BSG for the 5 business and storage units
- 2.4.3. IJ, DC, HW, SH, JR, RM, BW and SB voted for applying for the maximum, 5 business and storage units and all 16 storage containers
- 2.4.4. The staff were authorised to prepare and submit all 21 BSG applications

2.4.5. HG requested reassurance that efforts continue to secure earned and other sources of income to cover core costs whether these applications are successful or not. This was agreed by all present.

3. **Extension of staff contract**

MG provided background information to the proposal previously circulated by email. The proposal was discussed by the Board. MF clarified that the additional 3 months would be split approximately 2/3 : 1/3 between the Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities Project and Core funding. The board agreed the 3 month extension of contract.

4. **Approval of WEEE grant offer**

After short discussion of the information circulated prior to the meeting, the Board approved acceptance of the grant

5. **Plan for re-opening Castaways**

The board briefly discussed the paper describing re-opening Castaways which had been submitted earlier in the day of the meeting.

DC requested that the decision on proposals for opening Castaways be forwarded to BH to brief the Bunessan volunteers

HG approved and DC seconded purchase of PPE, equipment and consumable items in readiness for opening of Castaways

6. **AOB**

None

*Meeting closed at 8.25pm*

*The next scheduled board meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.*

**Signed**

**Name**            **Sandy Brunton**

**Date**

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