

**Mull and Iona Community Trust**  
**Minutes for the 283rd Board Meeting**  
**Via Zoom - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

*Meeting started at 7.30 pm*

**By Zoom:** Sandy Brunton (SB), Rob MacManaway (RM) Barry Whenman (BW), Jane Griffiths (JG), John Innes (JI), Derek Crook (DCr), Robert Cameron (RC), Gary Wiltshire (GW), Sue Hawkes (SH) David James Currie (DJC), Heather Waller (HW), John Maughan (JM),

**Apologies:** none

**In Attendance:** Moray Finch (MF), Mairi Greig (MG), Kathryn Dyer (KD) and Pamela Venters (PV).

**1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB**

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introduction of Kathryn Dyer to Trustees – Kathryn will be taking minutes.

MF notified of proposal from David Fell re Craig Ben to discuss.

SB acknowledges good news of late, with many successful funding applications. MF & MG summarise all grants and awards.

**1.1. Election of Officers**

SB nominated for Convener. RC proposed and HW seconded. All in favour.

HW invited to stand again for Vice Convener. All in favour.

RM nominated for Treasurer. SB proposed and BW seconded. All in favour.

Currently no Company Secretary (not required as per our Articles). MF recommends that we have a Company Secretary. BW nominated. JM proposed and JI seconded. All in favour.

**2. Approve Minutes – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Actions 2.1.2. Links had been sent around, but still listed as an action.

RM proposed and JI seconded.

**2.1 Review actions from previous minutes**

Item 1; Completed

Item 2; carry over from previous minutes

Item 3; on agenda tonight

Item 4; on agenda tonight

Item 5; Pennyghael Schoolhouse Steering group has met.

Item 6; Completed.

No other matters arising.

**3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties**

SB reminded everyone that they are attached to the agenda and if anyone has any change in circumstance to please let MF know.

**4. Finance**

**4.1 Standing Committee Report** (SB, RM, JI, MF, PV, MG)

PV confirmed that the Finance Committee met on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we discussed how we classify charitable activities on the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) as per SORP (Statement of Recommended Practise). The reporting of different activities may have been incorrect in the past, and we will work with our accountant and auditor to ensure accurate. There is no material difference in the figures; only in the way they're reported and interpreted.

**4.2 Finance Reporting**

Up to date figures have been added to the budget v actuals report with accurate positions and notes to show any changes.

**4.3 Approval of use of designated funds – Pennyghael Schoolhouse refurb**

It is noted that the funds designated for the Pennyghael Schoolhouse refurb (approved in July meeting) are now being used for this purpose.

**4.4 Membership Numbers and Donations**

**Actions from Board Meeting**

1. MG to ask JW to prepare paper on childcare.
2. MF/HMD - House Purchase with Rural Housing Burden proposal. Housing Steering Group to meet to discuss further to prepare proposal.
3. RC to be co-opted once he steps down from the board.
4. MF to contact DF, Craig Ben to set up meeting.

We have 6 new members since the last meeting.  
Donations have been recorded.

## **5. HR and Policies**

### **5.1 Staff Reviews – Update**

See Deputy Manager's report.

### **5.2 Policy Reviews – Covid 19 policies**

Slight changes to this policy. MG has updated to reflect current guidance, and stronger wording adopted to encourage regular lateral flow testing. Amended policy proposed by JI and GW seconded.

## **6. Strategy**

### **6.1 Strategy Standing Committee (SB, JR, BW, GW, MF)**

SB – Nothing to report.

GW – next stage is to use strategy and integrate it into the budget planning for next year and GW will stay involved and available.

Once budgets are set, and projects have clear medium term and short-term operational planning process which links to the strategy, which in turn will tie into the monthly reports in the next financial year for each of the working areas.

## **7.0 Special Items**

### **7.1 Recurring Actions List**

SB Budgeting only issue due.

RM licencing for Ulva Ferry Seabed is getting near to being extended.

### **7.2 General Manager's Report**

SB recognised clear effort by Moray and Mairi.

Query from SB to MF on number 14 to clarify that the Calgary toilets procurement is for a septic tank, as the existing tank is not up to the challenge faced by the Calgary loos.

Query from GW regarding the amount of money taken in at Ulva Ferry Pontoons. MF clarified that amount is lower due to the number of visiting yachts declines this time of year.

MF re item 37, septic tank at Ulva Ferry Houses . We are awaiting a report from the septic tank services to facilitate dialogue between main contractor and architects. Currently we only have verbal information.

SB posed a question regarding the use of the wood being milled. MF stated that wood will be taken to Sgriob Ruadh in Tobermory. Jan Dunlop, who has taken over the management of the project, will organise transport and oversee the construction of flatpack sections of composting toilet and forest school shelter.

### **Deputy General Manager's Report**

MG states Out of School Care Trial is challenging and she is working to support the co-ordinator, and working with business skills apprentice is taking time due to Council's IT challenges.

SH asks for agenda item to be added to January's or February's meeting regarding Out of School care and issues that this program faces, as funds cannot be spent because we cannot carry out a proper trial. MG will ask Jo Wood to prepare a more detailed paper for the board.

### **7.3 Fundraising Officer's Report**

GW - work on the fundraising development plan (item 8) has been paused due to Sian's workload and the information needed until KD and PV can help.

### **7.4 Due Diligence for Donations Policy**

Item has been completed and should not have been included in agenda.

### **7.5 Approval of Grant Funding Offers –**

**Island Communities Fund grant email 7/11/21 (electric minibus)** JI proposed, RM seconded

**Nationwide Building Society (Housing Manager)** JG proposed, RC seconded

**Plugged in Communities Grant (electric MPV)** DC proposed, JM seconded

**CARES Net Zero Communities (Solar PV for Nonhebel Park)** BW proposed, HW seconded

**Healthy Islands Fund** HW proposed, RM seconded

**Together for our Planet** JI proposed, RC seconded

**Inspiring Scotland (Key Worker Accommodation Feasibility)** DC proposed, JM seconded

### **7.6 House Purchase with Rural Housing Burden proposal**

MF updates that there have been a few meetings, but there is no proposal yet. This item will be deferred until the January meeting.

### **7.7 Aros Park Historic Walled Garden**

No questions raised. DC proposed JI seconded.

### **7.8 Special Item: Robbie Cameron**

SB raises point that RC will be moving to the mainland, but as he will be maintaining a croft on Mull, MF suggests that RC is co-opted onto the board as his knowledge is valuable. RM proposed and JG seconded motion that RC is co-opted once he steps down from the board.

## **8.0 Steering Group Reports submitted in advance, discussed as noted below:**

### **8.1 Ardura**

SB queries the extra timber weight that is on the report. MF clarifies that the first area that was completed, tonnage is 20% higher than had been predicted, so financial return should be higher as well. Estimates made at the time were conservative as access was limited. MF confirms that the price per tonne is fixed.

### **8.2 Community Wellbeing**

No questions raised.

### **8.3 Childcare project**

SB points raised in report give a good indication of the issues Mull faces; SH points to geography as a main issue. HW agrees that distances and need for transport create a huge difficulty. Mobile service suggested by SB. JI suggested in-house centres, training within villages to provide services, i.e., registered childminders. SH states that recruiting interested people is the issue in this case. Brainstorming suggested for next meeting by HW.

### **8.4 Nonhebel Park, Tobermory (MG)**

No questions raised.

### **8.5 MESS (HC)**

SB queries whether restrictions will need to come back into place. DCr suggests that we should be prepared, and to expect a lower income from MESS in the coming months.

### **8.6 Ulva Ferry Housing (HMCD)**

No questions raised.

### **8.7 Ulva Ferry pontoon and shore facilities (CF)**

**8.8** Outcome of major funding application due later in December, with potential back up options. If these are unsuccessful, we would then consider reviewing scope. **Ulva Ferry Community Transport (MF/JM)**

No questions raised. Ewan Baxter is delighted with the new vehicle.

### **8.9 Ranger Service & Eagle Partnership (JD & EW)**

. MF clarified that varied and changing funding sources have meant changing responsibilities.

### **8.10 Data Research (HW)**

No questions raised.

### **8.12 Mull Community Council, Iona Community Council Reports**

SB queries point about 50% off travel on transport for schools. JM will find out if this is only for vehicles.

Since report was submitted, the MCC has scheduled a public engagement session on 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm to invite community feedback on education proposals. Bank of Scotland van has decided to stop coming to Mull permanently.

RM states that 50% of funding has been agreed for the community heating scheme

### **9.0 Discussion items**

No other items.

### **10.0 Any other business**

**Craig Ben Lodge** It was agreed to meet with David Fell to find out more about his plans for potential apprenticeships on Mull. MF to contact DF to set up an exploratory discussion.

*Meeting closed at 9.30pm*

*The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30 pm via Zoom. Date later changed to 17<sup>th</sup> January.*

**Signed**

**Name**            **Sandy Brunton**

**Date**

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