

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 283rd Board Meeting
Via Zoom - Monday 17th January 2022

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), Gary Wiltshire (GW), Sue Hawkes (SH) David James Currie (DJC), John Maughan (JM (Joined late)

Apologies: Heather Waller (HW), Robert Cameron (RC)

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

Actions from Board Meeting

1. MESS steering group to discuss surplus percentage given to community groups
2. GW to prepare paper on Gift Aid
3. MF and DCr to arrange meeting re possible area for units.

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed. Apologies from HW and RC, JM may join later if work allows. No other business.

2. Approve Minutes – Monday 13th December 2021

Corrections noted and made. JI proposed and BW seconded.

2.1 Review actions from previous minutes

Item 1; Paper completed – on this agenda.

Item 2; Housing group did meet – paper on this agenda

Item 3; RC has been co-opted.

Item 4; MF replied to DF, but DF has not responded.

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)

No report from committee this month.

4.2 Finance Reporting

PV nothing of issue to report. Working on budget template currently. MG states new template will be integrated into a new reporting format once it's applied; automatically Sage data to relevant project reporting.

SB clarified that Finance Standing Committee will be looking at that before the next meeting, and FSC will be making a recommendation based on the budget meeting. Board will then be asked to clarify, question, and then approve budget.

4.3 Membership Numbers and Donations

We have 1 new member since the last meeting. MF confirms that we now have 400 individual members. New member is very generously creating a monthly standing order to donate to MICT each month.

Systems are in place to allow the organisation to claim back Gift Aid on a regular basis. 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

n/a

5.3 Staff Salary Review

KD left the meeting during the discussion. Proposal for a cost of living rise in salaries for all staff in line with the living wage increase. SH proposes, DC seconded. All in favour.

KD re-joined the meeting.

6. Strategy

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

GW suggests that the next step is to work back from the strategy to produce 1 & 3-year operational plans. Proposing discussions with MG and MF to determine future of this group.

It was agreed that this was no longer needed as a regular agenda item.

7.0 Special Items

7.1 Recurring Actions List

Since leaving the EU, the name has changed from state aid to public subsidy rules, but the definitions remain similar. As none of our grants distort trade between member states, it was agreed to remove item 23 from the recurring actions as it's no longer relevant.

Jl: Item 2: Percentage of MESS surplus to community groups. This is reviewed annually and agreed by the MESS Steering group. To be added to the next MESS meeting agenda. DC added that additional publicity about the funds are required.

7.2 General Manager's Report

Defib report rises ire/questions.

MF: insulation on the rest of the water pipe at Ulva Ferry as weather turns colder. Need another work party in the coming weeks to get protective cover on; SB, Jl, JG, DJC all interested, and MF will put a message out to UF group and tenants.

DCr asks about point 8. MF clarifies that this related to the funding for Car Park and Motorhome stances development.

Potential Ishriff Forest purchase. MF states high valuation and particulars made it untenable.

JM arrives.

MF: Community transport project is currently running without a director on the steering group, needed for due diligence and board oversight when making decisions. . DJC is happy to be a part of the steering group.

Discussion re ferries - MF points out that issues are in the control of various groups, not just one, so we should support the Ferry Committee as much as we can, but there is not really a role for MICT in the decision-making processes. JM states that there is no representative of Mull on the Calmac Communities board which is detrimental. SB reiterates that this is not in our remit, but we can individually write to the Ferry Committee and to politicians with our concerns.

GW: number 10 – conscious of nursing care home should be part of a multi-option provision for health and social care on the island. As an organisation, we should not neglect this issue, and we need to address it in conversations.

Number 17: Facilities management post- will it be included in time for the annual budget for next year? MF recognises that it needs to be done soon. GW states there are a lot of options about how the positions could be funded.

Deputy General Manager's Report

Nonhebel Park, real success that should be highlighted in the press and could be replicated elsewhere. MG added, official opening with dignitaries and Nohebel family can hopefully take place soon.

MG highlights staffing changes with a member of staff leaving before the end of their contract period. Another member of staff taking medical leave for surgery. These absences will impact on other members of staff.

7.3 Fundraising Officer's Report

Sian is experiencing a continuing high level of success.

7.4 Due Diligence for Donations Policy

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

7.5 Childcare Discussion

MG summarised the report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

SH - due to the temporary nature of the trial, it is a self-perpetuating problem. Without a long-term, permanent plan, people will not commit. Funds are also an issue. Geography of Mull and Iona means that we need to have local solutions. We need to find a sustainable solution in each settlement area. Childminding is still the best, most local solution. It is local to each area, and it can create a more sustainable career. It will be vital to get the trial end surveys out to get the data to the Scottish Government; this will allow us to understand why people did not use the care offered through the trial. Survey will be sent in a digital format through the primary schools.

GW notes that from a Board member's perspective, childcare is such a huge issue that we need to continue to try finding an answer. Report shows that trial has reinforced what we already knew. Re need, MG reinforces that there is definite need, particularly for pre school age but that we have been focused on primary age care.. MG states that meeting last week with the Scottish Government was positive, and that the learning is valuable, even though the participating numbers are small.

7.6 Approval for hosting a water fountain at An Roth

JG proposes, RM seconds.

7.7 Approval of application – A&B Supporting Communities Fund, Ranger Service

. DCr proposed, Jl seconded.

7.8 Rural Housing Burden Proposal for approval (MF/SB/RC/JM/DC)

SB introduces paper written by HM. MF asks for questions.

GW -timescale seems optimistic. MF clarifies that tonight Board needs to approve so that the ball can start rolling, so the timescale may not be relevant to decision.

JG and JI state that this report is very detailed and that they support it. JG proposed, JM seconded. All in favour.

GW would like it noted that board considers that we not only look at providing something affordable, but something that is in the best living condition it can be in and energy efficient.. Secondly, we should **consider** supporting opportunities even if there is a cost to MICT, but to be aware that we are spending money. Third, arrangements like this could be included in a Gift Aid claim. In the future, we should make this known, and we should be using Gift Aid as a selling proposition to attract future properties. GW to prepare a summary on the opportunity to claim Gift Aid.

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

8.1 Ardura

MF clarified second harvesting machine expected onsite by early February. On that basis, harvesting should be complete before bird nesting season in April. MF states that if there is interest, he can lead a walk to show the board this asset. Everyone is interested in joining. MF suggests staff be invited as well. JM brings up possibility of archaeology study on the site.

8.2 Ardura Community Wellbeing Project

No questions raised.

8.3 Childcare/Out of School Care project

No questions raised.

8.4 Nonhebel Park, Tobermory (MG)

. MG clarifies that lease allows for month-to-month continuation beyond initial lease period, unless terminated. JI suggests longer term, are there other parts of the island where we might be able to set up similar?. DCr suggests an area, MF and DCr to arrange a site visit. Option to extend the facilities at NP are already being explored.

8.5 MESS (HC)

SB notes positive report from HC. DCr brings up the inadequacy of the current van (range and space are both too low). MF will be happy to help resolve this problem.

8.6 Housing (HMCD)

No questions raised.

8.7 Ulva Ferry pontoon and shore facilities (CF)

Good news that a large grant has been awarded for shore facilities building.

8.8 Ulva Ferry Community Transport (MF/JM)

No questions raised.

8.9 Ranger Service & Eagle Partnership (JD & EW)

SB requested that budgetary information is shown more clearly to help identify any shortfalls.

8.10 Data Research (HW)

SB notes that he doesn't have many expenses. JG is impressed with Harry – he's doing a great job.

8.12 Mull Community Council, Iona Community Council Reports

JM's report hadn't been received by everyone, so JM will resend. Discussion re possible additional supermarket deliveries to the island being looked at by the community council. Council issue.

Iona RM: Only new issue is education change programme proposals and correspondence.

9.0 Discussion items

No other items.

10.0 Any other business

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday 14th February 2022 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

Signed

Name Sandy Brunton

Date
