

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 283rd Board Meeting
Via Zoom - Monday 11th April 2022

Meeting started at 7.30 pm

By Zoom: Sandy Brunton (SB), Sue Hawkes (SH), David James Currie (DJC), Jane Griffiths (JG), Derek Crook (DCr), Robert Cameron (RC), Barry Whenman (BW), John Innes (JI), and Gary Wiltshire (GW)

Apologies: Heather Waller (HW), John Maughan (JM), and Rob MacManaway (RM)

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

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed. Apologies noted.

GW would like to discuss Steering Group reports and frequency of Board meetings if time allows.

Approve Minutes – Monday 14th March 2022

2.1 Approval of previous minutes

No corrections noted. BW proposed, JG seconded.

2.2 Review actions from previous minutes

Item 1; budget contingency -still to be done.

Item 2; Done.

Item 3; Ardura surpluses - done, but hard proposals need to be formulated. MG/MF/PV to discuss and put forward proposals.

Item 4; Aquaculture - it was agreed that the Board will not volunteer an opinion supporting either side as MICT is not a statutory organisation.

Item 5; Land acquisition - done

Item 6; MICT leadership roles - the discussion has started; MG and MF will produce role descriptions.

Item 7; house rent increases - done

Other matters arising: Moray Finch wants to discuss the Cash Platform (see item 4.1 below).

3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties

SB reminded everyone that declarations of interest 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)

The Subgroup has met to discuss the cash platform and have moved forward and signed up with the Charities Aid Foundation. The account is now open. MG, MF, and PV have been discussing logistics surrounding issues that surround banking and minimising risk of losing investments. Proposals will be forwarded to the committee about how investments are handled. DCr proposed, and JI seconded that these actions to open the Charities Aid Foundation are supported.

MF proposed the following procedure:

Senior staff team make recommendations for deposits within the cash platform to the Finance Committee for approval. A narrative would accompany this recommendation.

The recommended action is implemented by the senior staff team.

The decision of the Finance Committee would be ratified by the full Board at the next Board meeting. DCr proposed; BW seconded.

4.2 Finance Reporting

No questions.

MF updated on the Detailed Departmental Report that is being produced; it's not complete yet but it is progressing.

4.3 Membership numbers and donations

Two new members.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Staff Reviews – Update

See Deputy Manager's report.

5.2 Policy Reviews –

No policy reviews to report.

Actions from Board Meeting

1. MF and MG to look at ways to record contingency amounts in the budget – c/f
2. MF/HMcD to further discussions with A&BC re vacant house - c/f
3. MF/MG/PV will formulate proposals for Ardura surplus deposit
4. MF & MG will produce role descriptions for possible new positions
5. MF to speak to RF about organising an Ardura WB steering group meeting
6. MF and HMcD will look at options to help Pennyghael tenants with their plumbing issues
7. GW/MF/SH/SB/DJC/MG to form short-term working group to discuss steering groups and board meeting schedules
8. MG to create a TEAMS chat or thread to discuss 25th anniversary of MICT
9. GW to investigate the donations policy update.

6.0 This section intentionally left blank.

7.0 Special Items

7.1 Recurring Actions List

Nothing that needed to be dealt with.

7.2 General Manager's Report

SB reports that there is interest in obtaining a Defibrillator for Salen Bay Campsite.

9C: Discussion about risk from lease agreements. Not exclusive agreements, so there is little to no risk involved.

9D: Comments made regarding the enormous cost for charging points.

10: Pontoon rights and licensing fee with Marine Scotland question answered.

13: There is still insulation to fit on water pipe at Ulva Ferry; no date set but within the next couple of months volunteers will be welcome.

28: Appin Trust Visit - no Board involvement necessary, but Board members are welcome to join. SB encouraged Board involvement.

NESOI application is due for final decision in June; we have passed first decision gate and initial assessment had a decent score.

Application has moved to the next stage which is encouraging news.

Deputy General Manager's Report

No questions raised.

7.3 Fundraising Officer's Report

No questions raised.

7.4 Strategic Development and Partnership Manager discussion

MF reported that discussion has been valuable to help looking to next 8 years in terms of how all positions at MICT interact and perform together. MF and MG to discuss possible new position and job descriptions further.

7.5 Council Elections - Hustings

MF reported that date has been fixed – Wednesday, 27 April – at Craignure Village Hall. Nine candidates have accepted so far. It is planned to be a hybrid event (online and in person). There is a time target of 2 hours, so time management will be difficult. Chair has not been specified as of yet, nor has a sound/tech engineer been found.

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

8.1 Ardura (MF)

One question raised regarding the delays and replanting. MF answered that the delay will make things more challenging, but TreeStory are pushing things to be completed.

8.2 Ardura Community Wellbeing Project (RF)

SB notes that this is going from strength to strength. SH commented that the Steering Group should schedule a meeting soon. MF noted that JD and RF are arranging work parties for the last Sunday of every month, and it will be good if everyone can get involved in these work parties.

8.3 Childcare/Out of School Care project (JW)

No questions raised. The final report will be circulated once it's available.

8.4 Nonhebel Park, Tobermory (MG)

Some of the unauthorised items have been removed; work on finding owners of other items is continuing so that removal can proceed.

8.5 MESS (HC)

No questions raised. No report as HC was on holiday. DCr noted that new customers have descended on Bunessan.

8.6 Housing (HMCD)

Question raised about plumbing at Pennyghael – is it still ongoing? Is there any recourse for getting compensation from plumber, and can we then pass on compensation to the tenants? All agreed that the solution needs to be found as soon as possible. MF and HMCD will investigate solutions.

Question about property near Salen being put on the open market and without a Rural Housing Burden. MF explained why that decision was taken, due to the mortgage-ability of the property and lack of other options.

8.7 Ulva Ferry pontoon and shore facilities (CF)

One question regarding the Storax Ulbha withdrawal. Discussion followed about whether this will help the project.

8.8 Ulva Ferry Community Transport (MF/JM)

Nothing raised. No report as EB was on holiday.

8.9 Ranger Service including Eagle Partnership & Friends of Calgary Bay (JD & EW)

No questions raised.

8.10 Data Research (HW)

No questions raised.

8.11 Mull Community Council, Iona Community Council Reports (JM & RM)

No questions raised.

9.0 Discussion items

There seems to be overlap on reports; is there a way to combine or make these reports more efficient?

Board meetings: proposed that there are fewer Board meetings, but more Steering Group meetings. What is the best way to begin this discussion? GW/MF/SH/SB/DJC/MG to form short-term working group to discuss.

25 Years of MICT. MG updated FB Banner. No other plans currently to celebrate. Ideas including a press release, a ceilidh, interviews, and bumper newsletter were put forward. SB suggested that a thread or email conversation should begin to involve the whole board. MG to create a TEAMS chat.

10.0 Any other business

One question posed: has the donations policy been updated? GW will find out what has happened and update the Board.

Holding a face-to-face meeting was discussed, including a meeting on Iona. If we need to cancel quickly, a meeting on Iona may be untenable. It was agreed that a face-to-face meeting will be scheduled for next month, with a Zoom element for those who are not able to attend.

Meeting closed at 9.34 pm

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30 pm in person and via Zoom.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
