

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 291st Board Meeting
Via Zoom - Monday 11th July 2022

Meeting started at 7.30 pm

By Zoom: Robert Cameron (RC), Sue Hawkes (SH), Rob MacManaway (RM), Sandy Brunton (SB), John Innes (JI), and Barry Whenman (BW), and Derek Crook (DCr)

Apologies: John Maughan (JM) as running late, Jane Griffiths (JG), Heather Waller, Dave Currie (DJC) and Mairi Greig (MG)

In Attendance: Pamela Venters (PV), Moray Finch (MF), Ian Jones (IJ)

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed. Welcome Ian, who is deciding whether to re-join the Board.

DCr joined the meeting.

Most Directors now have a MICT email account, but there are issues with access and integration that are being worked on.

DCr left the meeting due to connectivity issues.

Discussion about having rotating staff members join the board meetings for more in-depth discussion about their project from time to time. SB asked if this would be an appropriate use of staff time. The meeting would stretch to 21:45 to allow this more detailed discussion within Steering Groups section on the agenda.

NWMCWC update added to AOB.

Approve Minutes – Monday 13th June 2022

2.1 Approval of previous minutes

7.4 missing a word. MF added. PV was listed as attending and in apologies. She was not in attendance, MF has corrected. RC proposed; RM seconded.

2.2 Review actions from previous minutes

Item 1; Completed.

Item 2; Completed. There has been publicity about registering with Home Argyll but no results have been noted.

Item 3; Completed. Caroline Cherry, Health and Social Care Partnership Head of Adult Services and Chair of the HSCP Care Homes & Housing Group, has agreed to meet with MF, but no contact has been made yet.

Item 4; Grant conditions have been clarified as being exclusively for UFCT and offer letter has been changed. Completed.

Item 5; A response is being drafted and will be sent once Housing Officer is back.

Item 6; MF will chase up details from a potential new UF Car Park business.

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 SB know.

DCr re-joined and JM have joined the meeting.

4. Finance

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

PV reports that the spreadsheet has been updated but it has not yet been approved. JI would like clarification from the auditors that market value of Ardura is handled correctly. MF will speak with JI to clarify how Ardura and its value is recorded on the spreadsheet and subsequently reduces the asset value on the balance sheet.

PV stated that the finance report is giving a true reflection of the situation at the end of the financial year.

Designated funds need to be determined for this year. Allocation of project contributions to the shared support costs of the organisation has been completed, so the spreadsheet is more accurate and up to date.

As several of the directors didn't receive the papers for the meeting due to technical issues related to the change in email addresses, MF has made a request that Directors check the link to the Board papers on Wednesday before the meeting to ensure they have access. Some Directors are having issues accessing the emails and links, so the issues need to be addressed and fixed before the next meeting.

Actions from Board Meeting

1. MF will speak with JI to clarify how Ardura and its value is recorded on the spreadsheet
2. MG will look into creating an automated notification system that will alert directors when new items are added to a new steering group report folder
3. MF will book a meeting for a Steering Group follow up meeting on 4th August at 17:30 and send invitations to all interested members as well as IJ
4. MF and SH to get in touch with T. Dowling to find out more about bodging

4.2 Finance Reporting

No further discussion.

4.3 Membership numbers and donations

Admin has been working on cleaning and tidying the database. No new members: seven members joined had been 'lapsed' but now have re-joined.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews

No policies to review this month.

6.0 This section intentionally left blank.

7.0 Special Items

7.1 General and Deputy Managers' Reports

13: Housing. There is increasing frustration with the officials of the Scottish Government haven't been in touch with MF regarding the proposed hybrid OMSE (Open Market Shared Equity) system; there has been a wait of two months thus far. Ariane Burgess MSP has been notified of this frustration.

MF and others were viewing Maol Cottage on Iona regarding the future of the cottage.

JM, SB and RC offered to attend meeting with Council re house in Fionnphort.

DGM's report: MG is away.

SB notes that the OSC project/holiday clubs is challenging due to allocation of tasks and communications.

New Community Transport Co-ordinator has started, and also two new Playworkers.

7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report

SB wanted to make note of The Russell Trust as a possible resource.

MF gave an update on Item 2: Offered £7,500 of the £15,000 applied for through Highland and Islands Environment Foundation. This is good news. This will go toward the management plan for Ardura. Formal offer has not been received yet.

RM has sent a contact for Solar PV to Fundraising Officer (related to item 4 – Nonhebel Park).

7.3 Steering Group and Board Meeting Discussion – approve proposals

SB summarised the discussion had proposals put forward by the sub group that met on 6th June (SB, DJC, MG, MF – apologies from SH).

Discussion re recommendations was largely positive but there were concerns that even occasional daytime meetings would exclude working, younger potential board members. A concern was raised about the time commitment required by volunteer directors and the efficacy of having monthly board meetings. The structure of the agenda was mentioned as another item to look at as a way to shorten and streamline. Steering Groups and subcommittees could take the place of more detailed and frequent meetings; it was noted that there would be less need of a monthly meeting if the subcommittees and steering groups could produce reports with more detailed and useful information. It was noted that most of the steering group meetings need to be diarised and meet more frequently in order to support a two-monthly board meeting schedule.

MF suggested going ahead with the August EGM and Board meeting, and then skipping the September meeting.

SB asked if anyone would be a part of a group to review and continue the discussion raised by the group on 6th June. MF suggested Thursday 4th August for this meeting; room booked at An Roth for 5:30 pm (SH, IJ, MF, SB, MG, and DJC interested in attending).

7.4 Dissolution of An Roth Trading Limited

An Roth Trading has now been dissolved. It had been lying dormant for several years.

7.5 Approval of Investing in Communities Fund Application

Discussion of purpose of the reason for the application to find funding for the strategic staffing of the organisation. RM proposed; JI seconded the motion.

7.6 Steering Group and Board Meeting discussion

Duplication of 7.3

7.7 Approval of grant from the Waterfall Fund

Grant from the Waterfall Fund of £10,000 for part funding of AMAZE project.

JJ proposed; RC seconded.

JM wondered about whether there will be negativity about the fact that MICT has been awarded a grant from ourselves, effectively. It was noted that The Waterfall Fund is a separate entity entirely. The money from The Waterfall Fund is made available to the entire community, and MICT must go through the same application process as other community groups. This is different from other in-house funding streams set up by other community trusts that have first dibs on similar hydroelectric schemes. It was noted that all areas of Mull and Iona have benefited from The Waterfall Fund's grant money.

7.8 Arrangements for EGM

EGM set for 08 August 2022 at 19:00 so that Board Meeting can begin at 19:30. Staff along with MF are working to deal with the proxy forms (sending, collating, etc).

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

8.1 Ardura (MF)

MF shared photos of oak saplings that have been planted recently in the area where the larch has been felled. He also asked everyone to keep an eye out when driving through the forest and to let him know if the gate is left open, or if deer are spotted within the enclosure.

8.2 Ardura Community Wellbeing Project (RF)

SB mentioned that there is an individual (Ted Dowling) who can lead a workshop on bodging. MF and SH to get in touch with TD to find out more about this.

8.3 Childcare/Out of School Care project (MG)

No comments other than it is proving to be challenging.

8.4 Nonhebel Park, Tobermory (MG)

Nonhebel Park: extension application for funding has been sent in. NP is full.

8.5 MESS (HC)

Two reports received. DRS - Deposit Return Scheme.

Suggested that acronyms need to be explained in the first instance. JM suggested a box that contained the acronyms used that is included on all reports.

8.6 Housing (HMCD)

JM asked about Maol Cottage. MF answered that there has been a consensus about the best course of action between NTS and MICT. An overarching Heads of Terms of options for how it might be taken forward.

8.7 Ulva Ferry pontoon and shore facilities (CF)

MF raised the funding summary from CF. There is a concise paper outlining the funding but costing needs to be worked out by the professional team. MICT may need to contribute some of its own money in case other funding is not secured. Grant application is in line with the previous tender costings. SB asked if there were any questions about the risk that MICT may need to take on. Question about the maximum risk that may need to be taken on; MF shared the paper that showed costings that would total 50% of the professional fees. JI proposed; RC seconded. All agreed.

8.8 Ulva Ferry Community Transport (MF/JM)

There is a new UFCT coordinator.

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. Thank you to JM and RM for providing notes of each meeting.

9.0 Discussion items

10.0 Any other business

SB provided an update on discussions with NWMCW; request for 3 days support from Just Enterprise has been submitted. Contact has also been made with SWMID.

MF announced that Pamela Venters will be leaving MICT in September 2022. All expressed gratitude and thanks for her service, noting the work that Pamela has put in to improve financial reporting and procedures.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday 08th August 2022 at 7.30 pm in person and via Zoom, which will follow the EGM at 7:00 pm.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
