

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 301st Board Meeting
Monday 23 October 2023

Meeting started at 10am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Barry Whenman (BW), Derek Crook (DCr), John Maughan (JM), John Innes (JI), Sue Hawkes (SH), Dave Currie (DJC), Sandy Brunton (SB), Donella Fernyhough (DF), Jane Griffiths (JG), Heather Waller (HW), Ian Jones (IJ), Mark Strevens (MS), Robbie Cameron (RC), Rob MacManaway (RM).

In Attendance: Moray Finch (MF), Mairi Greig (MG), Sian Scott (SS), and Phil Rodgers (PR)

Apologies: No Apologies

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed everyone.

Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – Monday 21 August 2023

Subject to checking the content of item 7.4

Proposed JM, seconded by JI

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; Gantry, drainage improvements and tidy-up – completed, additional ground tidying to be carried out at Gantry and An Roth.

Item 2; MG to confirm directors code of conduct returned – all received, completed.

Item 3; MESS volunteers induction – MG, to discuss in 1:1 with MESS manager – CF, but progressing

Item 4; DCr, MESS Bunesan code of practise - MG, to discuss in 1:1 with MESS manager – CF, but progressing

Item 5; Engagement of young people – c/f. JM, Tracy Mayo has offered to be involved (Young Islanders Network). RC suggested he put together a video (sharing on TikTok/Instagram) to appeal to youth participation. SS to set up initial meeting.

Item 6; Management accounts training for board – completed. Additional session (for those that weren't able to attend), to be arranged. MG to arrange suitable date.

Item 7; Director training, extension from DTAS, SS waiting on dates, to be followed up.

Item 8; Communications group, to be added as regular agenda item.

Item 9; SS to contact local business re approved partnership.

3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties

SB reminded everyone to notify MF or MG of any changes.

4. Finance

4.1 Finance Reporting & Designated Funds

MG shared Actual vs Budget spreadsheet/Management Accounts to August 2023

Designated Funds – changes have been recommended for approval by the finance committee. RM proposed, JG seconded, all agreed.

PR went through Sage report graphs to show the current state of the bank accounts.

4.2 Membership

4.3 Approve Annual Accounts

Pending confirmation of VAT liability relating to VAT adjustments, Proposed JI, seconded by RC.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policies for approval at this time.

5.2 Updates from HR and Polices Standing Committee

Discussion of upcoming Living Wage increase announcement.

RC left the meeting.

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

No report this time.

7.0 Special Items

Actions from Board Meeting

1. (CF) DCr will work with MESS Manager to ensure all Bunesan MESS volunteers sign the Code of Practice
2. (CF) SS to set up Young Islanders Network meeting
3. (CF) MG to arrange date for additional accounts training
4. (CF) PR/MG to set up training session on viewing management accounts for board
5. (CF) SS to follow up on Director Training date from DTAS
6. Communications steering group or standing committee to be added to agenda
7. MF to fix date and volunteers to join installing water pipe insulation at Ulva Ferry.

7.1 General and Deputy Managers' Reports *(for information/discussion)*

Gantry Expansion – waiting for Forestry and Land Scotland to complete process on their side, and comfort from A&BC that planning would be consented.

Defibrillator recent success to be celebrated with press release in Round & About, suggestion to put it into Oban Times as well.

UF water pipe insulation needs to be done soon. MF asked for volunteers; date to be fixed.

RC re-joined.

Deputy Manager's Report

MG will present Childcare research at the Rural Parliament in Inverness at the beginning of November.

Democracy Matters 2 date of 24 November suggested by DTAS. See more in AOB.

7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report

CVH question. Waiting for draft heads of terms to be sent over.

7.3 Grant Applications Approvals

7.3.1. EB Scotland- Nonhebel Park phase 2

7.3.2. Crown Estates Community Fund EOI- crofting feasibility project

7.3.3. Strengthening Community, Scottish Government- new management staff post

7.3.4. 2 x Scottish Land Fund EOIs- affordable housing Salen & Fishnish

7.3.5. 2 x Rural Housing Fund EOIs- affordable housing Salen & Fishnish

No questions on applications, agreed to approve collectively, proposed JM, seconded JG.

7.4 Grants Acceptance Approvals

7.4.1. Co-op Local Community Fund- UFCT

7.4.2. HIE Nonhebel Park Phase 2- original grant & uplift

7.4.3. A&BC Nonhebel Park Phase 2- contribution

7.4.4. Scottish Forestry- Ranger Service

7.4.5. Local Energy Scotland- UFSF

7.4.6. Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust- UFSF

7.4.7. Bank of Scotland- UFCT

7.4.8. NatureScot- Ranger Service

7.4.9. Air Ambulance Help Appeal- Helipad

7.4.10. Energy Saving Trust- UFSF

7.4.11. Argyll and Bute Council- UFCT

7.4.12. Argyll and Bute Council- Ranger Service

Sian gave very quick overview for each application, no questions raised. Agreed to propose as a block, proposed SH, seconded by RM.

7.5. Donation from Acorns 2 Trees Acceptance Report

No restrictions in place. No other questions raised. HW proposed, MS seconded.

Break for Lunch

8.0. Steering group reports *(submitted in advance for information/discussion)*

8.1. Ardura (MF)

Point raised to add 'website' to Project Communications sections on project reports to encourage each project to update regularly.

Question about early harvest, MF explained ecological advantages to harvesting earlier rather than later.

8.2. Ardura Community Wellbeing Project (RF)

Wellbeing Project is coming to an end, after running for two and a half years. RF will prepare the final report to distribute to the Board soon. It was noted that several of the projects will be much missed, but it's hoped that other projects, particularly those aimed at children and families, can continue in some form in conjunction with the Ranger Service. SB posed question about whether the projects have identified any group that MICT should target as vulnerable or who may need extra support. RF agreed that while some of the regular attendees will miss it, the most vulnerable groups were harder to engage from the beginning. The report that SKS completed along with RF and JD's experience will help inform any similar future projects. It was pointed out that communicating the short-term nature of these projects is important.

8.3. Childcare/Out of School Care project (MG)

No report this month. Question proposed to MG about need for childcare; discussion about need on the island and feasibility of new childcare facility in Craignure. Everything has stalled and there is frustration. MS would like to be involved in any further group/discussions on this topic.

RC left meeting.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

Costs will be higher due to excavation, but shortfall will be covered by uplifts from HIE and A&BC. All units now have tenants and there is a waiting list.

IJ left the meeting.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

HC & EB unable to attend. Discussion about how well the shops are doing, especially in the current climate. Dedication and commitment from staff was commended. Idea of repair café/men's shed would be a good thing to add.

MG and SS left the meeting.

8.6. Housing (KP/HMcD)

Kate Payton (KP) representing Housing and Key Worker Accommodation. Updated on works progressing. KP looking into Empty Homes initiative, hoping to help if there are identified empty homes on Mull or surrounding islands that can be refurbished.

8.7. Key Worker Accommodation (HMcD)

SB: Credit to the Council for the progress that has been made.

8.8. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

CF unable to attend.

8.9. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (AN/SM/MF)

Two new Transport Coordinators introduced: Alicja Newbrook and Shona MacNeilage. Job share new to the role, so there is a learning curve. AN explained how they have split the role. MF pleased how quickly SM and AN have picked things up.

8.10. Ranger Service (incl Eagle Partnership and Friends of Calgary Bay) (JD & EW)

Partnerships ended at the end of September (FLS) but JD will keep flyers stocked and carparks checked on for issues. Positive Imaginings project went very well. JD has applied for an extension to the Riverfly project to cover Ardura as well as Aros, and to include children's activities at Ardura. Seasonal Ranger post ended beginning of September. He did a good job overall; engaged with over 2000 people over the summer.

8.11. AMAZE Project (MF/SB)

No report this meeting. MF gave a summary: EV charging hubs feasibility study has been completed and recommendations have been made, CITA (Clean Islands Transition Agenda) energy audit of the island has also been completed and is ready for discussion.

8.12. Helipad (MF)

Photo of progress shown and MF gave summary of project to date. This helipad will save the ambulance having to transport patients to Glen Forsa for further transport off the island, saving time and resources.

JM left meeting.

8.13. Facilities Management

No report submitted.

8.14. Mull & Iona Community Councils (JM & RM)

Mull Community Council report from JM. Short summary of last meeting.

Iona Community Council report from RM. Short summary of July through September matters on Iona.

9.0 Discussion items

No discussion items.

10.0 Any other business

Acorns to Trees. They would like to come to Mull on 18 + 19 September to understand funding opportunities, or a funding opportunity for DTAS.

Democracy Matters 2 – Scottish Government initiative. Involving 8 Development Trusts in Scotland to help shape the legislation of devolved decision-making at the local level. MICT Board has been invited by DTAS to be one of the eight. Presentations and conversations to be involved; would the Board like to accept this invitation? All directors indicated yes.

Chemist in Tobermory. Discussion surrounding how to help the chemist and ongoing housing issues.

Charging points and increased need. Fionnphort EV charger, Ledaig Carpark EV Charger both not functioning. There is funding available for B&Bs and other businesses to install charge point. Do we need to look at Charging Points more widely? MF points out that local councillors should be asked about them.

11.0 Member's Forum* - The Convenor reserves the right to move this item on the agenda depending on items received, and to defer this or any other item to future meetings if time is short.)

Meeting closed at 4:10 pm

The next scheduled board meeting will be the AGM on Monday, 20th November 2023 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
