

**Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 305th Board Meeting
Monday 10 June 2024**

Meeting started at 1015am

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

In Attendance: Moray Finch (MF), Phil Rodgers (PR), and Siân Scott (SS). Mairi Greig (MG) attended in part.

Apologies: Derek Crook (DCr).

Actions from Board Meeting

1. (CF) PR to arrange date for additional accounts training
2. MF to arrange finance committee meetings
3. SS to set up meeting of Community Development short-term steering group
4. Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities Building signage to be completed (CF/SS)

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed everyone.

SB noted that last week was Volunteer Week and paid tribute to all the volunteers who contribute to what MICT does. MF added that the support the board members give to the staff, and thanked all volunteers throughout the organisation.

AOB: Visit Mull & Iona message from Margaret Matthew

AOB: Tourist information centre

Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – 15 April 2024

John Innes listed as being present, but he was not. Claire McMurchy name corrected in actions point 5. KD asked to summarise actions in 2.2 going forward. RM proposed; DF seconded.

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; Accounts training. PR is in discussion with DTAS (CF until later in the year just prior to when YE financials are presented in November).

Item 2; HR and Finance committee meeting re: grade changes (CF to include MG).

Item 3; DTAS Director Training – SS talking to DTAS about combining financial training and a refresh of Director Training to be set for September. SS waiting for dates. (CF)

Item 4; SS - Easyfundraising link has been sent and advertised in social media channels.

Item 5; Official opening of UFSFB and getting a VIP to attend: MF sending an email to Claire (CF)

Item 6; PR tracking and reporting USFSB donations: donations are now being tracked, but no report available yet.

3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties

No changes were advised. SB reminded everyone to notify MF of any changes.

4. Finance

4.1 Finance Reporting

PR: Financial headlines presented from Actual vs. Budgets. Questions were raised about the current balance. Finance committee needs to meet to look more closely at the differences between management accounts and financial accounts to account for the differences noted. MS and RC both agreed to join the Finance Committee.

PR is working on budget forecasts in order to allow everyone to see any changes in the budget.

General agreement that this will be very helpful.

Finance Committee to review the finance reports and these to be reissued.

MF to ensure that the Finance Committee meets to review the reports prior to future Board meetings.

4.2 Donations & Membership

No new members to note this time. Discussion of the donations report noted outstanding amount of donations particularly to Calgary Bay from toilets and the car park. Similar signage for Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities should boost donations once installed. New benches and tables at Ardura could benefit from similar signs. Noted that QR code scams are on the rise, so any that we put out will need to be checked regularly.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policies for review other than salaries policy which will be reviewed in the near future.

5.2 Updates from HR and Polices Standing Committee

PR updated on the current recruitment. Closing date for applications is Friday 14 June 2024.

Break for 5 minutes

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

Nothing to report.

7.0 Special Items

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

MF: Apologies as no written report for this meeting.

- No discussions have taken place with NWMWCW since last report
- MF is facilitating meetings between the Green Energy Mull board and The Waterfall Fund Trustees to help support trustees' decisions and banking needs.
- Facilities management: MF noted that Robin Harrowsmith is doing a fantastic job in the role.
- Pontoon: Business on the pontoon has been sporadic this year, attributed to the weather. Question raised about the office sublet, and how to manage use of the Jeannie MacColl Room.
- The H&SCP are investigating options for repurposing Bowman Court as a nursing and care home.
- Calgary toilet donation box was broken into.
- Adoption of telephone boxes. Change of policy by OFCOM requiring mobile phone coverage from 4 providers makes it impossible for any more telephone boxes to be adopted by the community.
- Visit Mull & Iona: Margaret Matthew, chair of VMI, requested that we look at the economic indicators so that we can understand the impact on the tourist sector of the ferry disruption. MF suggested that it would be best done by a third party organisation not based on Mull or Iona.
- Tobermory Fishermen's Pier Association: **(on agenda as item 7.4)** Discussion with Nick Turnbull about how MICT can support TFPA with fundraising for the capital required to restore the pier. Our preference would be to facilitate discussion with Argyll & Bute TSI and for them to provide this support with MICT in a support role. The structural report was funded by GEM through The Waterfall Fund.

Deputy Manager's Report

No report this time.

7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report

7.2.1 Approval of grant funding offers

- Vibrant & Living Spaces Grant- A&B Council- Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities Heritage Interpretation Panels £25,000.
- Bank of Scotland- Reach- UFCT- Running costs. £7,551.
- Highlands and Islands Environment Fund- Ardura Biodiversity. £11,915.
- The Waterfall Fund- Ardura Biodiversity- none-staff costs. £3,345.12.
- The Waterfall Fund- UFCT- none-staff running costs. £5,000.
MS proposed; JG seconded.

7.2.2 Approval of grant funding applications

No applications submitted this period.

Question regarding last point of the fundraising risks. Other funding options need to be tapped, e.g., private sector grants, as public sector grants are diminishing; wills and legacies, and other private funding options are yet to be really explored. Key messages need to be shared with our membership and the wider community.

Break for Lunch.

MG and JM left the meeting.

7.3 Community Development Plans and Place Plan

SB added Place Planning - a recognised format through local authorities where communities can consider the use of land or buildings or other things relevant to their communities. This works alongside community development plans.

Community Plans were produced in 2013 (Ulva Ferry) 2016 and updated in 2019 (North Mull) to illustrate our priorities. MS noted that it might help future discussions with funders and stakeholders if the Community Plans were updated although there are time and budget constraints for the staff time to do this work. MF agreed that there is merit in doing some work to update the Community Development Plan. Those present discussed the best way to get community feedback in a timely manner to create a revision of the existing Community Development Plan. It was suggested to set up a working group or short-life steering group. MS, SB, RC, DC, SH, and DF have all expressed interest in joining this steering group. Sian Scott and Helen MacDonald have been nominated to be a part of this group as well. SS will set up a first meeting.

7.4 Tobermory Fishermen's Pier Association, request for MICT assistance

Discussed above in 7.1.

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

8.1. Ardura (MF)

No written report. MF gave a quick overview. Forest shelter is almost complete. We now have consent from Scottish Forestry for harvesting second phase of Ardura. TreeStory are preparing tenders for forest road construction and harvesting. Indicative cashflow identifies a requirement for finance for the cost of constructing the forest road amounting to around £250K. Concern was expressed about the cost and in particular the £100K estimate for the bridge over a watercourse. MF Noted that the recommendation from TreeStory is not to opt for less expensive log bridge and culvert solution due to risk of diffuse pollution in the event of the culvert blocking and washing away the bridge. The bridge would be used for recreational access after harvesting. Subject to confirmation from Finance Committee that the cashflow required can be met from Designated Funds it was agreed to proceed with this approach.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)

No report at this time.

BW and JG left the meeting

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

Nothing to report. MS would like to revisit ways to help deliver more localised childcare on a smaller scale for the immediate future. SH suggested highlighting grants available through The Waterfall Fund to help those who want to become child minders. It was suggested that this steering group should be reconvened once MG is able to attend.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

Report discussed. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 is largely operational with 3 of 4 units occupied. RC and MS agreed to join the steering group.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

No report this time.

8.6. Housing (KP/HMcD)

Report discussed. Question about funding for salaries; SS updated on avenues of funding that she will explore. Discussed the need for publicity for the Rural Housing Burden that has recently been successfully applied to a home in the community. SH updated on the Levelling Up visit by government representatives, with special mention of Helen MacDonald's presentation.

BW and JG rejoined the meeting.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (HMCD)

Report discussed. RM informed that the Iona Community Board have decided that the Macleod Centre's accommodation side will be used for worker accommodation. They are working with Argyll and Bute Council to make this happen. RM to alert HMCD.

Short break of 5 minutes

8.8. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

SS suggested that operational support could be provided by the steering group now that it is in the operational phase. SH agreed to join the steering group. RC noted that the improved signs seeking donations had still not been resolved and asked that this be prioritised.

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

Report discussed. Facilities Manager has purchased cones to prevent cars blocking the parking for UFCT vehicles in the EV charging bays. O2 connectivity has been restored which means the tablets are now working as they should for taking contactless payments.

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

No questions as report was comprehensive.

PR left the meeting.

8.11. Helipad (MF)

MF confirmed that the lights are now operating as they should. Collecting tins were lauded as a good idea.

8.12. Facilities Manager (MF)

Question regarding steering group. RC, DC, and RM would like to continue on that group. RC noted that Robin has been on the ball and all agreed that he is an asset to the organisation.

8.13 Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

No report this time. MS updated the board with progress to date. SB asked everyone to think of communications in a wider sense, particularly with the hustings coming up: what are the top three points we would like to focus on right now? As directors, what are our core values? RC reiterated that we need exposure – videos, etc., that get these values across to the public. MS asked if we have had/could have/will have someone in a public relations post that could help with communications.

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

Of note: Hustings will be in Craignure Hall on 20th June. First meeting of the campus team will happen soon. Tourist Centre question from member about whether MICT should be involved. JM will speak to Jo Prior who was following that up.

PR rejoined the meeting.

Iona CC: breakwater project has been awarded by A&BC, but the start date is being held up by the Council. Carrying statistics requested from Calmac for the Isle of Mull's redeployment to Islay showed that there were only about 500 passengers and 60 cars transported over the two weekends to/from Islay while the two weekends Mull was without the IoM were capacity constrained. RM will make the CC's frustration known to Jenni Minto, who did seem to support the redeployment. Funding for the Heat network from Scottish Government continues to be problematic. Official minutes will follow as soon as they come out.

9.0 Discussion items

No discussion items.

10.0 Any other business

11.0 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 12th August

12.0 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 15:35

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday, 12th August in person and on Teams. This was changed to 19th August.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
