

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 309th Board Meeting
Monday 10 February 2025

Actions from Board Meeting

1. (CF) PR to arrange date for additional accounts training
2. MG will arrange discussions with DTAS to facilitate workshops with both staff and the board: future structure and succession planning
3. MG to arrange governance training dates

Meeting started at 1015am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Sue Hawkes (SH), Dave Currie (DJC), Sandy Brunton (SB), Jane Griffiths (JG), Rob MacManaway (RM), Donella Fernyhough (DF), Barry Whenman (BW), Fergus Reade (FR), John Maughan (JM), Teresa Munby (TM), Sarah Akehurst (SA) Ian Jones (IJ), Robbie Cameron (RC), and Sarah James (SJ).

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

Apologies: Mark Strevens (MS), Sian Scott (SS).

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

AOB: Discussion about the future structure and succession planning at MICT. MG will arrange discussions with DTAS to facilitate workshops with both staff and the board to inform those discussions about future structure and succession planning. IJ, SH, DJC all volunteered for the steering group for this.

Campus discussion to be discussed. Helen's leaving do at Hebridean Lodge on 22/02/25; please go if you're available. Payment devices to be added to Manager's report. UFCT insurance claim to be added to steering group report.

2.0 Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – Monday 9 December 2024 and Thursday 12 December 2024

5.1 – add 'and volunteers' to the Workplace Protection Act discussion.

RM proposed, BW seconded.

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; Accounts training to be arranged by PR. (CF)

Item 2; Strategy Standing Committee meeting has been scheduled; completed.

Item 3; Housing discussion; completed.

Item 4; Transport Coordinator: MG and MF have met with the Coordinator. (CF)

3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties

SB reminded everyone to notify MF of any changes or interests that need to be recorded.

4. Finance

4.1 Finance Reporting

Budget has been approved by the Finance Committee. Worth noting that the Finance Committee has put the budget forward for approval for the first three months only, for review in June.

Confidential board discussion about pending funding applications and the potential impact of those applications being successful or not on a number of MICT operations.

Questions: Will we have a better understanding of the budget at the next board meeting? Possible, but can't guarantee it.

Sarah James joined the meeting.

Approval for first three months of the budget: TM proposed, JG seconded.

PR covered main points of current budget narrative. Debtors – no aged debt report included, but there are two debtors to whom legal notices have been sent.

4.2 Designated Funds

No questions.

4.3 Donations & Membership

JustGiving gives us an additional £7 - £8,000 not reflected in the report.

Five minute break

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policy reviews for approval.

5.2 Updates from HR and Polices Standing Committee

HR group has recommended a 5% cost of living increase for all staff; this has also been sent to the Finance Committee and been approved.

IJ proposed, RM seconded.

5.3 Succession Planning

See above in 1. AOB.

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

MF: three meetings have taken place, and progress has been made in updating the Strategy document. More work has been scheduled.

7.0 Special Items

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

Update item 1: Par Equity representing Aviva. Looking for ways to put something back into the community and they are looking to do that through supporting MICT projects such as Defibrillators. They are also interested in possibly supporting larger projects such as the Worker Accommodation project in Tobermory.

The pontoon broke during a winter storm, and was hastily repaired using ropes and ratchet straps. A crane is needed to fully fix the pontoon and a solution may have been found.

MICT, working with other organisations, was unable to respond to the Island Impact Report as there were not opportunities for discussion between local community members and elected officials. A survey was conducted and will be used to give evidence to the councillors who will be voting on a location for the campus, though the results of the survey will not be able to be added to the papers.

Payment devices. The Shore Facilities Building isn't garnering a lot of donation funding from the larger community, so a physical payment device is being sought. MF will be looking for this device, and will need to weigh the capital costs and ongoing fees against the income it may generate. BW will help MF research this.

Deputy General Manager's Report

MG: Inspiring Scotland offers an online option for governance training. DTAS offers an in-person training session. All agreed online will be a good option. MG will work on getting this arranged as soon as possible.

DF and JM have left the meeting.

7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report

7.2.1 Approval of grant funding offers

- **Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE):** £110,580 for Fishnish land purchase for affordable housing.
- **National Trust for Scotland (NTS):** £32,000 towards the employment costs of the Ross of Mull and Iona Ranger for 2025-26.

RC proposed, DC seconded.

7.2.2 Approval of Grant Application Submissions

- **Third Sector Interface Resilience and Transition Fund:** £10k. Towards the costs of consultancy/external expertise to help review MICT's operations/strategy and look at new income generation activities.
- **Argyll and Bute Council (Strategic Housing Fund):** £41,826 for funding to work up the Fishnish housing site project to full planning application stage.
- **Scottish Government (Rural Housing Fund):** £184,220 for Dervaig house survey work and purchase. Note on approval: MICT will only accept this grant and purchase the house if the survey work, mortgage options and updated cashflow projections are favourable.

SH proposed, SA seconded.

7.3 Approval of appointment of architect for Nonhebel Park planning application for new containers (MF)

SJ proposed, RM seconded.

7.4 Training for local tour guides

SJ had been contacted by someone looking to see if there is any appetite for training new guides. SJ to set up an exploratory meeting with Excursions Limited. MF to join that meeting.

7.5 Housing Rent Review

RM proposed, TM seconded.

Break for lunch

JM rejoined the meeting.

Staff members Cally Fleming, Kate Payton and Jan Dunlop joined the meeting.

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

Reports were given in reverse order beginning with 8.15

8.1. Ardura (MF)

Harvesting work will be beginning soon.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)

Work party on Sunday – work on leaky dams and Sitka pulling. Drone shots requested: fixed point photography to record growth and change.

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

Nothing to report. InspirAlba is supporting childminding and training to become a childminder.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

Fire alarms phase 1 are giving false alarms almost daily. OES isn't responding adequately, so issue will need to be escalated. Planning to increase storage containers by 8, which is good news. Interested in looking at putting solar panels on these containers to generate electricity to sell as income generation. Discussion of possibility to stack containers to allow for second level storage.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

MESS Grants – discussion about redesigning application forms to make them clearer. Aim to get Tobermory shop open for Easter. Rag prices are dropping and the cost of transport of rags is rising. No questions about report.

8.6. Housing (KP)

Development: have put in an increased fund request for the Dervaig house. Fishnish funds need to be drawn down by mid-March. Community consultation was largely positive. Concerns expressed about light pollution and water supply, but architect was on hand to answer questions and alleviate these concerns.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (KP)

KP update on the Iona project. Rural Housing Fund has given a positive response to this project, but time will be short as the fund will be ending next year and projects that are approved now need to be completed by that date. Tobermory project is progressing well, with agreement that completing all three blocks at once will be desirable. Road closure times need to be clarified.

Ten minute break

8.8. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

Cally is continuing work on the interpretation project and garnering community support. Interpretation panel installation is nearing completion. All to be completed by end February, and then Cally will be wrapping up as her project ends at the end of March.

8.9. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (SM/MF)

One addition to the report was a road traffic collision involving a UFCT vehicle. This will most likely result in a claim on our insurance and vehicle repair needed. Shona is back at work and Jenny is doing a good job when she covers that role.

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

JD reported on upcoming activities leading into the start of the season. Benches going in to Ardura Shelter, and footpath work is ongoing. Calgary has work to be done due to storm damage: fences and gravel to be installed. NTS is looking to see if they have any funding to help do this work; if not, it will be covered by the donations received at the toilet and carpark donation boxes. Money still a worry to cover Ranger Activities; Jan is submitting applications for funding. Leaflets won't be funded by the same publisher, so the Deer Management Group will apply for a grant to cover the printing. Discussions regarding wildlife and tourists, tour guiding and campervan camping.

8.11. Helipad (MF)

The Helipad is back in operation. There is still a need for volunteers to do the daily checks.

8.12. Facilities Manager (PM)

CC TV in the kitchen has been removed based on feedback from local community members. Fire drills will be starting at An Roth soon.

8.13. Carbon Neutral Island – Community Engagement

Project finishes end of March.

8.14. Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

Nothing to report.

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

Iona CC: There hasn't been an ICC meeting since last board meeting so nothing official to cover. Visitor levy is a concern. Hoping breakwater work will start this month. Concern expressed about the Island Impact Assessment that should be done before any legislation is put in place.

Mull CC: Non-stop Mull Campus discussions. Visitor levy meeting is upcoming, and the MCC will be drafting a response to this. On the lookout for new members as numbers are diminishing.

9.0 Discussion items

10.0 Any other business

11.0 Date of Next Meeting – 14th April 2025

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 1500

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday, 14th April 2025 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
