

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 310th Board Meeting
Monday 14 April
2025

Meeting started at 1015am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Dave Currie (DJC), Sandy Brunton (SB), Jane Griffiths (JG), Rob MacManaway (RM), Barry Whenman (BW), Fergus Reade (FR), John Maughan (JM), Sarah Akehurst (SA), and Robbie Cameron (RC).

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

Apologies: Sian Scott (SS), Sue Hawkes (SH), Donella Fernyhough (DF), Teresa Munby (TM), and Ian Jones (IJ). Teresa, Sue, and Ian have commented on the papers.

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

AOB: related to item 9, IJ suggested this be postponed due to IJ and SH are not in attendance today. JG would like to have a quick update on the governance session that she was unable to attend. MF: Would like to discuss the timing to order the containers for Nonhebel Park, and Succession planning.

2.0 Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – Monday 10th February 2025 and 3rd March

RM proposed; BW seconded minutes from 10th February.

DJC proposed; FR seconded minutes from 3rd March. Actions have been completed.

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; Accounts training to be postponed until after YE accounting is completed.

Item 2; MG has scheduled the DTAS workshops for staff and directors on 22nd April. Questionnaire is to be sent out imminently and responses need to be returned by Thursday, 17th April.

Item 3; Governance training has been completed.

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

Comments from directors – would like to know what the aged debt relates to, i.e., Nonhebel Park or room hire, etc.

Finance steering group has met recently.

PR has included KPIs from key areas such as Fundraising Efficiency and admin cost ratio/shared support costs. Feedback to PR: include a bit more detail to explain what goes into each figure. Grant success rate will need Sian's input and regularly updated application worksheet. All agree this will be useful information to include in the narrative; PR to work on making sure these figures are all updated and correct. Discussion about the Communications Standing Group and the need to meet as related to social media, general engagement and using the Development Plan and Local Place Plan to guide activities. This would also be an opportunity to find funding for a time-limited position to help develop this area.

Cashflow document: a snapshot of current standing. PR offered a quick overview and guidance on reading the information.

Are there any other KPIs that the board would like to see?

4.2 Designated Funds

Amount set aside for Future Projects has been split between projects now, such as Solar PV at Ulva Ferry, Dervaig property purchase. No questions or comments.

4.3 Donations & Membership

Device at Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities is now active for contactless donation collection. Mull Charters and Turus Mara have been asked to mention to their boat tours that we accept donations to help run the building. Noted significant cash donations at Calgary.

4.4 Updates from Fundraising Standing Committee

No updates at this time.

10 minute comfort break

Actions from Board Meeting

1. Finance committee, along with BW, to meet re: future income planning with particular attention to completion of timber sales.
2. MF will contact TSL re: purchasing containers for Nonhebel Park.
3. MF will begin process of defining his duties and role as GM to start succession planning.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policies currently to review or approve. There are several policies being developed for review and approval soon.

5.2 Updates from HR and Policies Standing Committee

No questions from the report.

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

Strategy document has been updated and is now ready for the board to view and approve. All content to approve the updated document.

7.0 Special Items

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

Discussion about meeting with government officials re: funding and worker accommodation.

Pontoon is now back up and running, which is very good news. Paul is now dealing with the insurance claim.

Reminder of Cally's leaving lunch on 2nd May at the Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities building.

Concern about Ranger Service future funding discussed. Also, must consider the end of Timber income and how and where the last of this income is used. A general review on future planning and income will be needed, particularly with the timber income out of the equation. Finance committee (with BW added) could start by looking at the economic picture to consider the scope of the review, then present to the board so that the finances and the strategy can be weighed.

Deputy General Manager's Report

Childcare out-of-school care trial was useful, particularly anything that tries to work around care-inspectorate regulations without compromising the safeguarding of children will be welcomed.

7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report

7.2.1 Approval of grant funding offers

- NatureScot: £13,200 towards the employment costs of the Ranger Service Manager for 2025-6.
- Argyll and Bute Council Early Years Funding: £735 towards the Ranger Service Manager employment costs for running Ardura Acorns during 2025-6. We applied for more but given the extremely high level of demand MICT was only granted a small proportion of the amount we asked for.
- Scottish Sea Farms: £3,000 towards the running costs of Ulva Ferry Community Transport during 2025-6.
- CVH Spirits: £20,000 partnership agreement fee towards the biodiversity action work at Ardura. Will be used to part-fund the employment costs of the Biodiversity Action officer during 2025-6.
- Strategic Housing Fund (A&B Council): £12,000 towards the Dervaig Oakfield House purchase.

BW proposed; RM seconded.

John Maughan has left the meeting

Update: Scottish Government (Rural Housing Fund): £184,220 for Dervaig house survey work and purchase. Grant accepted at the special Board meeting held in March 2025 (see meeting minutes for details).

7.2.2 Approval of Grant Application Submissions

- HIE: £ 16,561 match funding towards the cost of installing additional storage containers for rental income generation at Nonhebel Park.
- Rewilding Britain Innovation Fund: £7,100 towards the biodiversity action costs at Ardura (including a contribution towards the biodiversity officer employment costs).

JG proposed; FR seconded.

Break for lunch

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

8.1. Ardura (MF)

Discussion about whether to go ahead with the planning consent for the recreational path. A different financial situation now forces reconsidering whether funds are best spent on expanding the recreational paths or putting that money elsewhere. MF will need to look at the grant funding conditions before the answer can be reached.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)

No report submitted.

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

Discussed in DGM's report.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

Smart Export Guarantee will take months to resolve. MF will get an MP involved. With current events in the world, MF feels it would be best to order containers as soon as possible because costs for importing may rise. MF will contact TSL to find out if prices have increased yet and work out payment terms that work for us. MF is seeking board approval to proceed with the purchase immediately. RM proposed; BW seconded. All in agreement.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

All going well other than price of rags as it costs more to send them away than we're paid for them.

Shops are very busy and donations never stop coming in.

8.6. Housing (KP)

Discussion on the following points in the report:

Ferry house in Fionnphort is being kept for seasonal workers rather than using it for permanent employees.

MICT will no longer be able to cover costs that are not considered 'wear and tear'. Kate consulted West Highland Housing to help develop this policy.

Entry date for the Dervaig house has been set.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (KP)

Work is continuing in Tobermory.

8.8. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

No report submitted. MF showed photos of the interpretation vinyl installations. Lovely that the building is now complete.

8.9. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (SM/MF)

Damage to bus from accident still to be repaired.

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

Staffa landings set to start in June; FR reported that work seems to be going well when he's been out there with tours.

8.11. Helipad (MF)

Helipad has been repainted at the contractor's expense. Daily checking still to be resolved, as it's still being done by MF and Paul McAdam through the week, and by a volunteer at the weekends.

8.12. Facilities Manager (PM)

Length of list of completed items noted; PM has been very busy.

8.13. Carbon Neutral Island – Community Engagement

Project has been completed.

8.14. Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

No report submitted. Important that this committee meet soon.

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

SA and RM: draft minutes have been made available. Short rundown about matters discussed; housing is a huge issue that will lead to further conversations. Scottish Power Machair Wind project discussed; questions about what benefits local communities would see from the proposed offshore wind farm.

No report from MCC.

JM rejoined the meeting.

9.0 Governance Review – Directors only

MG gave a quick overview of the slides and presentation.

Discussion of PVG checks as related to Directors/Trustees.

Risk Register needs to be incorporated into board meetings.

Presenter generally impressed with MICT's governance.

DJC recommended parking governance review discussion until feedback from DTAS meetings have been held.

Succession Planning: Looking to the future to ensure leadership positions are filled appropriately when it's time for people to move on. Discussions need to take place soon and solutions found. MF will make a list of his duties to begin to develop an idea to take forward – a definition of the role – to develop a new job description.

FR has volunteered to be a part of steering groups, including worker accommodation and Ulva Ferry facilities, particularly the pontoon.

10.0 Any other business

11.0 Date of Next Meeting – 9th June 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, 9th June 2025 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
