Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 311th Board Meeting
Monday 9 June 2025

Meeting started at 1015am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Sandy Brunton (SB), Dave Currie (DJC), Jane Griffiths (JG), Rob MacManaway (RM), Sarah Akehurst (SA), Sue Hawkes (SH), Teresa Munby (TM). Donella Fernyhough (DF), Ian Jones (IJ)

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

Apologies:, , Barry Whenman (BW), Fergus Reade (FR), and Robbie Cameron (RC). John Maughan (JM) has noted that he will be late.

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

IJ has arrived.
DF is traveling and will join by phone where possible.

2.0 Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – Monday 14th April 2025

No corrections or additions mentioned. RM proposed; JG seconded.

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; Finance Committee has met, but BW wasn't there and timber sales not addressed. Carried forward (CF).
Item 2; Containers have been purchased, installed, and all rented.
Item 3; MF has started to create a list of duties as GM; in progress.

Discussion: minutes need to be prepared within two weeks of the meeting, and directors emailed when they are ready. KD notified.

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

Management accounts: PR brought attention to minor changes made. Comments about how useful the narrative is, and that the reports are easier to follow. Compliments to PR for the presentation of the accounts. Aged debt detail: three specific tenants at Nonhebel Park and Gantry discussed. Loan position largely the same as last meeting. Cashflow: currently healthier than seen in previous reports. Risks have been added to the reports to look forward and to give board members an idea of what's on the horizon. Some changes suggested – higher amounts for risk categories, 'as at' date included, etc. Finance committee have discussed this additional risk information, MF suggested that this now needs to be presented to staff members and should match/inform steering group reports. MG suggested a similar chart should be added to steering group reports so that risks at a project level are seen and discussed. Integrated risk management: this will be added to the senior management meeting agenda. No further questions, accounts overall easier to navigate, thanks from all.

4.2. Designated Funds

Nothing to report this meeting.

4.3 Donations & Membership

Noted that Calgary is doing well. Noted that board members would like to see names of new members for information.

4.4 Updates from Fundraising Standing Committee: Budget for approval

In January 2025, the budget was approved to June. PR presented the updated version for the remainder of the year for approval. It has been approved by the Finance Standing Committee to be presented here. TM proposed, RM seconded.

7 minute comfort break

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

Purchase Order Policy

Reviewed and recommended by both Finance and HR committees in an effort to make the purchasing process clearer and quicker. SH proposed, JG seconded.

Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice

Actions from Board Meeting

1. (CF) Finance committee, along with BW, to meet re: future income planning with particular attention to completion of timber sales.
2. (Ongoing) MF will begin process of defining his duties and role as GM to start succession planning.
3. MG will add Risk Management to the Senior Management meeting agenda.
4. Jan Dunlop will look at dates for Ardura Shelter dedication event.

Privacy notice is complete new and the data protection notice has been updated. SB suggests that we change the way these are reviewed, with 2-year dates consistent across the board for all policies, with an 'unless otherwise required' statement.
Data protection policy: all content. RM proposed, TM seconded.
Privacy notice: all content. SA proposed, JG seconded.

5.2 Updates from HR and Polices Standing Committee
MG reported from recent meeting. Full HR group plus DJC was present at the succession planning and structure meeting that took place one week previous. A proposed structure has been sent to Alice at DTAS for feedback, and further discussion will be needed.
TOIL - question about how much can be carried over; the decision has been announced to staff.

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee
Report not required this meeting.

7.0 Special Items
7.1 General and Deputy Managers' Reports *(for information/discussion)*
MAC centre will be discussed under housing.
The group discussed a potential Gaelic Officer position; grant application for funding has been submitted.
Question about the new digital donation at the Shore Facilities Building. Is it working? Not very well. Still getting more donations via the puffin tin.
Mull Campus: there was a petition launched by the campus group for a judicial review. There is a crowdfunding page and media behind the need for judicial review.
Deputy General Manager's Report
Opportunity to support a potential childminder in the area through a funded pilot scheme operated by Inspiralba. However there was only one place available. Leighann at Inspiralba going to keep in touch re potential future opportunities.
7.2 Fundraising Officer's Report
7.2.1 For Board Approval: Grant Acceptance for Successful Applications/Funding Offers:
- HIE: £ 16,561 match funding towards the cost of installing additional storage containers for rental income generation at Nonhebel Park.
- Argyll and Bute Council Strategic Housing Fund (Feasibility): £4,220 Dervaig Housing Project.
- Green Energy Mull: £10,000 for Ranger Service.
- Green Energy Mull: £10,000 for Community Transport.
- Green Energy Mull: £10,000 for Housing Revenue (staff costs).
- The Royal Foundation: £35,000 for Ranger Service.

DJC proposed, RM seconded.

7.2.2 For Board Approval: Grant Application Submission:
- Spar Community Cashback: £10,000 for Community Transport revenue (running costs 25-26).
- Movement for Good: £1,000 unrestricted funds.
- Waterfall Fund: £10,000 MacLeod Centre, Iona Feasibility. Towards Housing Officer's costs. (SH confirmed that this grant has been approved).
- Co-op- Customer Donation Fund: £1,000 for Community Transport running costs (not salaries).
- Community Buildings Fund (formerly LDNZB) CARES: £12,140 Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities second pv and battery system.
- Crerar Hotels Trust: £170,000. 2 Java House Purchase.
- Scottish Land Fund Stage 1: £20,000. 2 Java House Purchase.
- Infrastructure Fund (A&B Council): £653,755. Pre-construction work costs for Fishnish Housing.
- Rural Housing Fund: £133,000. 2 Java House Purchase.
- RCGF Expression of Interest: Final phase of Nonhebel Park- up to two more business units. Cost C. £600,000. HIE supported of funding C. £200,000. To increase income stream at Nonhebel Park.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig: £104,477. Partnership with the Gaelic Partnership and Glasgow University to employ a Gaelic Community Development Officer for Mull and Iona for 2.5 years. In kind contribution from MICT and Glasgow University and if successful line managed by Gaelic Partnership.

DJC proposed, TM seconded.

7.3 Feedback from CLS Conference
IJ gave feedback on the sessions he attended. He urged others to attend future conferences for background information. JG then gave her feedback on her experience there. CLS is restructuring. Land ownership is more concentrated despite over 500 community land ownership groups having been successful.

Break for lunch

Staff members have joined: Jan Dunlop, Kate Payton, Hazel Cowe, and Ewan Baxter.
DF left the meeting for lunch; rejoined 15 minutes after meeting resumed.

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

MF raised issue of dedication of the shelter to Heather Waller. Suggestion to arrange a date in September to avoid the worst of the midges. Jan will speak with her family to see what dates might work. Suggestion of getting a solar fan for the shelter to help alleviate midge problem.
Harvesting is about half-way done.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)*

No questions.

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

Nothing new to report.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

MF informed everyone about the ongoing water issues at Nonhebel Park. The pH level is at a point where it's corrosive to copper, which can cause gastric distress. HighWater has been called out to test several samples, and pH is being monitored and measures are being taken to balance it out. Tenants asked to not drink water; drinking water has been provided. Further sampling will continue. PM has undertaken trying to find and replace all copper in plumbing.
New containers are onsite and 7 out of 8 are already rented.
Question about storage of tyres and risks of fire.
SS has put in an expression of interest to develop the last open space at Nonhebel Park as the Regeneration Grant has reopened.
Suggestion of using a container as a re-use or repair shed; probably not an option as you'd need power. SB suggested it could be used to test out a lending component to start.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

Discussion of a current difficult situation that required police involvement. Solutions and board support offered. HC has submitted an expression of interest in what will be the empty Visit Scotland storefront.
Feedback offered on Royal Visit.

8.6. Housing (KP)*

KP noted that the grant application to Argyll & Bute Council had not been approved as funds are being allocated to council projects. Referenced to Inspiring Communities fund can be used for third-party applications.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (KP)*

MacLeod Centre (The MAC) discussion.

JM joined the meeting.

The Iona Community had agreed to convert centre to affordable housing, but then decided to dispose of it. A Partnership has evolved between MICT, ICC, Iona Village Hall Trust, Iona Housing Partnership, and SWMID to look at taking the affordable housing project forward. Funding is being sought for feasibility, design, and planning. Several bodies have expressed interest in funding the project, but funds still need to be found for the feasibility portion. If successful, it would add to the year-round housing availability by 20%.

8.8. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

No report submitted, no questions.

8.9. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (SM/MF)

No questions.

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

All furniture (benches, bridge, etc.) have now been completed, spurred on by the Royal Visit. Thanks offered to the craftsmen who helped get these done.
All fencing wiped out by storm at Calgary have now been replaced, and Nature Scot have agreed to cover the costs.
Vehicle needs to be replaced. The Berlingo is now at the garage for several major problems. A buyer has approached Jan. JD has been looking for a new vehicle. The board have all agreed to support the Ranger Service getting a new vehicle. RM proposed, JG seconded.

8.11. Helipad (MF)

MF will be looking for further volunteers.

8.12. Facilities Manager (PM)

No report.

8.13. Carbon Neutral Island – Community Engagement

Question about where the report will be circulated. Community Energy Scotland will be handling making the report publicly available.

8.14. Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

No report.

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

MCC: JM stood down as Convenor. Vice convenor has been asked to step down due to conflicting commitments. As no one has volunteered, JM may step back in to be Convenor. James MacLennan has volunteered to come onto the MICT board to spread the commitments.
Further discussion about the Mull Campus issue and the judicial review.

SB left the meeting; JG took on Convenor role.

ICC: SA reported on meeting that took place a week prior. New directors to Iona Housing Partnership. Hidden needs in the community survey that closed in April will have a public engagement event in July. Replacement of seagrass issue addressed. Septic tank emptying issue ongoing. Meeting with Scottish Water to take place later this week.

JM left the meeting.

9.0 <u>Any Other Business</u>

SB noted that Oban is currently setting up a Community Trust.
10.0 Date of Next Meeting – 9th June 2025

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 1530

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday,18th August 2025 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date