

**Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 312th Board Meeting
Monday 18 August 2025**

Meeting started at 1015am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Sandy Brunton (SB), Fergus Reade (FR), Dave Currie (DJC), Jane Griffiths (JG), Rob MacManaway (RM), Teresa Munby (TM), Ian Jones (IJ), Donella Fernyhough (DF), and Robbie Cameron (RC) briefly.

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

Apologies: Barry Whenman (BW), Sarah Akehurst (SA), Sue Hawkes (SH), and John Maughan (JM). SH emailed comments in advance of the meeting.

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed everyone. Update on apologies, and RC wished MF well.

RC left the meeting.

2.0 Approve Minutes

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

Strategy Standing Committee: phrasing of item 6 to be changed as there was nothing due. A couple more points changed to reflect more accurately what had been said. Minutes were changed and with corrections, IJ proposed; DJC 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; (Ongoing) MF will begin process of defining his duties and role as GM to start succession planning.

Item 3; MG will add Risk Management to the Senior Management meeting agenda (CF).

Item 4; JD will look at dates for Ardura Shelter dedication event (CF).

3. Declarations of Interest and Register of Related Parties

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

4. Finance

4.1 Finance Reporting

PR: happy to answer questions. Nadair Trust: To be discussed with Cally when she is available, as we believe she is the sole remaining signatory. Discussion surrounding debtors, KPIs and grants received, lots of good feedback about the work PR has been doing to make the Management Accounts understandable for everyone. RM proposed; TM seconded.

4.2. Designated Funds

Nothing to report this meeting. There will be up-to-date figures after the audit. Discussion of the audit and the procedure: TM suggested that this is looked at in more detail at the next Finance Committee meeting. All agreed.

4.3 Donations & Membership

No Report prepared.

4.4 Updates from Fundraising Standing Committee

No updates for this meeting.

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policies for review last month.

5.2 Updates from HR and Policies Standing Committee

These updates are covered in the Deputy General Manager's Report. Of note: slight change in UFCT Coordinator's role. KD (Admin and Finance Officer) has moved back to part-time hours, and EB has taken on the Mull Musical Minds (MMM) coordination, thus increased his hours. SS will also be helping to fundraise for MMM.

Recording paused for Board to discuss structure without staff present.

SB: After a good discussion of the structure that MG put forward: DJC proposed; RM seconded. A group to be set up to discuss options and way of operating the external consultant/contractor going forward. SB, JM, JG, DJC, and MG to set up a meeting for these discussions and to provide continued support.

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.
5. Discussion re time required for audit and fundraising risks to be added to next FSC meeting agenda.
6. Short term working group meeting to be arranged to compile consultancy scope.
7. Option of counters to measure use at Ardura to be explored – RF
8. RF to connect with Craignure Fire to arrange a discussion and possible training for fire risk.
9. MG to feedback suggestions put forward re rags transport to HC.
10. MF will forward email requesting MICT help on land purchase to SB and DJC to work on a reply.

10 minute comfort break

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

Report not required this meeting.

7.0 Special Items

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

As MICT is ineligible for funding for a new website through Business Gateway, we were offered a digital audit of our website. This could lead to inviting tenders and establishing a budget.

Discussion about the need for creative use of timber income from Ardura, particularly to invest in income-generating projects.

Discussion re home insurance implications for defibs located in porches of private homes in Iona.

Deputy General Manager's Report

Help available for anyone wanting to register as a childminder available through Inspiralba. This has been promoted through our social media pages. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is still a need in Tobermory for more childminders, with a lesser need on the Ross, however, the opportunity is open to anyone to enquire.

The next staff well-being in-person meeting 17th September, and it would be good for some directors to attend. DC and TM offered to attend.

Cally's leaving lunch is 12th September at UFSFB at 1400.

7.2 Fundraising Manager's Report

7.2.1 For Board Approval: Grant Acceptance for Successful Applications/Funding Offers:

- Waterfall Fund: £10,000 MacLeod Centre, Iona Feasibility. Towards Housing Officer's costs.
- Mull Rally Good Causes Fund: Amount TBC following completion of the rally. For UFCT running costs.
- Q Charitable Trust: £3,576. For UFCT running costs specifically for transporting people to and from Dervaig lunch club.

IJ proposed; FR seconded.

7.2.2 For Board Approval: Grant Application Submission:

- Age Scotland- £1,500 UFCT running costs.
- 29 May 1961 Charitable Trust- £20,000 Mac Centre feasibility funding.
- Persimmon Charitable Foundation- £6,000 Mac Centre feasibility Funding.
- ScottishPower Foundation- £70,531 Ardura Biodiversity- staff and project development costs.
- Riverwoods- £21,746 Ardura Biodiversity- staff and project development costs.

IJ proposed; TM seconded.

Discussion surrounding reasons behind unsuccessful applications.

Finance committee to discuss fundraising risks as outlined in SS's report.

7.3 Repository for long term project developments (SB)

SB pointed to the need to look at creating a repository for projects to be prepared when the correct funding comes available. MF suggested adding this list as a document on the agenda that carries forward to each meeting, and can be referred to when necessary. Agreed that this is a good starting point. It would be important to add details for shelving or discounting any ideas, or how far the groundwork had been progressed. SB asked that Gantry 2 move forward.

7.4 Place Plan (SB)

The relevance and importance seems to be growing, and this needs to be taken forward. SS has spoken with TSI regarding resources.

Break for lunch

Staff members have joined: Paul McAdam, Kate Payton, and Rachel French.

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

8.1. Ardura (MF)

MF fielded questions about the harvest and risks. The harvest should be completed by end October. Is it worth finding out how many people are using the paths? Can purchase path counters to track numbers and usage; would need to understand how the data would be used to justify the cost.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)*

RF: went over highlights from report. Discussed some of the risks such as fire (campers and barbeques) that are high and solutions need to be communicated and put into place. RF to connect with Craignure Fire to arrange a discussion and possible training for fire risk.

DF rejoined on Teams.

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

Nothing further to add to item discussed as part of DGM's report.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2 (MF)

Smart meters: MF has a complaint in to British Gas/British Gas Lite as both companies say it's the other party's responsibility to install a smart meter for us. He will update if any progress is made.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

Hazel asked that MG bring up an issue she needs help with to resolve transporting of 'rags' to purchaser, as there have been issues with rags arriving wet and no payment being made for these. Discussion about other options including volunteer with MESS van

making regular trip, using a local island based option. Ultimately it was agreed that we should be doing all we can to avoid landfill of items not suitable for resale. MG to feedback to HC.

SS suggested that we speak with carriers about their social responsibility remit to see if they could offer a discount for helping MESS cut waste. Request for HC to add income figures to the MESS report.

8.6. Housing (KP)*

Discussion about housing rent increases; issues involving gap between social housing allowance and MICT houses keeps growing as social housing bodies are able to increase rent at a much higher rate than our grant funding allows.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (KP)*

There are questions surrounding housing rights and contracts/licenses and agreements; KP is speaking with A&B Council about these questions. TM suggested that we would want to consult with our solicitors for clear, legal answers on short-tenancy lets.

8.8. The Mac (KP)

Not much to talk about at this stage. The main risk right now is funding.

8.9. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

No report submitted.

8.10. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (SM/MF)

Q Charitable Trust grant will help fund Dervaig Lunch Club transport provided by UFCT.

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

Noted on reports: budget and risks. PR noted a change to give context to budget. Risks section of report should be expanded for future reporting.

8.12. Helipad (MF)

No report, so PM gave an update. Volunteers are now back and helping out with the checks. Safety training took place. Contractor surveyed site for surface issues and a plan is in place to repair and repaint. Helipad will need to be closed and lights removed to enable this. .

8.13. Facilities Manager (PM)

PM updated on ongoing work. Nonhebel Park abandoned dinghy to be offered to a local sailing group unless it's claimed immediately. CCTV at AN Roth – new system being installed. Seems to be more things breaking than expected; PM noted that a lot of these repairs are historic. SB brought up that PM's experience should inform any new rentals and how they are managed.

8.14. Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

Nothing to report.

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

No report from MCC.

RM for ICC: Breakwater works have begun. Pier and toilets are also progressing.

9.0 Any Other Business

MICT received an email from a group asking for help with expressing an interest in and possible land purchase. MF will forward request for help to SB and DJC to craft a reply.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting – 20th October 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, 20th October 2025 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
