

Mull and Iona Community Trust
Minutes for the 313th Board Meeting
Monday 20th October 2025

Meeting started at 1015am

Present (in person or by MS Teams): Sandy Brunton (SB), Dave Currie (DJC), Rob MacManaway (RM), Ian Jones (IJ), Donella Fernyhough (DF), Sarah Akehurst (SA), Sue Hawkes (SH), and John Maughan (JM).

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

Apologies: Barry Whenman (BW), Jane Griffiths (JG), Teresa Munby (TM), and Robbie Cameron (RC).

1. Welcome, Apologies and AOB

SB welcomed everyone. Update on apologies.

AOB:

PR – Janna Greenhalgh would like to hear about emergency response from MICT going forward.

DJC – Financing for the Rally

DF – Creich Hall was able to get organised during recent Storm Amy, and it would be worth looking at The Waterfall Fund supporting similar at other community meeting spaces.

Council is meant to be discussing a Resilience Plan/Response. JM mentioned several meetings that are taking place, and brought up opportunities to get involved.

2.0 Approve Minutes

2.1. Approval of previous minutes – Monday 18th August 2025

No changes requested. RM proposed; DJC seconded.

2.2 Review actions and matters arising from previous minutes

Item 1; (Ongoing) Finance Committee has met, but there will need to be another.

Item 2; MF will begin process of defining his duties and role as GM to start succession planning. Completed.

Item 3; MG will add Risk Management to the Senior Management meeting agenda. Completed.

Item 4; JD will look at dates for Ardura Shelter dedication event, no date set yet (CF).

Item 5; Fundraising risks and audit discussion. Completed.

Item 6; Consultancy meeting has been completed.

Item 7; Using counters at Ardura to measure use to determine future path development (CF).

Item 8; Craignure Fire risk and training for Ardura – Ongoing.

Item 9; Rags discussion is ongoing. Hazel has received list of suggestions and is looking at options.

Item 10; Email re: Cameron Farm was sent.

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

Management Accounts over this period is very similar to the last. PR talked through the highlights.

Request to establish the reason for reduced community transport drivers hours.

Discussion re electricity at Ulva Ferry Shore Facilities Building and high usage. This led to a discussion re An Roth electricity use and possible errors with the current readings, and installing OWL meters to look at usage. PR and PMcA will work on getting these installed in parts of the building to monitor usage.

Good news: MESS has outperformed in sales and has been doing very well. Nadair Trust funds have been received and will cover the administrative costs owed. Ardura total surplus will not be clear until later in the year, as there are still trees to harvest and income is still arriving.

4.2. Designated Funds

Nothing to discuss.

4.3 Annual Accounts 2025

Accounts have not been finalised yet, so this has been postponed. It is proposed that the AGM will be postponed by two weeks, to the 24th of November. All agreed.

4.4 Donations & Membership

Noted the donation amounts for Calgary, and the need to look at similar ways to up donations for other locations such as Ulva Ferry and Ardura. Fundraising events and totals raised to be listed separately from individual donations.

4.5 Updates from Fundraising Standing Committee

No update submitted.

Actions from Board Meeting

1. (Ongoing) Finance committee, along with BW, to meet re: future income planning with particular attention to completion of timber sales.
2. Jan Dunlop will look at dates for Ardura Shelter dedication event.
3. Option of counters to measure use at Ardura to be explored – RF

5.0 HR and Policies

5.1 Policy Reviews for approval

No policies for review last month.

5.2 Updates from HR and Polices Standing Committee

From October, KP (housing) will move to a 4-day week, flexible to move to 5 days if necessary.

Recording paused for Board to discuss recruitment without staff present, leading to a 10 minute comfort break.

6.0 Strategy Standing Committee

Report not required this meeting.

7.0 Special Items

7.1 Acting General Managers' Report (for information/discussion)

MG says everything is working well from her perspective, and SS has said that the changes affecting her role are okay for now as long as she's allowed continuing flexibility in her increased hours. PR said that from his perspective, everything is going fine.

Tender for Website redevelopment in the works.

Discussion on role of consultants.

Appraisals are ongoing. Sandy will ask Moray about setting up an exit interview.

Craignure infrastructure meeting.

7.2 Fundraising Manager's Report

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

- Age Scotland- £1,500 UFCT running costs.
- Riverwoods- £21,746 Ardura Biodiversity- staff and project development costs.
- Rewilding Innovation Fund- £9,600 Ardura Biodiversity- project development costs.
- Nature Scot- £1,941.95 Calgary Bay works.
- Rural and Islands Housing Fund- £133,000 2 Java House purchase.
- Argyll and Bute Council SHF- £100,000 Mac Centre housing, Iona feasibility work.
- Argyll and Bute Council Community Regeneration Fund- £20,000 helipad.
- Argyll and Bute Council SHF- £41,826 Fishnish affordable housing. Professional fees for planning application work.

JM proposed; IJ seconded.

7.2.2 For Board Approval: Grant Application Submission:

- CARES- Community Energy Generation Fund - £10,000- renewable energy generation feasibility study looking at producing new renewable electricity across all MICT's sites to reduce running costs and create new income streams.
- Highland and Islands Environment Fund (HIEF)- £13,533 Ardura biodiversity project development costs.
- Crown Estate- £30k feasibility work for Mac Centre, housing project on Iona.
- Community Led Local Development (CLLD), Argyll & Bute Council- £9,000 feasibility work for a new woodland croft creation in Glen Forsa.
- Unity Trust Bank Impact Fund- £5,000 UFCT running costs.
- Waterfall Fund Community Hall Heating- £500 An Roth winter heating costs.
- Argyll and Bute Council SHF- £12,000 2 Java Houses purchase.
- Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund A&BTSC- £19,819.56 Ranger Service staff costs, new activities (bringing nature indoors) and a contribution to UFCT costs for Mull Musical Minds for 2026.
- Outdoor Community Play- Inspiring Scotland- Incubator Programme- £4,410. Ranger Service staff costs for running Ardura Acorns in 2026.

IJ proposed; SA seconded.

Discussion surrounding reasons behind unsuccessful applications.

DTAS Strengthening Communities Fund Meeting upcoming to discuss the Application on 24th October. Board members are invited to attend.

7.3 AGM Date and Format

Question about whether to hold it during the day or the evening; discussion of pros and cons. Agreed to continue daytime meeting.

Suggested a photo montage of Moray's 14 years to be a part of the AGM.

7.4 Meet new CEO Denise Baxter

Denise Baxter joined the meeting. Introductions made around the table.

Break for lunch

Staff members have joined: Kate Payton and Jan Dunlop.

TM joined on Teams.

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

8.1. Ardura (RF)

Some damage from the storm but nothing major. It is fortunate that the harvesting had removed a lot of the larger trees along the roadside before the storm hit.

8.2. Ardura Biodiversity (RF)*

Recent funding success in this area will help accelerate the Biodiversity project's goals. Sitka clearing continues. JD is speaking to Simon to arrange date for forest shelter dedication. There is money donated from Heather's service that will be spent on Ardura Education. Brief discussion re any future opportunities for some commercial tree planting.

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

Nothing to update on childcare.

8.4. Nonhebel Park Phase 2

Submitting stage 2 application to RCGF to develop the last portion of Nonhebel Park. Survey has been sent out to those on the waiting list to determine what is actually needed there.

8.5. MESS (HC & EB)

Social impact report looks great. One request: please remove *remote* from it, though, as it's contentious. Counterpoint is that it needs to be used in order to apply for some funding, particularly rural funds.

8.6. Housing (KP)*

Fishnish – received an offer from the Council that will help move things along. Hope to have planning application in by end December. Should know about RHF by March. Java house is fully funded and sorted.

8.7. Worker Accommodation (KP)*

Agreed that worker accommodation will remain in Council's ownership and leased to MICT.

8.8. The Mac (KP)

Discussion about the Iona MacLeod Centre valuation and feasibility.

8.9. Ulva Ferry shore facilities building (CF)

No report submitted.

8.10. Ulva Ferry Community Transport (SM)

No report submitted. Moray has joined as a bank driver. Issue with the Vito that will need to be dealt with eventually, possibly through replacement. Continuously looking at ways to cut costs such as purchasing tyres in bulk.

SA and RM left the meeting.

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

JD summarised recent activities. Still incidents of otter harassment. Trees are down, and JD is arranging people to make the paths safe. Sheep have come the machair at Calgary. Campers over rally weekend didn't donate much for their stay at the Calgary campsite, which means funding for cleaning loos and keeping it supplied operated at a loss that weekend.

8.12. Helipad (PM)

Lights are operational.

8.13. Facilities Manager (PM)

Consensus that Paul is very busy. Water at Ulva Ferry – experienced problems with water due to borehole supplies needing electricity. Needs to be education about water usage in these situations. Battery storage for back up suggested. To be discussed in the next steering group meeting.

8.14. Communications Standing Committee (SS/KD)

No meeting held, therefore no meeting.

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

JM sent MCC minutes. High School Judicial review happened recently. SB asked about Place Plans – has there been any progress. There aren't enough members currently to put time into this. KP suggested a community survey and use the housing roadshow to follow up on the survey results. This would create an action plan that can be developed into a Place Plan and the information can help inform MICT's strategic plan. The recent storm prompted discussions about resilience and preparedness.

SA reported on September's ICC Meeting. Housing is a continuing concern. Iona renewables discussion. Breakwater has already been making a difference for the ferry. Machair Wind Farm project consultations are coming up. Next meeting will be in December.

9.0 Any Other Business

Question raised to a director whether there was funding available for the Rally for next year, as they ran into financial difficulties this year. Short discussion; agreement that there's not much more MICT could do that the Rally organisers can't do themselves.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting – 15th December 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, 15th December 2025 in person and on Teams.

Signed

Name **Sandy Brunton**

Date
