

Board Meeting Minute

Thursday 30 July 2020 at 7:30pm

Meeting held by Zoom

Attendance: Andrew Abrahams, Sue Dance, Dannie Onn, Caitlin McNeill, Roz Jewell, Cecilia Bleasedale

Apologies: Liam McNeill, Colm McNichol, Tanya Wren, Carrie Seymour

1. The minute of the last meeting was approved
2. RJ presented her update report on the Baptist Manse. Of note: the head teacher has now been housed in the Church of Scotland Manse because of the delays in completing the purchase of the Baptist Manse. The delay has been caused by the need for drainage rights. An accurate map has now been prepared and the solicitor can progress the transaction. The delay means that the Manse will now be reserved for the contractors TSL, leaving time to establish ourselves as a private landlord and make any necessary changes to the property.
3. RJ gave her report on the proposed moorings and path to Queens Bay. The Crown Estate have agreed in principle, subject to other consents being in place. The Marine License should be decided by 21 August. The project now has the support of West Highlands Anchorage and Moorings.

The path project has been further funded by HIE, allowing the volunteers to be paid and other improvements to be made. DO, CM and RJ are to finalise the route and approach Colonsay Estate for agreement.

4. CS submitted her report on the Scalasaig developments.
 - The HIE land at Scalasaig North has now been purchased.
 - 16 expressions of interest have been received for houses and business space
 - A price for the construction has been received from TSL by our agents, Ralph Ogg. The details are being analysed in advance of a tender report. This will be considered and refined following a site visit in the first week of August.
 - Funding for the housing is being pursued by CS with help from CB.
5. Crofting matters:
 - The board expressed its thanks for all the work done over the years by Jan Binnie on our behalf and for passing on her experience over the last few months.
 - CM has now taken on director responsibility for croft matters.
 - Prompted by the difficulties being encountered by the new tenants at Port Mor, the board considered the slow progress on providing access and servicing to the new housing site. Acquisition of servitude rights depends on WHHA owning the site, which in turn depends on decrofting. This can take several months. CM and DO will look into what we can do and report to the next board.

6. Finance:

- The change to electronic banking has encountered further delays due to the difficulties of authenticating identity while offices are closed and face-to-face meetings are not possible. TW is progressing this with AA.
- Because we have received so much money in grants this year, we have passed the threshold where our annual accounts have to be audited. AA/ TW to investigate whether the year can be treated as an exception or otherwise seek a suitable auditor. Perhaps we have a friend of Colonsay with the necessary skills and accreditation.
- The playpark (but not the community garden) are covered under our insurance policy. The group running that should be asked to make a contribution to the overall cost. However, the costs cannot be itemised by NFU. This to be considered further with TW.
- DO still to resolve holiday pay claimed by Kirsty in the service point.

7. Staff matters:

- The council service point remains closed until 14 September at least. Staff have been asked what changes may be required when this happens. The offices are being used with appropriate safety measures in place.
- RJ will take maternity leave from 24 August and has some time in lieu before then. She will arrange to pass on work to her successor when appointed. The board passed on its thanks to RJ for all her work on the projects to date.
- Maternity cover has been advertised. The interviews (if required) will be in mid-August. DO to co-ordinate with Carrie and Caitlin on the panel.
- 2021/22 funding for our project co-ordinators has been offered by HIE. The amount has yet to be confirmed because the payment claims from last year are not finalised.

8. MOWI buoy consultation was not discussed due to LMcN's absence.

9. Our summer Newsletter is now due. All are asked to produce an item on their areas of work for pulling together and issue during August.

10. Our website remains the prime site for Colonsay. It must be kept up to date. To spread the load, each of us should be able to update on matters we are concerned with. There is a guidance document available and TW will be able to help if there are access problems. The new banner was introduced, but can only hold one item. CS to ask for it to be removed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 August 2020.