



Colonsay Community Development Company

Board Meeting

Tuesday 28th April 2020

Board members present (Zoom) Dannie Onn, Andrew Abrahams, Willie Joll, Caitlin McNeill, Liam McNeill

Project Coordinators: Rosalind Jewell, Caroline Seymour

Property Coordinator: Cecilia Bleasdale

Apologies: Sue Dance, Colm McNicholl, Tanya Wren

Guest speaker: Jamie MacIntyre – Strontian School Community Building Ltd

Declarations of interest: None

Community Shares Presentation

Jamie MacIntyre spoke in depth about two projects he has been involved with that made use of a community share scheme. Both projects managed to raise substantial amounts of money in this way, circa £750k for the Strontian Hydro and £155k for the local school project and he was very positive about the experience. In order to run a scheme like this, it would be necessary for the CCDC to convert from a company into a Community Benefit Society. This would have to be agreed by CCDC members and OSCR. All community shareholders would be entitled to vote, however it is one member, one vote no matter how many shares an individual holds. A set of rules would need to be written and registered and a prospectus with the share details produced. Help is available with this process from Community Shares Scotland and Jamie has advised that we can still download the prospectus they produced, and he has already forwarded on their rules.

Research to be continued by CS and presented to the next board meeting.

Jamie MacIntyre then left the meeting.

Minutes from previous meeting: Some small amendments are to be made and then they will be re-issued.

1. New Employees

Cecilia Bleasdale has taken up the post of Property Coordinator. This is a post that has been funded by the SLF for 1 year. There were 2 applicants for the role, both were invited to interview. Dannie Onn, Sue Dance, Rosalind Jewell and Caroline Seymour sat on the panel. Their decision was passed to the board for approval before the post was awarded.

Lizzie Keenaghan has been appointed to help administer the COVID 19 Community Support fund. The Community Council also nominated Ruby Weatherhead to work in this role.

2. Project updates

Scalasaig Development – Refer to Project Report for full details.

Final completion has been reached in the deal to purchase the two sites in Scalasaig from Colonsay Estate. As from 28th April 2020 that land now belongs to the CCDC using funds received from the SLF, HIE and Mowi.

TSL have currently been furloughed leading to a delay in them producing costings for the project. This in turn means that applications to the RIHF or other funding bodies cannot be made until the full cost is known. However, all the supporting documentation for the project has been passed to the team in Scottish Government to review so that they are fully up to speed when the application comes in.

An Expression of Interest form for the housing and business units is being worked on by CB to issue to the local community and to the wider public. This will help inform us as to what may be required in the design and to initiate a register of people interested in renting / buying from CCDC. CB to contact John Forbes to review the content and see if it should include details of the Rural Housing Burden and Allocations Policy on the form.

Tourism Project – Refer to Project Report for full details

Campsite

A draft agreement on how to proceed with the project has been sent to the crofter and also issued to the board for review and comment.

It was re-iterated that this project has to have a robust plan and be fully watertight to minimise any possible issues that may arise in the future.

Moorings

An application has been made to Marine Scotland, we expect to hear back from them in 6-8 weeks.

Due to the COVID 19 lockdown, we are unable to order materials for the path. Paths for All have been made aware of this.

Colonsay Estate to be contacted to ask for them to agree in writing to the path going ahead – DO and RJ to progress this.

Councillor Robin Currie and The Colonsay Community Council have been approached to ask for their written support for the project. Robin Currie has agreed to do this, however the Community Council have asked for more information before they are prepared to lend their support.



A Business Plan for the project has been issued to the board for review.

Questions were raised as to how the money collection and bookings are managed on the ground. RJ to contact other moorings facilities to see how they do this.

3. Crofting

CCDC are pleased to welcome Lizzie and Darragh Keenaghan with their son River as the new tenants of Croft 2 Baile lochdrach.

Jan Binnie is in ongoing contact with the Crofting Commission regarding the reversion of Croft 4 back to Common Grazing and the lettings policy.

4. Board Recruitment

DO and AA have both advised that they will be standing down from the Board at the next AGM. It was agreed that they will be hard to replace as both have contributed so much over the years.

5. Newsletter

DO has asked Jen MacNeill to compile the next CCDC newsletter with help and input from himself, RJ, CS and CB.

6. AOB

A short update was given on the current position of the housing project at Port Mor. The issue of the access road has still not been resolved and the road is still in the ownership of the crofter. WHHA have confirmed that they are still committed to the completion of this development. A renewal of the planning permission has been submitted and comments for and against have been lodged.

It would be useful if a corporate license for Zoom could be purchased in order to continue with the remote meetings. It was agreed to use the ccdcontact1@gmail.com email account to register with and the cost can be claimed back from CCDC.

Date of Next Meeting

No date was set.