



**Colonsay Community Development Company
Board Meeting Public Minutes
Thursday 10th March 2022**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Board members: Andrew Abrahams (AA), Sue Dance (SD), Caitlin McNeill (CM), Callum Hay (CH), Danny Onn (DO), Sarah Hobhouse (SH), Helen Mann (HM), William Joll (WJ)

Project Co-ordinators: Lizzie Keenaghan (LK)

Apologies: Carrie Seymour

In attendance: Chris Nisbet
Also present: Clare Hay (minutes)

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Accepted and signed by DO

Matters Arising.

None.

3. Declarations of Interest

LK and HM croft matters, HM campsite

4. Briefing Note

DO presented his briefing note which will be a public document to go on the website. DO has drafted a newsletter and would be grateful for any contributions and help with publishing it. DO gave an update on the open day at the Old Manse which would be on Saturday 19th March 12-2pm. LK will be in attendance. Parking at the school will be available, and a video will be provided on Facebook for those who could not get there. 23 responses to the consultation had been received. There were no comments from the board.

5. Projects

5a Campsite report.

LK declared an interest regarding the track. The agreement regarding the campsite would be discussed in private business. At present LK had not received the terms and conditions of the offer so did not know if the funds would have to be delivered to CCDC, although it was known that the funding came from SFT via ABC. There is a requirement on ABC to allocate the funding by the end of March. HM will apply for and

pay for the planning permission. CH said CCDC's accountant had indicated that CCDC could set up a separate account for the project.

5b Scalasaig development

CS had submitted her report. DO reported that there had been a meeting with TSL and they would be returning to the island on 4th April. TSL do want to rent the Manse again and have paid for the previous let. DO said that there was good news in that the date of installing electricity to the site had been brought forward and would start on 21st March. There would be an island wide power outage on 24th March to allow for connection.

6. Rebranding and Website

SH shared the branding materials developed so far including the logo, and a mock-up of the website. All received general approval. SH said that an initial draft of the site content was in progress and asked all to have a good look and to feed back their thoughts to her. There followed an extensive discussion.

There were concerns over whether the site will continue to raise income for CCDC. SH said that income had been falling off in recent years, but the new brand and website may help stabilise that, and maybe help reverse it. It was noted that the professional look and feel offered by the branding was very important as CCDC moved forward. Regarding updating of the site SH said she would be admin, though HM and CM knew a lot about the site too. DO added that CCDC would eventually have a manager and it was anticipated this would be part of their remit. It was noted that it would be important to get people to subscribe to the site, and that it might be possible to get a grant to run the site. SH said the all info on the current site would all be archived but not all of it would necessarily be copied over to the new one. Regarding management of the site after signoff, SH said that CCDC would be able to add content under existing sections of the site but would not be able to add new sections. New sections, like adding new projects which affected the structure would have to be carried out by the supplier. SH stressed that hosting and maintenance was included for the first three years at £300 p.a. CCDC owns the branding and content, and has a master password for the site. SH was looking for photographs and volunteers for content development.

DO asked:

1. if the board was content with the proposed logo and branding materials
2. if the board was broadly content with the direction being taken by the development and that it should proceed
3. if the board was content to note that more detail would be coming

All three were agreed.

7. Community Plan Consultation

CM had collated and circulated the initial analysis of anonymised data from the returns to the board. She asked that this be kept private, as a public version was to be produced after further work. The focus groups would start in the next week. Four key themes emerged from the data and each would be the subject of a focus group. Data and priorities gathered from the focus groups would be used to inform the second more detailed questionnaire.

Session 1. Repopulation and community ownership. As the current political environment is supportive, this was a good time to discuss this topic. CM planned to inform those attending the session of what was happening locally, and elsewhere in the islands, what was possible under new legislation, and to encourage discussion of the social and economic costs of depopulation.

Session 2 the environment and sustainable energy. This would cover risks to the environment, the importance of looking after the environment, existing issues with energy, possibilities of producing sustainable energy locally, ideas for projects to be evaluated and prioritised

Session 3 Transport and connectivity. This would look at issues around schooling where young people may have only one night a week at home, issues around links between different forms of transport, EVs, impossibility of getting to Oban and back in day, and many others

Session 4 Resilience – this pulls in threads from all the others and includes issues such as lack of tradespeople, difficulties of accessing services.

CM would lead all workshops, and others would help with the break out discussions. It is hoped these sessions will highlight and help prioritise actions needed. CM asked that all directors try to attend at least one session. Dates were 15/17th March and 5th/7th April 6-8pm in the hall. Refreshments would be provided.

CM asked for the board's approval to run the focus groups as described. This was approved unanimously.

8. Crofting

CM reported that the lettings application for common grazing has been sent out. There will be a wait of 12 weeks. The house site on the Wee Croft has now been decrofted.

(HM and LK declared an interest and left)

CM had spoken to Colm and Tanya who have indicated a willingness to buy their house site on the same terms as the Keenaghans. They will think about the croft lease being on the same terms too. CM suggested that the fee applying to the house sites should be the same for all crofters at £180, as the traditional method of pricing led to arguably unfair pricing for smaller crofts. The Crofting Commission have agreed and CM will try to work this up into a proposal for the next meeting.

(HM and LK returned).

9. Ferry Users Group

David Hobhouse has asked if the CCDC would support the formation of a Ferry Users Group. It was suspected that there was support for such a group in the community, and it was suggested that David be encouraged to come to the relevant focus group and make the case there. If there was evident community interest, CCDC would support the proposal for the group

10. Director CCTC.

At the last AGM it was agreed that DO should become a director of CCTC – formal registration had been overlooked following the AGM so the issue needed to be

considered again. CH formally proposed that DO be appointed and the board agreed unanimously.

11. AOB

TSL (?) have asked DO to contribute to a review of how porches could be funded.

Richard Buttrick's Business Innovation Fund is looking to offer small grants. Operation may be reviewed along with the review of the MOWI fund.

Island social and economic profiling is an important part of developing a community plan. There is the possibility of a small-island pilot on Colonsay, to be led by the Scottish Government Islands team. DO and CM are involved in discussions about taking this forward.

SD felt there was a need for a special constable on the island. While there has not been one in post for many years, the island does have a community officer in the police.

DONM April 12th 7pm in the Hall