



Colonsay Community Development Company Board Meeting

Public Minutes

Thursday 27th October 2022

1. Attendance and apologies

Board members: Dannie Onn (DO), Sarah Hobhouse(SH), Willie Joll (WJ), Callum Hay (CH), Darragh Keenaghan (DK)

Board Members attending via remote link: Sue Dance(SD) Andrew Abrahams (AA)

Guest: Caitlin McNeill (CM)

Project co-ordinator: Carrie Seymour (CS)

Also present Clare Hay (minutes)

Apologies: Lesley McInnes(LMcl). Liam McNeill (LM), Helen Mann (HM), Lizzie Keenaghan (LK)

2. Minutes and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted and signed by DO. There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

3. Declarations of interest

CS - Crofting

4. Briefing Note

The briefing note had been issued. DO informed the board of an addition to the note. Fraser McLaughlin (FM) had contacted CM regarding the status of the WHHA house plots as to whether they had been used for grazing recently. It appeared he had been commissioned by the Crofting Commission to check. It appeared that those working on the decrofting had received a complaint which had triggered the check.

Action - It was agreed that SH would contact FM, DO would contact WHHA, CM would try to contact the Crofting Commission to investigate further

CH noted that there had been an increase in costs for the campsite development. DO and LK were meeting HM and would forward relevant information to CH..

5. Scalasaig Report

The date for the SSE quote had been moved forward to the first week of November. HM has made good progress on the allocations process. There had been queries

from the community seeking clarification about the process. It was agreed to post information on the FB Community Notice Board and in the shop to explain why there are two lists as follows. Home Argyll is the official ABC list of people seeking housing which drives the ABC housing budget. The CCDC list feeds into allocation of the Scalasaig houses and is the list people should be on if they want a house there.

There was a discussion about different approaches to allocation. CH asked whether it would be possible to have the allocation criteria for the November board meeting and perhaps a draft of the policy. It was suggested that an external adjudicator might be useful.

There had been a few comments from those consulted on the suggested street name for the development. There had been some discussion about the accuracy of the Gaidhlig grammar. An Faire Mor was believed to be better with the 'An' than without and there was a debate about the use of accents.

CH suggested that that with rising interest rates and general market uncertainty the demand for rented housing may now be far higher than that for buying either the houses or plots, therefore he proposed that CCDC explore if the two houses planned to be sold should be changed to rental. This would also help manage cash flow in the project.

The board agreed unanimously.

DO said that there appeared to be issues around the adequacy of power supply to the plots. He was meeting with John Forbes (CHT) to discuss in November.

6. Houses Letting Policy

This item was deferred.

7. The Old Manse

There would be a project meeting next week. DO said it was essential that planned improvement work be defined and managed as a project. It was agreed to draw up a list of local architects who might be interested in working up ideas into briefs for renovation of the property. DO said the consultation had shown the community overwhelmingly wanted to see it used as a home for locals, but noted the need to keep other options in mind. TSL had indicated they had no further use for it. CM said there were people who might be interested after Christmas. CM would join the project meeting. Various suggestions for tackling the necessary work were discussed, DO will discuss with LMCl,

The board agreed unanimously.

8. E-bikes

There had been twenty-five responses to the survey to date, all but two were residents. All responses were in favour of the idea. CH said the detail was in the report but highlighted that overall costs will be in the region of £15,000 to be met from a bid to Transport Scotland's national e-Bike project fund, and matched funding. After three years the bikes would belong to the CCDC, to be disposed of as seemed

appropriate. If the project could not justify keeping the bikes they may have to be returned to the national project before the three years were up. Local e-bike users would be asked for advice. Different types of bikes would be trialled.

The board unanimously agreed that bids for funding should go ahead.

9. Community Plan

CM reported that the plan had been reformatted, there were more soft targets and projects were organised thematically. She was keen to receive feedback from the board. CM said CH had drafted a format to use for monitoring projects which she recommended be used. Monitoring would be split into things CCDC could control and those they cannot. DO supported the approach to monitoring delivery and said that it was important to share the plan with stakeholders as soon as possible. There would be a public reporting event to share the Plan at the November meeting.

The Board approved the revisions and authorised circulation of the plan to the Community Council and the Heritage Trust initially.

10. Land Reform Consultation Response.

The deadline for responses was three days away. DO had drafted and circulated a response. He asked if the board was content for him to submit it. SD complimented DO on the response.

The board approved the submission of the response unanimously.

11. Arrangements for November public meeting

It was agreed that the meeting would be on Saturday 26th November at 11.30am. Refreshments would be served before the meeting. The usual meeting would follow, with a presentation on the Community Plan after. Questions would be taken. SH would undertake publicity for the event. CH asked if a viewing of the Scalasaig site was possible. DO would investigate the possibility.

12. AOCB

CM said the croft situation was unchanged. There was a discussion about possible changes in board membership

Date of next meeting - with Community Plan Event Saturday 26.11.22 11am