



Colonsay Community Development Company Board Meeting

Public Minutes

Thursday 12 January 2023

1. Attendance and apologies

Board members present: Dannie Onn (DO), Willie Joll (WJ), Darragh Keenaghan (DK), Helen Mann (HM)

Board Members attending via remote link: Lesley McInness (LM). (Sarah Hobhouse was unable to connect due to host error - apologies)

Project co-ordinator: Carrie Seymour (CS)

Apologies: Callum Hay, Andrew Abrahams, Caitlin McNeill

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

HM, DK - Crofting

4. Briefing Note

The briefing note had been issued. No additions made or questions asked.

5. CCC update

WJ gave a quick update in relation to the administration of the community fund. A panel will review applications over £1,000. Applications under £1,000 will be reviewed by administrator and one member of the Council. Administration of the Hardship fund will be finalized at the next CCC meeting.

The Community Council (and indeed the Heritage Trust) have signed the new community plan.

6. Scalasaig Report

CS presented her report (previously circulated). In addition, Communities Housing Trust (CHT) has provided an Options Appraisal and there had been a meeting earlier today with CHT to discuss the appraisal. The report deals with making best use of the available housing options. The board discussed the paper, noting that the key to the choices available for tenure depend on the feedback from the marketing exercise. Any decision to change the tenures will be made at a later date.

In respect of the decisions requested in the CS report, the board agreed unanimously to the principle of a reservation fee for the self-build plots and that the detail will be determined by CHT. The board discussed the pros and cons of having a deposit on rental properties. It was noted that this is standard practice, but also that incoming tenants will have to bear the additional costs of furniture, white good, floor coverings and the like, as well as a month's rent in advance. The expectation is that the houses are likely to be let for the long term. The board decided by a majority, not to require a deposit from first tenants of the community housing.

7. Moorings

The board received the moorings report from LK which had been circulated previously. There were no additions to the report. The board approved the purchase and installation of up to 2 additional moorings. The board also approved the increase in moorings fees as set out in the report.

8. Service Point

The board discussed the threat of closure received from Argyll and Bute Council. After discussing the impacts this might have, the board agreed that DO should write to the council and our 3 ward Councillors resisting closure, but if it is to go ahead, asking for time and funding to make the transition.

9. Machair Wind

The board agreed that engagement with the CC to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Scottish Power Renewables should be underway before the SPR team visit Colonsay in the Spring. DO agreed to take this forward with CCC.

12. AOCB

DO reported that a meeting with Chris Walker of Native Architects will take place towards the end of the month to discuss options and processes for the long term beneficial use of the property.

The board discussed the present state of the building, including dampness and mould. The property is not currently in a lettable standard, but the board agreed that the property should be let to people in need as a short-term measure if possible.

Date of next meeting – 9 February 2023

Meetings have been scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 19:00 and the hall has been booked. Changes may be made as necessary.