



Colonsay Community Development Company Board Meeting  
Public Minutes  
Thursday 13 April 2023

**1. Attendance and apologies**

Present: Dannie Onn (DO), Sarah Hobhouse (SH), William Joll (WJ), Darragh Keenaghan (DK), Lesley McInnes (LM), Caitlin McNeil

Apologies: Helen Mann (HM), Callum Hay (CH), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Carrie Seymour, Lizzie Keenaghan

**2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Minutes agreed.

**3. Declarations of interest**

SH – campsite contracting, DK - crofting

**4. Briefing Note**

This was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

**5. CCC update including joint meeting**

WJ reported that a date was still to be decided. DO reported that there is a meeting next week with Scottish Power Renewables regarding off-shore wind proposals.

**6. Scalasaig report**

CS report circulated prior to the meeting. There are issues with SSEN and wayleaves to the business units. Planning delay means that some funding is unavailable until planning is given. DO to make contact with A&B and chase.

Update on the number of applications received, 3 for house sales but can only offer 2. Applicants will be notified when confirmation of terms of ownership is decided - this needs to be resolved for allocation to go ahead.

Rental applications outweigh the number of houses for rent.

LM – reminded that the objectives set for building the houses seem to be born out and that we should be looking to maximise the use of the housing stock.

No applications for the business units to date, but some interest. Closing date 12.05.23.

The allocation policy for the business units was approved by the board.

The board agreed that an off island, outside person, should be on the allocation panel and not just islanders, for example a local councillor, HIE or a housing professional.

There have been no applications to date to buy a self-build plot although there have been recent enquiries. SH asked if a plot be built on as a rental property. DO said that this was an option put forward by the housing fund to improve cash flow, but will get more difficult as time moves on and that window of opportunity may have been lost.

## **7. Housing management report**

To be brought to the next board meeting.

## **8. Electric bikes**

Report circulated prior to the meeting. Full funding is now in place. Final agreement between Colonsay Bikes and Boards and CCDC is yet to be made, pending insurance and VAT arrangements. Matters will hopefully be resolved in the next week or two.

## **9. Kissing Gate at Port Mor crofts**

CTMG propose to install a kissing gate Between Rhona Robinson's (RR) land and the community crofts, replacing the stile at the top of the hill. This will provide easier access for walkers. Our croft tenants are happy with the proposal.

Board approved and DO will inform the CTMG.

## **10. Annual Accounts**

The finalised accounts and CH paper were circulated in advance. The board approved the 2021/ 2022 accounts for CCDC and CTC.

## **11. AOCB**

**CCDC Letter to Jane Howard** (circulated prior to the meeting) was sent following and responding to the Glasgow Herald article. We have had no response to date.

SH has spoken to the Glasgow Herald journalist yesterday, who would like to come over and write another report on all the progress the community is making on Colonsay. DO thanked SH.

**Brendan O'Hara** MP visited the island today and met with both CCC and CCDC amongst others. WJ reported that he was receptive, happy to support the community and that we should keep in touch with him on a regular basis. Devolved issues would best be channelled through our MSP Jenni Minto, but Brendan is in close contact with her.

**Marine Protection Areas** consultation by Scottish Government – AA has been in touch with all Directors giving examples of no-take zones, essentially saying this could be a good idea for conservation and local fish stocks, but not the way it is set out in the consultation. At the meeting today, Brendan O'Hara said he is lobbying against it.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April is the close of the consultation period and there is a need to respond quickly. CM offered to do a draft based Scottish Islands Federation guidance and circulate quickly to the board for comment before next Monday's deadline.

**Trading Company.** There was an issue over the Easter bank holiday weekend where the CCDC office was open, but the Service Point closed. The coal and gas keys had been left in the shop. Some customers had to go between the two. CCDC recognises that there have been long-standing arrangements to give access to fuel when the service point is closed. Following discussion with CH, DO suggested that coal and gas only be sold through the Service Point during official opening times and not on bank holidays, once the community had been fully notified of the arrangement. All in agreement that this should happen.

An informal directors meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April at The Pantry. A profile of Directors will be added to our website and this may be a photo opportunity.

## **DONM**

Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7pm