



Colonsay Community Development Company Board Meeting
Public Minutes
Thursday 11 May 2023

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Dannie Onn (DO), Callum Hay (CH), Lesley McInnes (LM), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Darragh Keenaghan (DK), Sarah Hobhouse (SH), William Joll (WJ), Caitlin McNeil (CM) Linsay Chalmers (LC)

Apologies: Helen Mann (HM), Carrie Seymour (CS), Lizzie Keenaghan (LK)

Welcome to Linsay Chalmers who has been co-opted to the Board of Directors. Linsay is an employee of Community Land Scotland. Each Board member introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed.

Matters arising: CH reports that insurance still needs to be progressed before purchasing the electric bikes.

3. Declarations of interest

SH – campsite contractor, DK - crofting

4. Briefing Note

DO report circulated prior to the meeting. No questions for discussion. CH suggested the briefing note be put on the website each month as a news item. DO suggested printing off for those without access to the website.

5. CCC collaboration

The board agreed that, on a monthly basis, a summary should be taken back to the CCC to make the collaboration less informal between the two community groups. DO to produce a report before their next meeting.

WJ reported that the first meeting of the community fund panel was successful and that road safety is being followed up by CCC.

6. Scalasaig update

CS on leave and no report was issued.

As previously reported the low-cost home ownerships are ready to be allocated, except that Community Housing Trust have been asking Scottish Government to switch from the shared equity scheme to a rural burden. The homes division have ruled out the change, so we expect allocation to be made shortly. There have been no applications for self-build plots.

SH asked about updates of electric supply – none, drainage – SEPA approval now given, which should allow completion of the Road Construction Consent.

7. Manse

LK report circulated prior to the meeting. The tenants reported continuing damp in one corner. DO went to look earlier today but will need a further visit with ladders.

The board discussed the A&B Council scheme to install free insulation. DO reluctant to do this if changes to the Manse building will be made in the near future and if there is a continuing damp problem. CH asked if there was a time limit on the scheme and could it be deferred to next year, rather than miss out completely. DO/ LK to ask if we can accept the offer but delay installation. If no flexibility on the scheme, agreed that the board does not take up the A&B offer.

Naked Architect have given 2 alternative plans as early ideas. It is noted that SH felt that the architectural integrity (Architect - Basil Spence) of the Manse should be kept, even though it is not listed. Others agreed that the adding of an extension to the Manse would be necessary to improve the internal layout, but not to change the integrity of the existing building. DK thought that the idea of an easier extension out the back, and option 1 could be put forward as two ideas to islanders. CH thought that CCDC should be looking for the best quality that can possibly get, to withstand the length of time. LM thought that should consider the importance of the building to the island.

It was agreed that we ask Native Architects to present designs at a meeting for discussion with board members.

Express the Boards thanks to Chris and Sally for their contribution in kind. DO will contact them.

8. Machir Wind – draft Memorandum of Understanding

DO circulated the draft MoU to board members prior to the meeting. It includes suggested amendments from Scottish Power Renewables. The board gave authority to go back to SPR and continue discussions on this.

9. Island Profile update inc. funding

DO asked CM to give an update. Progress being made with the planning of the profile. There will be a project team meeting this week. The Government put forward £5,000 on the understanding that match funding would be found. CM applied for and got match funding from the Colonsay and Oransay Community fund, making a total of £10,000. CH reported that he was uncomfortable that the bid went to the COCF without his knowledge. DO reported that the discussion was had in December last year, with agreement to seek additional funds. CM acknowledged that there has been a lack of communication to board members. WJ reassured CH that there were no strong objections to the application from the COCF panel especially as the Scottish Government have chosen Colonsay for this pilot scheme.

CM left the meeting.

10. Colonsay Village Hall

DO introduced and forewarned the board about threats to the future of the hall. He reported that the hall committee has by law, to become a properly registered SCIO, but this means changing the lease. The estate has been approached by the hall committee to change the lease over the last year, but so far there have been only holding replies.

Following a brief discussion of the hall's future, the board agreed that CCDC should not get involved in the management of the hall at this point, as it felt it had enough to do.

11. Biodiversity proposal

DO circulated his paper prior to the meeting. No concerns. Board happy to host the project through the website.

12. Communications

SH noted that there is still work to do on the website and social media. She is happy to continue on the understanding that time is an issue and progress is

slow. Corncrake has not yet been launched due to lack of contributors. SH to send out a memo to board members asking for contributions. LM offered to write a report.

13. Playpark donation

CM circulated a paper prior to the meeting. Board members noted that CCDC has the lease over the community garden and the playpark. The board agreed the recommendations. LM reported that WHHA has money for playparks and community gardens and suggested the play park committee speak to them.

14. AOCB

Card payments are now working in the Service Point.

CH has a quote back from new auditors is more than double the last accountants. (Robb Fergusson in Glasgow.) LC reported that they sometimes use accountant firms in England which are much cheaper – CH will check whether he can use English auditors.

Footpath from Queens Bay – DO, CH to approach Kevin Byrne for support for the path following his social media post referring to the moorings. DO to also approach the estate, as planning permission for the Queens Bay development has been granted and Alex Howard wanted to wait until A&B made their decision.

DONM

Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7pm