

Public Minutes  
Thursday 10 August 2023

**1. Attendance and apologies**

Present: Dannie Onn (DO), Callum Hay (CH), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Linsay Chalmers (LC), William Joll (WJ), Darragh Keenaghan (DK)

Apologies: Lesley McInnes (LM), Helen Mann (HM), Carrie Seymour, Lizzie Keenaghan

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

Minutes approved.

**3. Declarations of interest**

Darragh: HR

**4. Briefing Note**

Circulated prior to the meeting. Dannie tabled amendments relating to the Machair Wind visit yesterday; Jenni Minto meetings and visit; and a meeting with CE. These are now added to the record.

Dannie was unable to join the on-line meeting with the housing minister.

WJ asked about the Queens Bay development. The known facts are that four separate applications have been made and two have been granted, with the other two awaiting decision. It is rumoured that the cost of the road access has made the development unviable.

CH asked about the Machair meeting. Public meeting with individual conversations but they will summarise questions and answers. AA spoke to engineer public response good here and on Islay. No need to convince the community. Further opportunity to comment. AA asked that SPR be pressed to consult other businesses on the island. DO agreed to pursue this with them.

CH suggested better routing CE engagement through CCC. We will share with CCC but have a narrower membership. WJ will circulate information so far

subject to council agreement. CE has spoken with some crofters but not others. DO added that CE had said that other landowners will be invited to take part in any land management scheme. The board agrees that it is important that all are consulted.

The board agreed that the CCC should be the lead community body on engagement with CE.

## **5. Scalasaig report**

CS report circulated in advance. Private matters have been separated from the report for the private minute. No additions made. No decisions are required at this stage. Applicants for properties have been informed of the delays.

## **6. Old Manse report**

LK report circulated in advance. A draft brief is being prepared for approval by the board. That will be followed by continued discussion with Native architects.

The board approved the repair of the access track, replacement of the bathroom and ancillary repairs, subject to cost. There is currently money in the Manse account. DO and LK to arrange an informal meeting with the current occupiers and draw up a schedule of works for pricing and consider when repairs might be done. It is almost essential to repair the track and parking at least. The board agreed to delegate the repairs project to DO, CH and LK.

## **7. Housing management update**

For confirmation – HM will be continuing to produce the necessary management documents for our housing stock. She has had the support and wisdom of LM in this work. Any policies or other documents going beyond statutory requirements will be brought to the board where approval is required.

## **8. Fair work and Equal Opportunities Policies**

These policies and a brief report were circulated in advance. Our Flexible working policy has been prepared as a requirement of continued funding for the project co-ordinator post and brings us into line with current regulations and practice.

The flexible working policy was adopted by the board.

Our equal opportunities policy dates from 2017. It will need to be reviewed.

### **9. Colonsay Business Park opportunity**

The existing bookshop premises is for sale through DM Hall for £100,000. DO approached the current owners to ask if the community might be allowed the opportunity to explore the potential to buy it and received a promising response. The owners say they will allow time for CCDC to seek funding and prepare an offer. DO has contacted HIE regarding Scottish Land Fund support, including for investigative work. AA suggested the price is too high and when it is still on the market in the future. The potential use as additional medical space was put forward, which might lever more money. If someone else takes it on it may meet our objectives but if it were community owned, the most beneficial option could be considered. DO to pursue.

### **10.DTAS Strengthening Communities Programme**

DO said that a new grant is available for up to three years' funding for a full-time equivalent post. This looks at first glance to be an opportunity to fund a management post we urgently require. A copy of the grant guidance was circulated beforehand. This seems to be a good fit with our current circumstances. DO to complete an Expression of Interest before the end of August deadline and draft the full application with help from CH.

### **11.AOCB**

#### **Auditors**

CH reports that, thanks to help from Linsay, he has found a firm in England which will be able to conduct the audit for us. This will cost £4,800 this year and around £15,000 overall, which is unaffordable. As reported previously, this cost is wholly because of the Scalasaig contract and CH has now persuaded CHT that it is a legitimate project cost. That means there is a manageable way of affording it by rolling it up with the loan we must take out on the project. The board expressed concern that CHT did not include this in project costs in the first place as it must have arisen before.

The board agreed to appoint the auditors for this year and provisionally for next year. CH will investigate a source of funding to cover this if possible.

**DONM**

21 September 2023

AGM to be held on 23 September