COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Board Meeting 26 March 2026

DRAFT Public Minute

Attendance: Dannie Onn (DO), William Joll (WJ), Liz Griffiths (EG), Callum Hay (CH), Steve Fay (SF), Linsay Chalmers (LC)

Apologies: Helen Mann (HM), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Carrie Seymour (CS), Lizzie Keenaghan (LK), Maggie Fay (MF)

M**inutes of Last meeting**.

The minutes from the meeting of 26 February 2026 were approved by all.

Matters arising:

Website Income - CH raised concerns about website income figures, clarifying that actual income peaked at £2,000 seven years ago and has since declined, with current figures around £1,000. CH will send actual figures to DO

Machair Wind meeting: This has been moved to 2 May due to key representatives on holiday.

Port Mor housing: DO reported that WHHA have now received the non-material amendment to the planning permission for the new houses. They intend to complete the tendering process and restart the works this summer. Ground works would be completed, followed by a winter break and house construction in 2027.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Monthly Bulletin

The briefing was noted by the board and agreed for circulation to the community. DO to add from CNI report before issue.

The Manse update

The board discussed property repairs including chimney and bathroom work scheduled for April-May, electrical testing in May, and reinstatement of fencing. There has been another offer to reinstate the missing fence. DO will establish the correct line. James MacLaren has agreed to make any necessary adjustments to the road line.

The likely letting date will now be June 2026. The building will be let with agreement to prepare an improvement plan. Longer term improvements will depend on the availability of RIHF or additional sources of funding.

The board discussed the letting policy, suggesting allocation based on supporting the community while maintaining a community-led approach to housing. A suitable advertisement will be prepared.

CNI report

A report from MF was circulated prior to the meeting. MF reports that approximately 1,000 trees have arrived and she plans to coordinate planting efforts over the weekend, aiming for 300-400 trees to be planted.

The committee agreed to continue employing with the Carbon Neutral Islands project and delegated authority to MF and EG to appoint a bike mechanic following upcoming interviews. DO noted that the Village Hall roof will also be included in the programme for works in 2026/27.

The board thanked MF for all of her hard work in taking the projects forward over the last year.

Colonsay Energy supply

A post-implementation review by CH was circulated prior to the meeting. The board noted the system performance to date and the recommended future work. They agreed to review opening hours in the coming year following the site inspection by ABC Trading Standards. The board also delegated to the Chair and CH to develop a media release in collaboration with the suppliers, contractors and funders. It appears that the Colonsay project is an exemplar and should be promoted.

File and data storage

The board discussed implementing improved data security measures, with Callum proposing an investment of up to £600 for a more sophisticated solution. Dannie and Liz were delegated to decide on the implementation approach, with Callum offering guidance. DO to set up a meeting, including staff.

Post Office

WJ reported that the Post Office requires a commitment on the preferred location before proceeding with surveys and cost evaluation. A portable building option between the hall and shop was discussed, with Alex offering to help. Next steps will be taken by the separate working group including community council representatives. CCDC stands ready to assist with and development proposal agreed. WJ to keep the board informed of progress.

Other business

More Homes Scotland: DO attended a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Mairi MacAllan that was organised by the Scottish Islands Federation, of which we are a member. The SNP government proposes increased funding and ambitions for rural and island housing. The RIHF will continue with a focus on Simplicity – Scale – Speed. The Cab Sec answered questions on the risk appetite of More Homes and the need for community-led housing to be supported into operational phase. There was a plea for local area contacts in More Homes rather than regional offices. Other topics discussed included economies of scale, modular build, and value for money.

Island organisation co-working: DO reported another lead from the Raaasay visit reported under the CNI project. The Raasay development officer is exploring how the various groups on their island might better work together, including the sharing of resources. Papers have been shared with DO who will work up a proposal for Colonsay to be shared with (say) CCC, COHT, CTMG.

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Website: The handover and control of the website has not been fully resolved. This will become a key task to address in the allocation of tasks under new job descriptions in the restructure process. Last year has not yet been invoiced and it was agreed that this be rolled into the current year invoicing. These errors are due to oversight in the handover processes. It was agreed to discus with HM and look into training requirements.

Additional mooring: We have been offered an additional mooring by the current owner and license holder, wondering if CCDC would like to take it on. We need to let the current owner know quickly so that Crown Estate can be informed. The board felt that the current moorings do not bring in a great deal and the demand is low and patchy. We would need to know what costs would be involved and whether MOWI would be able to include an extra mooring in their support for our own. LK to be asked to explore quickly.

Scalasaig fencing: The board discussed fencing costs, where a local contractor was charging rates significantly higher than what they believed to be reasonable. We agreed that DO discuss pricing with the contractor while having a reasonable cost benchmark in mind.

DONM Thursday 30 April 2026 at 7pm

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