COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Board Meeting July 2026

DRAFT Public Minute

Attendance: Dannie Onn (DO), William Joll (WJ), Linsay Chalmers (LC), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Callum Hay (CH), Elizabeth Griffiths (EG), Maggie Fay (MF)

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

M**inutes of Last meeting**.

The minutes from the meeting of 11 June 2026 were approved.

Matters arising:

DO reported that:

1. He had contacted the CEO of WHHA, who intend to restart the development this year. A copy of the agreement with them has been supplied (DO can share if anyone is interested). The relevant part is that WHHA had 2 years to start the build, otherwise CCDC could exercise an option to take back the land. However, the development has commenced and we can no longer exercise that right. The positive side of that is that the planning permission cannot expire. AA has agreed to maintain pressure on WHHA to complete the proposed housing.
2. Further advice on Hemlock had been sought as agreed. We are told that Hemlock is a native species which should not, and perhaps could not, be eradicated. We are also advised that there is no need to notify our insurers. LC offered to contact the Langham Institute, who have been managing Hemlock on their land.
3. He has written a letter of support for the purchase of the Brewery building by Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Monthly bulletin

The draft was noted and agreed.

Projects update

Scalasaig: CS reports that TSL are still resolving the outstanding defects. The funds to pay the final retention balance and any residual top-up payments secured from funders remain available in our accounts.

CNI Report

MF reported to the meeting as follows.

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The e-bike shed is now up, with thanks to Andrew Howard, DO and WJ. The bikes themselves are no out for the third round of trials except that one bike has been returned to Oban Cycles with a charging fault.

An Faire Mor planting has suffered somewhat. The tree-guards specified are not strong enough to resist sheep and rabbit. Some of the residents are doing their best to maintain the plants.

Community engagement includes a re-run of the Climate Emergency Briefing next week to be facilitated by Mike Berners-Lee. MK is also planning a Repair Café later in the year. The Climate Action Plan will have its first-year review over winter with another climate Café planned to hear the community's views.

A Rabbit control project is being run by landowners across the island. A firm named Evergreen has provided some quotes and options. AA supported the initiative because of the potential benefits to conservation, biodiversity and dune restoration. The board has agreed in principle to allow any agreed measures to take place on CCDC land.

Machair Wind update

DO circulated a report prior to the meeting. The board agreed that we do not make a representation on the consenting applications as this is a matter for the Community Council. Individuals may make their own representations. The board also agreed the Draft remit for our community Machair Wind (MW) engagement group. DO will report back to the board on the review of the MoU with Scottish Power Renewables and the next steps for the MW engagement group.

Post Office update

WJ reported further conversations with Danielle Cameron at head office. There is to be a visit by PO change managers on 28th of this month. WJ is to provide further information regarding the connection to retail use. We expect that the existing premises with the modification proposed, and the Service Point option will both be considered at the visit.

DO explained that the Island Shop is proposing a split lease so that the PO would become separate from the shop, and smaller. We understand that Alex Howard has agreed to this. The board confirmed that these efforts are aimed at securing a new sub-postmaster in suitable premises and that CCDC should only be part of the operation as a very last resort.

Filling Station report

A report by CH was circulated prior to the meeting. This is a six-month review. The headline is that the operation has achieved net-zero.

CH emphasised that the board bear in mind that the agreement with the Island Shop will come to an end. We should look to arrange a supply connection to the Village Hall as soon as possible.

The board noted the report and agreed to lay the solar panels flat, subject to further detail once CH has been in touch with the installers.

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The press release proposed may be deferred to Spring next year. A further review will be undertaken after a full 12 months of operation.

DO agreed to look into clearing the bracken from overshadowing the lower panels.

Website

CH reports that improved access and control over content has allowed an Events page and a library of documents. These are now active. Directors are invited to take a look for themselves. HE has agreed to look at the CNI content with MF

AA is concerned that the website is not delivering on its potential to add much-needed income to the company. The board agreed that CS should issue any outstanding invoices as soon as possible.

Local Place Plan Report

A report by DO was circulated prior to the meeting. The board considered the way forward. LC noted that an LPP is an important document which can be helpful in terms of addressing community needs and is now being asked for in some funding applications.

The board authorised DO to continue working on this project with the help of others; to seek members for a short-life steering group; and to approach the Colonsay and Oransay Community Fund for the cost of a specialist consultant.

DO will provide a monthly update to the board and identify any slippage of programme.

Other business

SURF membership: We are being asked to renew our SURF membership, which was free for the year in which we were shortlisted for their regeneration awards. DO noted the large number of organisations out there for communities and charities and the need to limit these to avoid using too much time keeping up with everything. We should be selective in our memberships. In particular: DTAS, SCVO, CLS, Local housing groups, and so on, are central to our work. The board agreed we will not rejoin SURF.

Service Point telephones: These are to be changed by Argyll and Bute council. There will continue to be two lines, one principally for the Service Point and one used by CCDC. Each will be dedicated to a particular user and be routed via a Microsoft Teams account. DO is seeking clarification of how the phones will be accessible to others. This change will be an opportunity to switch to Teams for our virtual and hybrid meetings, in particular with the new equipment for meetings at the Village Hall. We note, however, that Teams can be less reliable than Zoom with our current wifi.

The Island Profile: CH reports that the questionnaire and associated software are ready for use. The timing will be considered further, but directors agreed that we should avoid confusion with the Community Plan review and the LPP. A possible launch would be late September, with assessment of responses in October.

Nature: MF asked that the board consider adding 'Nature' to the board. A similar move had been made by SAMS in Oban, which had added 'Ocean'. The notion of considering the impact of what we do is supported but it could be outwith our constitution to have a non-person as a trustee on the board. It may be that the impacts on nature, the climate, the environment etc. should be assessed where relevant to any report prepared and any decision made. Directors will consider the request further.

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DONM: Thursday 20 August 2026 at 7pm

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