**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DIRECTORS OF ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST**

Thursday 8 August 2019, 7pm, LSIC

**Present:** Julie Gordon (Chair), Iain Macniven (Vice Chair), Rosemary Bridge (Treasurer), Pamela King, Peter Fleming, Paul Sheard

Tiina Heinonen (Minute Secretary).

**Apologies:** Alison O’Rourke

**Attending**: Dennis Rixson

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None presented.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes of last meeting (4 July) were approved subject to Rosemary providing restricted funds figure. Approved by Julie and seconded by Peter.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Additional directors:** Iain yet to speak to Neil Cameron. Pam has spoken to Zoe, who is happy to come on board to assist regarding housing project only.

**Arisaig Games:** £99.50 raised. Need better space to generate more takings in future.

**Community Care Partnership:** No progress yet.

**Tenth Anniversary event:** Being worked on.

(Iain took the Minutes to this point when Tiina arrived at 7.20pm)

**GOWER TRUST:** For Dennis’ information the allocation of Gower Trust funds was clarified. No applications received.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Trust is in a good position as final payments are coming through from EST, Scottish Land Fund and summer income boosting the figures. An-Seada project during June is not showing a true reflection as the funding is yet to come through.

To clarify Dennis Rixson’s query regarding financial difference between ACT and LSIC Iain explained that ACT owns the assets whereas LSIC is the trading arm.

*Rosemary* will check LSIC’s total profit from last financial year as this is needed for funding applications. *Rosemary* will also pass the directors the password so they can check the accounts when, and if needed.

**Unrestricted:** £4,648.84 **Toilets:** £1,930

**Playing Field: -**£43.88 **Gower Trust**: £2,976.80

**Defibrillator:** £1,195.47 **Station Adoption:** -£136.95

**An Seada:** -£17,818.76 **CCF:** £2,350.31

**HLF WW1:** £2,496.09 **Community Housing Survey: -**£232.25

**Senior Lunch Club:** £236.67 **Car Charging Point:** -£353.09

**Bank Balances at 3 July 2019: LSIC £9,604.97 ACT £8,474.73 (£11,185.34 restricted)**

**LSIC EXTENSION/WORKSHOP/CAR PARK:** Disabled marking is now done. Final evidence has been sent off to LEADER; receiving the final payment should be a fairly quick process.

Charging points are now fully operational. The costs should be free for a year and may be recoverable if approved by EST; a letter of request should be sent in March.

Alison S is to claim back £131 from July.

At this point Dennis Rixson expressed strong support towards environmentally conscious projects such as the EV Charging point for example.

Peter suggested Agenda Item 6 ‘LSIC Extension/workshop/car park’ to be replaced with EV Charger; *Minute Secretary* will do this.

LSIC volunteers have approached visitors who park their campervans overnight at the LSIC suggesting a small donation towards their stay.

**PLAYING FIELD:** Lack of funding generated by the Playing Field was acknowledged and will be discussed in more detail in future.

Most of the work on the field is now completed. The mulching is still at trial & error stage but coming along slowly.

**LSIC/ECO PROJECT:** Julie gave a short report in Alison O’s absence. The visitor numbers for July was 2,395 which contributed to a good monthly turnover.

Great thanks were expressed to Susan Carstairs and Alison Stewart for their hard work on the successful WWI project.

The Eco Project continue with the veggie planting, looking into best options to improve the glass recycling area and organising engaging activities.

**ARISAIG PUBLIC TOILETS:** Peter noted that nothing needed to be fixed at the toilets which sparked a conversation regarding what a great asset these were to the village and the community. Dennis Rixson praised ACT for taking on the asset. Charging for the toilets was discussed again briefly. It was noted that the user numbers are recorded and will be analysed along with the income generated to help establish a better picture; this will be done in due course.

Pam suggested the toilets should be ‘celebrated’ officially at the end of the year with an article in the press. This will be discussed again.

Exterior paint needs to be refreshed again, this to be organised soon.

**COMMUNITY LAND:** Timescale for funding application for the Shorefront has been set back from June to November now. This will give some extra time to finalise the business plan and proposal, including confirming the exact value of the land. *Pam* is working on the documents.

Pam explained the expectations for the Housing Project needs to be revised if the project is to go ahead successfully and secure external funding. The feasibility study is still a working process but to date shows the houses can be built; however, to minimise the overall risk, and costs the project may have to be scaled down. A design and build route is now being explored, on the recommendations of HSCHT, as this also reduces risk to ACT and will reduce costs. Options put forward included reducing the size of the houses, building fewer houses, changing the overall layout and accepting additional help from the Small Communities Housing Trust. Pam emphasised that it was important to take into account everyone’s view on this matter.

Everyone agreed it was worth taking the project forward as housing is needed in the area and the momentum seems to be right. It was also noted it was essential to secure funding to employ a Project Worker to help take the project forward.

The deadline for the main funding application is due on 12th August; there are only few smaller gaps to fill and it is ready to be sent off. *Pam* will get this done in time.

(Rosemary left at 8.10pm)

**ARISAIG STATION:** Iain and Julie will join a conference meeting over the phone with the surveyor day after ACT meeting. During this Iain will get clarification on the proposed lease, expectations and what is acceptable.

Uses for the station was discussed briefly. The current project plan is for a co-working space but the rooms could be multi-purpose; additional ideas mentioned were linked to the last local station master, the most westerly station and a combination of heritage and music.

Pam is still waiting for a reply from Toby.

Jane will spend time rejuvenating the planters later on in the autumn.

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING:** Peter has spoken to Phil McCaherty at HIE who confirmed there was no direct funding currently available for large scale projects from HIE. However, if we got close to fulfilling the funding needs for a project but were just a bit short then HIE could be approached to fill the gap – but only up to around 50K and there would be no guarantees. He did provide a list of other funders we could pursue. Most of these we have already approached but the Postcode Lottery Fund was available for applications with a closing date of next week. *Peter* will progress.

Peter has completed the first stage of the application process for the Heritage Fund for the LSIC Extension. Phil advised going for the whole amount which pushed us into the top funding level and therefore a more drawn out application starting with an Expression of Interest application. Responses are due 20 days after submission so we should have reply by next meeting. Full application will be due by 19 November.

Although LEADER is likely to have no future after this current round, Peter also passed a synopsis of the Extension project to Martin who has responded with other potential funders – again most of whom we have already approached but there may be some mileage in going through them again.

The SSE Sustainable Development Fund will be launched at end September. Peter has contacted their Community Development Officer Lindsay Dougan and talked her through our LSIC Extension plans. Lindsay thought our project could be a good fit for their ‘Empowering Communities’ criteria so Peter is trying to arrange a face-to-face meeting with her when the fund is launched in the Highlands – on Skye on 4 October. This fund is definitely worth pursuing because although it will not meet our full budget Lindsay understands the problem of needing funding to unlock match-funding and the SSE Fund is designed to be flexible enough to allow it to be used in that way.

Peter noted at this point that if the above funding applications were unsuccessful for the Extension then it may be best to put the Trusts energy into securing the necessary funding for the Community Housing Project and leave the Extension Project to a later date. It was agreed that we would struggle to cope with the financial and time demands of two large scale projects at the same time, and the urgent need for housing in the area, plus the social benefits and strong local support would make the Housing Development the top priority. (Paul left at 8.40pm)

**AOCB:**

**Rubbish on shorelines:** Directors were appalled by the extent of rubbish found by the shoreline and Bill’s Shed. The accumulation is not only a great eyesore, but the smell has become worse. Dennis Rixson noted that this has become a wider issue and Highland Council is looking at ways to address it. Local solutions to local problems are however strongly encouraged by HC. This then sparked suggestions on charging visitors a ‘tourist levy’, improving infrastructure, limiting visitor numbers and setting a bylaw; the conversation will continue. *Dennis Rixson* will ask these questions at the higher level and report back.

**Entertainment Licence:** Pam noted this should be reviewed. *Minute Secretary* will add this to the next Agenda.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 5th September 2019 at 7pm, LSIC

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.