**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST**

Thursday 21 March 2019, 7pm, Land, Sea and Islands Centre

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

**Apologies:** Tiina Heinonen (Minute Secretary).

**Attending**: Alison Stewart.

In the absence of Tiina, Iain took the minutes of the meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes are approved by Paul and seconded by Jane. Rosemary was welcomed to her first meeting since rejoining the board.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Seaweed Farming:** Pamela has received copies of the slides from the presentation in January, available on request. Peter will get in touch with the group in April if we do not hear back from them before then.

**SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHES**: Martine has been asked to arrange the Christmas Lunch. Sue Currie has raised the question of reviving a Senior Citizens Lunch Club, funding for which would have to be sourced. Shirley Buchanan of the Community Partnership Office is to visit Arisaig in w/b 15 April, and she might be a useful source of ideas on this.

**CHARITABLE TRAINING**: Pamela reported back on a Voluntary Action Lochaber training course on Charitable Trading. It is not uncommon for charities to have a trading subsidiary sitting under them, and this is something that the Board may need to look at in the future. Issues to be considered include the tax position, including VAT, the current zero rating for rates, whether there can be “mixed” trading across the two bodies, and whether there are any restrictions in the current Memo and Articles of the Trust. This is something to consider further.

**GOWER TRUST:** There were three applications. One was from the Americana Music Festival for partial financial support: this was approved as was an application from the Women’s Institute and an application from Traigh Lodges in relation to essential car park repair work. These were approved, subject to liaison with Maureen McColl, the Community Council treasurer, who was not present at the meeting. Iain will deal with that. **Action: Iain.**

**LSIC EXTENSION/WORKSHOP/CAR PARK:** An amended application for a completion certificate for the Workshop (now christened as “Bill’s Shed) has been submitted and Peter will chase this up. An application to extend the LEADER funding timescale will be made in the light of that. SWARCO have sleepers for the car park area and will carry out the necessary work in the next week or so. Peter is to look into matters relating to Shopmobility scooters and he has also started preparation of a funding calendar, noting key dates etc. There needs to be decisions made as to whether/how we keep a diary of usage in relation to the Shed, whether there are to be donations requested in certain cases and whether, following on from that, a distinction should be made between community and commercial use. Alison S. and Alison O’Rourke (who was not present at the meeting) are liaising regarding various aspects of usage of the Shed. **Action:Peter/Alison.**

**PLAYING FIELD:** Hugh and Iain Cameron will fix the mower. Julie will review the grass cutting and other rotas. **Action*:* Julie.**

**LSIC/ECO PROJECT:**  Alison S. reported that new point of sale equipment for cash/credit has been installed at the LSIC and training is being given to the volunteers. Bar code reader is the next project. Debit card issues are to be sorted too. There is a climate change course on 3/4 April and the Centre opens again fully on 6 April. Five volunteers have for various reasons had to withdraw their assistance, temporarily or otherwise, and Alison is to advertise for replacements. Pamela will put something on the Trust Facebook page. The WW1 exhibition continues and has been very successful: Alison is following up on further research with Susan Carstairs. A wildlife camera, picking up sightings of otters etc.has been installed along the shore at the Rue Road, and can be seen in development stage at the LSIC website. Alison is also planning a “cream teas among the bluebells” event in the grounds of her house on some suitably clement day to be announced. In the absence of Alison O, Julie read out her report covering recent and forthcoming ECO activity, as advertised in West Word and online. This includes: work to clear tree roots and large stones at the toilets, courtesy of Simon Whitton, who offered the work for free as community benefit; planting of apple trees at the toilets and playing field, courtesy of Becky from Shielfoot Organics; seed swops in the Shed; meeting Fiona Baker to discuss eco initiatives around the Road to the Isles Marathon etc event on 11 May; and liaison with the Gardening Club. In this general context the Board noted that some people appeared unclear regarding certain of the activities which the Trust promotes for community benefit. It was agreed that, as a first step, all Eco events, publicity etc should be clearly badged as carried out under the auspices of the Trust, including appearing in West Word under the umbrella of the Trust’s article.

**CLEANER:** The Trust is looking to employ a cleaner for the toilets to replace Annamarie Douglas and has advertised the post; interest has been shown and a closing date of 31 March has been fixed, with interviews to take place in the first week in May. There was some discussion as to whether the donation slot in the toilets could be made more prominent.

**COMMUNITY LAND:** A public community consultation is planned for 5 April, to be followed by others. This is in relation to the acquisition by the Trust from the Estate of the land at Station Road which is currently on the market for a housing development. Details of proposals will be available for review and discussion. Sam Foster is the architect for the project. Board members will visit similar projects completed by other local communities. The Trust is also in talks with the Estate to acquire shoreline land opposite Spar etc. and a strip of land as well as the playing field, and possibly a strip of land at Station Road. Some enquiries from local businesses and residents regarding proposals for the shoreline land have been raised and dealt with. Pamela is leading on funding for this from the Land Fund and also related project plans. A landscape architect is probably also needed, and Mandy Ketchin was suggested as perhaps someone to contact in the first instance. There also needs to be liaison with John Morrison regarding the garage which he has along the Rhu Road. Iain is to liaise with Trevor and Kirsty at Mains Park regarding the possible use of the strip of land which fronts Mains Park for use as a community orchard, with deer fencing. Separately, there was some discussion regarding a landscape picture frame to be sited at the LSIC. **Action: Iain/Pamela.**

**ARISAIG STATION:** The board is continuing talks with ScotRail’s property adviser regarding the Trust taking a lease of an existing room at the Station which is leased by West Highland Community Rail Partnership, who are willing to give up their lease in return for occasional usage of the room. Plans for community work space, café etc are being formulated. The property adviser has undertaken to visit Arisaig in the next few weeks. **Action: Iain to monitor.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** LSIC: £29,297.05; Unrestricted £758.99; Toilets: £2,004.09; Playing Field: £18.91; Gower Trust: £5,100.80; Defib Fund: £1,195.47; An Seada -£14,393.56; Station -£136.95; CCF: -£479.84; HLF: £13,009.00; Community Housing : -£2.11; Lunch Club: £236.67; Car Charging -£40.46 . Rosemary has a folder to be kept at the LSIC for board members to leave receipts, invoices etc.

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING:** A community shares event is to be held on 5 April and information has been shared with board members. A Strengthening Communities Fund opens in April on a date to be advised by Development Trust Associations Scotland (DTAS). There is a possibility of salary coverage for three to four years, and funding is available for Men’s Sheds. DTAS also offers a stationery and equipment discount scheme and a domestic heating oil purchase scheme, though this may conflict with existing suppliers. Ideas are sought also for items that the Trust can sell at the Mallaig Pool “Road to the Isles Marathon” event in May.

**AOCB:** Pamela (or Sam Foster) will organise a poster for the community land consultation on 5 April, and Jane will email members. It was thought sensible to ask a local councillor or politician to attend one of the Trust board meetings to get them involved and to form an understanding of the scale of the projects that the Trust is currently working on or planning. Kate Forbes MSP is one possibility. The board are to consider this further. The website needs to be updated with Rosemary’s details and any other necessary changes: **Action: All.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 25 April 2019 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.