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

Thursday 23 May 2019, 7pm, Arisaig Station

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

**Apologies:** , Paul Sheard, Tiina Heinonen (Minute Secretary).

**Attending**: Alison O’Rourke

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

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

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes were approved by Iain and seconded by Peter.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Seaweed Farming:** Peter continues to chase for updates on a quarterly basis. **Action:** Peter.

**Misc:** Julie is to contact Shirley Buchanan of NHS Highland regarding a meeting with local carers to discuss care in the home. **Action**: Julie.

It was noted that Angus MacDonald has been invited to the next board meeting.

The gas cylinders have now been returned to Gordon and Alison.

**GOWER TRUST:** There were no applications.

**LSIC EXTENSION/WORKSHOP/CAR PARK:** The Leader funding is being dealt with. Julie will send the paperwork so that payment can be made, and Rosemary offered to assist in the imminent absence of Peter on holiday. Milestone 4 in relation to the Shed is underway, and Peter has started some of the agreed work to the car park. It was agreed to move a £371 underspend on Milestone 3 to Milestone 4. Money could possibly be spent on a loft ladder for the Shed. Other work is in progress/proposed in relation to a water butt etc. The EV points need to be finished and they need to be added to ZapMap. That and other related matters, including agreeing a maintenance contract for the EV points, will be taken forward by Peter on his return. **Action**: Julie, Rosemary, Peter.

**PLAYING FIELD:** The Road to the Isles Festival of Running was a great success, and all went well with the playing field and other related aspects of the event. The question of future maintenance of the playing field needs to be addressed. **Action:** Julie.

**LSIC/ECO PROJECT:**  Alison reported on lots of current activity, including dealing with waste from the Festival of Running, more food growing, and liaison with local school classes. Claim 7 has been paid and Claim 8 submitted. It was thought sensible to invite Alison Stewart to board meetings on a quarterly basis for a general catch up. **Action:** Julie.

**ARISAIG PUBLIC TOILETS:** Donation levels are at a good level but more needs to be done to encourage people using the toilets to donate. Among other initiatives, Peter has prepared an eyecatching notice about this subject which will be posted on the inside of the toilet doors.

**COMMUNITY LAND:** Pamela reported that we are through the first phase of the housing project. There are no issues with the land or drainage, albeit the burn needs to be sorted, and power is fine. We await hearing from Scottish Water as to any capacity issues. The board is still looking at possibly improving the pedestrian crossing at the main road. When the pre-app inquiry is submitted, Highland Council will give feedback on the required road bond. The Stage 1 report has now been prepared by Sam Foster and the Trust is moving on to the next stage – the design phase, just a few weeks behind schedule. The second public consultation will be in w/b 24 June from 3pm to 7pm **[Post meeting note: now set for 26 June.]**  and a third will take place in July. Separately, Julie and Pamela reported on highly successful and informative trips to Rum and Mull to see how they approached similar community housing projects, plus garnering ideas for other community initiatives. They will compile a more detailed report. Pamela also reported that she had been contacted by John MacDonald from HIE regarding the Scottish Land Fund application for Arisaig shorefront and playing field. Since no development funding is required, it was suggested that the Trust move straight to Stage 2, which has an application deadline of 10 June. Pamela will complete the application with time to circulate it to other board members for feedback. It was noted that having two applications within a calendar year was not an issue. The next Stage 2 deadline is in August – with the Scottish Land Fund members meeting in November – and it is hoped that the Station Road Housing Project application can be submitted at this stage. **Action:** Pamela/Julie.

**ARISAIG STATION:** Iain continues to chase the rail appointed surveyor in order to make a start on progress with the proposed lease of the room to ACT. Iain has warned the surveyor that lack of speedy action soon will lead to his contacting others at a higher level at Network Rail/ScotRail. Jane is to start work on the plants, compost etc on the station. **Action:** Iain/Jane.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Rosemary reported that we need to employ an accountant to examine the books. Bev Arnold is unable to help. The choice is between Clements and Garrisons, with the latter favoured. Current balances are:

UNRESTRICTED: -£685.34; TOILETS: - £1,184.77; PLAYING FIELD: -£6.11; GOWER TRUST: - £2976.00; DEFIB FUND: - £1,195.47; AN SEADA: -£14,985; STATION ADOPTION: -£136.95; CCF: £521.73; HLF/WW1: - £9,226.22; COMMUNITY HOUSING SURVEY: - £906.54; SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH CLUB: £263.67.

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING:** Peter reported on his continued research into sources of grant funding. The Regeneration Capital Grand Fund is a possibility but, because of the way it is set up, an application would have to be lodged by 3 June. This looks a very tall order, but Pamela offered to look further into it, and Iain offered to assist. The intention would be to seek £500k from this source. Investing in Communities Fund is also a possibility which Pamela is looking into. There is no further word yet on new funding from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. The Big Lottery looks a non-starter. Peter will explore further the National Lottery Heritage Fund on his return from holiday, with a view to an August submission. Julie raised the issue of possible use of the QTS Rail containers which have been situated just outside the village for a while: Iain will follow this up initially with Hege Hernes at Glenfinnan, who may be able to comment based on her rail contacts. There was discussion also regarding a music event as a possible source of further funding, and also adding a donate button on the Trust FB page. **Action:**  Pamela/Peter/Iain.

**VILLAGE BBQ:** This is scheduled for 25 May, and all is in hand. There was a run through of who is doing what etc to contribute to the event.

**AOCB:** We need to identify a volunteer to assist with the shore front land which ACT is in the course of purchasing from the Estate. Julie will speak to the owners of the Old Post Office regarding the proposed new bus shelter to be situated across the road.

Discussions with Highland Council indicate that a glass rather than wood bus shelter is preferable for a variety of reasons, including maintenance, cost, preservation of the coastal view etc. This initiative continues to be taken forward with the Estate.

ACT will have a stand at the Arisaig Games, plus inclusion in the Games brochure, as per last year.

The board need to look at recruiting additional directors with complementary skillsets, and one or two names were suggested. Depending on numbers and/or status of these new directors, amendments may be needed to the ACT Constitution.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 4 July 2019 at 7pm.

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