**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DIRECTORS OF ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST**

Thursday 4 July 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:** Jane Foster,

**Attending**: Alison O’Rourke, Alison Stewart, Angus MacDonald

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None presented.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes (23rd May) were proposed by Peter and seconded by Julie.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Village BBQ:** The BBQ was a success yet again. Everyone agreed that next year’s date could be set with a shorter notice to allow flexibility to pick a sunny day. It was noted that a bigger marquee/tent during the event will definitely have its benefits and should be a must in the future.

It was good to see that the football is becoming part of the BBQ and a tradition.

Even though joining up with the Americana Festival seemed to be a very good idea and helped to engage with a different audience it was suggested that perhaps these two events should be kept separate next year. *Pam* will take the discussion forward.

**Bus shelter:** The new shelter has been put up by the village car park. It was observed that vegetation was cleared to keep a parking space.

**Additional directors:** Few names were put forward and discussed; *Pam* and *Iain* will take this forward.

**Arisaig Games:** Helpers are needed for the stall; Alison O is hoping to be present and Pam expressed she might be free, as will Peter.

Banners are still to be found; *Alison S* and *Alison O* will have a look for them.

Various items will be on sale as last year, with further information on LSIC, ACT and Eco Project activities, and a separate display on the housing project.

**GOWER TRUST:** E-mail was received from Father Stan regarding the application for the extension to the graveyard in Arisaig. The approval of the application was pending on further information which Father Stan had submitted to the Community Council and published in West Word, these were now discussed. The application was approved in principle with a cap on the funding; *Iain* will check the amount requested and confirm with everyone before *Rosemary* informs Father Stan.

**LSIC EXTENSION/WORKSHOP/CAR PARK:**

Martin Culbertson visited to discuss final details of the project, he noted how successful it had been. Rosemary confirmed the final payments are in order.

There have been slight complications with the charging points’ fittings. Peter assured that no payments will be made to the supplier until these have been fixed.

The usage has been slow to pick up, but hopefully will increase over the summer. To answer why the use of charging points were offered for free Peter explained this to qualify for the funding the service had to be offered for free for the first year. *Peter* will track monthly usage and costs.

**PLAYING FIELD:** Paul has done a lot of work on the field over the good spell of weather; new seeds have been spread, sand, soil and fertiliser added, and goal posts shifted.

Julie approached Glenelg Community Trust asking for advice as they had similar problems with their pitch having a stony under layer. She is still waiting for a reply.

*Julie* is still working on the compost, adding more cardboard to the pile.

**LSIC/ECO PROJECT:** Alison S informed that the new till and payment system is user friendly and has made the payment process much easier. This raised a question about the possibility of creating an on-line shop. Alison S is open to the idea, but she pointed out that it would increase the workload which makes it unfeasible at the moment. However, it seems it may be time to expand as the space in the shop is getting smaller due to increase in demand. New additions to the shop include lovely treasure maps made by Arisaig Primary School pupils.

The Centre is now open 7 days a week. Income generated over the last few months has been buoyant but very good.

Alison S raised a query regarding displaying a copy of the ‘Public Liability Insurance’; *Iain* will check.

The official WW1 exhibition has now come to an end. A booklet was produced from the research; a brief conversation concluded that a copy will be given to those who were closely involved in the project.

Organising a crofting exhibition is in the pipeline as a winter project.

Events such as The Festival of Running and Arisaig Americana all have had a positive effect on the Centre, not only in terms of the sales but also in raising awareness and the profile of the ACT, LSIC and the area in general.

The Eco Project extends a big Thank You to everyone who opened their gardens to the public during the Garden Trail. Approximately 70 people took part in the trail; the feedback received was very positive.

Recycling and reducing litter have been a big part of the project over the last few months; it kicked off with helping The Festival of Running become plastic free, followed by organised beach clean-up with Kiko Matthews (Kik-Plastic 2019 [www.kikomatthews.co.uk/kik-plastic](http://www.kikomatthews.co.uk/kik-plastic)) and attending the launch of the Sea Bin in Mallaig.

The project also helped organise activities with the local primary schools’ ‘Wild on Wednesdays’.

A week filled with eco related activities will take place at Bill’s Shed, 1pm-4pm starting on 22nd August. Teaming up with Mallaig Pool & Leisure few of these days will include cycling related activities.

The use of E-bikes was discussed briefly; *Alison O* will put a proposal together for the Directors.

**ARISAIG PUBLIC TOILETS:** The most recent figures show over 15,000 users since the counter was put in place. The takings from donations have gone up which sparked hopeful comments that the toilets’ income would break even over the summer.

Cleaners’ cupboard is still to be painted.

Tam Kinsella has volunteered to build a wall around the trees. The area needs to be cleared before work can start; *Alison O* will take this forward.

**COMMUNITY LAND:** Pamela informed she had received a proposal for the shorefront from the landscape architect Marion Preez, but is still to receive the written valuation from John Strachan.

It was agreed that at this point it was best to wait to hear back regarding the Stage 2 application to Scottish Land Fund before making any binding decisions. It was however noted that any work should be focused on areas between the Spar and LSIC, in particular on a bin shelter, resurfacing the car park and creating a walkway.

Julie has applied for funding from Lochaber Community Fund towards upgrading the existing interpretation boards. Ideas on what to include on the boards are welcomed.

Housing consultation was well attended, and the outcome was discussed. The board now needs to make big decisions regarding the layout of the plans, the position of the road and parking areas, the design of the houses, how to allocate the houses and the best approach for ownership of the houses. These decisions should be made within the next few weeks to allow Sam Foster to complete the design face and to keep to the Rural Housing Fund’s timescale. A separate meeting will be organised to discuss these details. The plans are still available for the public at the LSIC.

**ARISAIG STATION:** Iain will try to speed up the progress regarding the room lease.

Pamela contacted Toby Robinson (Knoydart Construction) to come and have a look at the existing rooms and have a chat about their potential.

*Jane* will organise plants for the new planters.

**COMMUNITY CARE PARTNERSHIP:** Meeting with Andrew Weaver was very informative; there may be Community Learning Fund available and training to set up a Befriending Scheme. *Julie* explained there is no funding available for a specific post, but individual projects may be eligible. One specific project mentioned was setting up the Senior Citizens’ Lunch Club. *Julie* will keep everyone updated.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Rosemary confirmed the LEADER Fund, HIE has paid up and Susan’s project was approved with £7 back.

Issues sourcing an accountant has now been resolved.

A Thank You note was received from Ann Martin regarding the allocation of Gower Trust money.

A new system will be put in place regarding approvals for receipts; *Rosemary* will take this forward.

Current balances are:

**LSIC**: -£1,830.76 **Unrestricted:** £4,292.58 **Toilets:** £1,048.50

**Playing Field: -**£30.63 **Gower Trust**: £2,976.80 **Defibrillator:** £1,195.47

**Station Adoption:** -£136.95 **An Seada:** -£16,512.99 **CCF:** £436.53

**HLF WW1:** £2552.05 **Community Housing Survey:** £432.01

**Senior Lunch Club:** £263.67 **Car Charging Point:** -£336.62

**Bank Balance:** £18,079.70 (at 3 July 2019; includes £??? restricted funds)

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING:** *Peter* will continue to keep an eye on the funding sources on his list.

Potential funding for a 3 year’s post for a Development Officer may be available from Investing in Communities Fund with help from DTAS.

*Julie* will have a look at the Small Fund – Tesco Bags for Help, and B&Q’s offer of free paint for community groups.

*Pamela* and *Iain* will explore Wee grants for Wee Groups from The Robertson Trust.

VAL is organising a Crowd Funding Training in Inverness.

Plans are starting to take place for the Trust’s 10th Anniversary Celebrations and will be discussed in more detail.

**AOCB:** *Pamela* will circulate details and information on short term lets.

DTAS is organising an event in August; *Pamela* will attend. There are also two spaces for directors to attend DTAS AGM in September; *Iain* has provisionally put his name forward.

*Pamela* will invite Dennis Rixon to the next meeting.

(Angus MacDonald left the meeting at 9.20pm)

It was agreed that Alison S would attend the Directors’ meetings quarterly to give updates on LSIC activities.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 8 August 2019 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.