

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIRECTORS OF ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST

Thursday 14 November 2019, 7pm, LSIC

Present: Julie Gordon (Chair), Iain Macniven (Vice Chair), Rosemary Bridge (Treasurer), Peter Fleming, Pamela King, Paul Sheard
Tiina Heinonen (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: Jane Foster has now stepped down as a director. The directors expressed their gratitude for her help and support over the years as a Director.

Attending: Alison O'Rourke, John Colston, Maureen McColl

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Pamela King as Duncan Currie's partner.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 10th October Minutes were proposed by Peter and seconded by Iain.

MATTERS ARISING

Website update: Website has now been updated.

Community tourism meeting: The Community Tourism meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd December. The aim of the meeting is to discuss and gather views in relation to the increase in visitor numbers, and the impact this has had, and may have, on the waste disposal, recycling facilities, the overall environment, businesses and local populace, and the existing infrastructure.

James Colston attended Directors' meeting to give his view as the Estate manager and thus help the directors form an understanding how the Estate fits in the overall conversation and future plans. The conversation touched on topics linked to possible disturbance caused to the farm animals by the visitors, wild camping and availability of camping areas, essential information to be provided for visitors and the best method of communicating it to the general public and the locals. Before leaving, the main point John wished to put forward was the importance of creating more parking within the centre of the village.

(James left 19.40)

Following the discussion, the directors agreed that *Peter* will have a closer look at the drawings of the shorefront with future possibilities in mind.

Senior Citizen's Lunch: The Christmas Lunch will take place at Arisaig House this year. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

GOWER TRUST: No applications were received.

Maureen confirmed she will do her best to attend the Directors' meetings as the representative of the Community Council; the CC's remit has been to oversee the Gower Trust funds.

A query from Mairi Orr regarding Americana Festival was received asking if they could submit a funding application again this year. It was agreed there were no restrictions why they couldn't apply; *Rosemary* will inform Mairi. This sparked a conversation regarding how the number of small groups applying for funding has reduced over the years; it was suggested it may be worth reminding the existing groups of the Gower Trust Fund.

The regular payments were agreed to be kept as they are.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Funding for Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch was approved.

Overpayment from the Energy Savings Trust has now been returned.

Station was slightly overspent last year; still waiting for confirmation for reimbursement. *Rosemary* will forward the total figure of the station spending to the Directors. There are couple of accounts sitting idle (such as Heritage Lottery and An Seada for example) and thus could be closed. *Rosemary* will get this done. There have been no further queries from the accountants. A Christmas bonus for the staff was agreed. It was noted that the toilets are not under restricted funds. Business water rate will be going up. Peter has now sorted out the electricity accounts so the bills should be more straight forward; *Rosemary* will read the electric meters. The Treasurer's e-mail will be used from now on for all correspondence related to the finances. Pam agreed to be the 3rd signature as a back-up to ensure payments can be made in time.

EV CHARGING: The usage has gone slightly down as expected after summer. Peter noted there was still some issues with using the charging points. *Peter* will draw up some leaflets informing how to use and maintain the charging points; these will be displayed outside by the points and in the Centre for the volunteers' information. To ensure the charging point can sustain itself it was agreed that *Alison O* will review the funding, what can be claimed back from this year and ACT's current position regarding providing free charging points.

PLAYING FIELD: The topsoil is too heavy to be moved at the moment it will be done at later date; fertilising has been done. The residents adjacent to the orchard will be invited to discuss future plans of the orchard. Duncan Currie forwarded estimated costs for tidying and clearing the orchard; the work will be decided in due course.

LSIC/ECO PROJECT:

A number of dates has already been set for future larger events. The first one to be noted at this point is the Road to the Isles Marathon & Festival of Running in May which will bring a larger number of visitors to the area again. Organisers of this event will be invited to a future meeting to discuss details.

Smaller events, such as the food growing at Arisaig House and apple day for example are great in bringing the local populace together, as well as promoting the eco-ethos of the Trust's activities.

A good external connection has been established with NHS & Mackintosh Centre through the 'Nimble Fingers'.

Alison O encouraged everyone to fill in, and promote, a survey related to clothes and waste. The survey is currently available on Facebook, at Spar and the LSIC.

The Eco Project had a stand at the CCF gathering; this provided a great opportunity to promote Arisaig and the Trust's activities, as well as raising the Trust's profile. *Alison O* will forward Directors the links to webinars.

Julie will check if there is space for the Eco Project/LSIC to have a stall at the Christmas Fair. ACT will be at the Fair serving mulled wine which will be charged as previously agreed.

ARISAIG PUBLIC TOILETS: The toilets have had approximately 42,000 visitors since the counters were put in.

COMMUNITY LAND: Pam was very pleased to announce the Scottish Land Fund application was successful.

Tender documents are still to be received from the Small Communities Housing Trust; these are

expected by end of January 2020.

A community consultation will be organised in due course to gather final feedback from the local residents on the housing project.

Pam has received few quotes for the work; no decision has been made yet.

Rural Housing Fund application will be submitted by end of January 2020.

A post for Project Officer for the Housing Project will be advertised in December; the advert will be in West Word and Facebook.

A working group has been organised and they will meet in November.

Peter's overall plan of the Shorefront, which incorporates suggestions from Mungo, is coming together. The plans will be submitted with the Rural Infrastructure Fund when it opens.

Pam is still drafting a letter for the local residents and businesses with information on these plans. The plan of the shorefront will also be displayed during a possible 'Community Day'.

Iain informed there was no funding available from Highland Council.

Pam had explored the option of a permanent Christmas Tree with the conclusion that the best location for it would be too exposed and the ground too rocky for the roots. The Community Council sourced the tree this year; *Maureen* informed they have discussed the possibility of purchasing an artificial tree in the future.

Peter will look into the Tourism Infrastructure Fund

ARISAIG STATION: *Iain* will continue to pursue outstanding matters.

It was agreed *Duncan Currie* could go ahead and do some tidying around the station building.

10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY: Finals details were discussed. Everything is mostly on track and organised; the occasional licence is in place, food will be self-service, the beer will be sourced from Spean Bridge & Knoydart Brewery, the bar will close at 12am, decorations will be made with the Eco Project.

AOCB: *Rosemary* will take forward organising a get-together to say Thank You to Jane for her time as a director.

A Secretary's position will be advertised in due course.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The Directors will have an informal Christmas meal at the Arisaig Hotel, date and time to be confirmed; *Pam* will organise.

Directors' meeting will commence 9th January, 7pm at LSIC.

Meeting closed at 21.40