

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST (ACT) MINUTES
Thursday 6 August 2020 at 7pm
Online Skype Meeting

- 1. Board Members Present:** Julie Gordon (JG), Iain Macniven (IM), Rosemary Bridge (RB), Olivia Bridge (OB), Peter Fleming (PF), Steve Westwood (SW)
Others Present: Alison O'Rourke (AO).
Apologies: Pamela King (PK), Zoe Pritchard (ZP).
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Minutes of last meeting (9 July 2020):** Proposed by PF, seconded by RB.
- 4. Matters Arising:** In relation to dirty camping on the beaches SW reported that a local group had formed under the leadership of Anne Widdop to address the problems created by irresponsible tourism across Scotland. The plan is to draft a Green Paper to be widely circulated to similar groups and other interested parties. The paper will be updated two or three times after feedback has been collated with the aim of producing a White Paper for presentation to Fergus Ewing before Christmas. At the same time as the paper is presented a petition will be raised in support of it. There was no update on the DTAS oil buying scheme. OB reported on an Emergency Heritage Fund award of £6,000 now supplemented by a further £9,000 plus £10,000 from the Business Support Fund. RB suggested that the Business Support Fund money might best be retained for back up finance cover. Subject to that, the board needs to determine how best to utilise these funds. One proposal had been the provision of an extra door in the Land Sea and Islands Centre, but this needs to be considered further and the views of Alison Stewart sought. It was agreed that the board needed to think holistically about how best to use the aggregate funding. There was also some brief discussion about the need to recruit an additional new board member.
- 5. Covid-19 funding (Emergency Heritage Fund):** Dealt with at 4 above.
- 6. Treasurer's Report (inc. Gower Trust):** RB had provided the usual monthly report, showing *inter alia* a balance of £17,991 for the LSIC and £56,938.76 for ACT. She advised that these figures need to be looked at very cautiously in the light of the current and ongoing lack of income. Consideration had to be given also to how certain funds such as the Business Support Fund might legitimately be used. RB also requested information as soon as possible as to various legal costs on projects, both those of ACT and any other third party costs that ACT might have to pay. Discussion on AS's furlough then followed. It was proposed that AS will move to Flexible Furlough from 7 September, returning to duties for one day a week. She will then come off the Furlough Scheme and return to 2.5 days from 1 October. Arrangements for ZP's employment contract and salary were also discussed.. Professional support would be needed in relation to employment contracts. SW outlined various options, which he agreed to summarise in a follow up note. **ACTION:** SW to report back on options. All directors to consider best use of funds.
- 7. Community Land: Housing:** PK has had a meeting with the contractor and will be meeting the architect. There is a sewage issue which will entail further cost of c.£45k but it is thought that this can be covered, given possible access to the Rural Housing Fund etc. The contractor has come in with a tender figure which is less than expected, which also helps. There was discussion about the attic trusses: it was agreed that all houses should be built similarly with converging roof trusses. SW and PK met Andy Cairns regarding the area of land that he wishes to acquire adjacent to his existing property. The discussion was amicable. There might need to be some adjustment to the area in question. Given the tenor of the discussions, it was agreed that the land should be sold for a nominal £1 but on the basis that Andy picks up both parties' legal fees.

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Shorefront: The community had been asked for their views on three possible proposed layouts. Inevitably, most comment came from those whose properties look on to the shorefront. Most comments were constructive and would be taken on board. The proposed motorhome parking spaces were seen as a particular problem, and there was a request to keep as much green space as possible, as well as reviewing the size of the car park. SW is to have further meetings with the various parties next week. **ACTION: SW to follow up.**

Orchard: AO has cleared some vegetation and will carry out some further work. The fruit trees are healthy but bracken is a problem. SW offered to come and do some strimming. In relation to a question from RB as to the current status of ACT's use of the orchard, IM confirmed that ACT would ultimately buy the land from the Estate but it had been meantime been given a licence to occupy it. **ACTION: AO and SW.**

8. **Toilets:** PF reported on extensive works that he proposed to carry out to the toilets so as to provide for contactless donation, with appropriate signage. These were agreed and he was thanked for all his work on this. ACT is looking to set up a job share for two people and has invited applications, with a deadline of 14 August.
9. **Website:** ZP had updated this and was thanked for all her work. JG has posted about the new donations button on the website.
10. **Provision of HR support:** There was nothing to be discussed at this stage in relation to this.
11. **Arisaig Station:** IM reported that the HoTs for a lease were now agreed, as were the areas to be leased. We could therefore move on to negotiation and completion of the lease but that would incur legal costs. There was discussion about possible uses of the buildings and sources of funding - IM caveated that any departure from the HoTs in relation to these matters would require the agreement of ScotRail. After discussion, it was agreed to park the matter for the present, especially given the unexpected Covid-19 crisis. Similarly, there was nothing constructive that could be proposed at this stage in relation to organising volunteers to deal with the planters.
12. **Renewables:** Following an EiO seeking £25,000 CARES have suggested that £5,000 could be available to conduct a feasibility study. SW will consider next steps in the light of that and report back. **ACTION: SW to report back in due course.**
13. **EV Charging:** PF had produced a pre-meeting note and he reported on the current position. The figures are looking healthy and we need to consider now when we start charging for use. **ACTION: PF to report back further.**
14. **Playing Field:** Ongoing maintenance continues while the playing field remains shut. Use of the playing field remains subject to Scottish Government advice and rules. JG has posted an update about this on Facebook. **ACTION: JG to continue to monitor the situation.**
15. **LSIC:** Nothing to report beyond what has been noted earlier. There are still volunteers available as required.
16. **Eco Project:** There is currently little to report, given the prevailing circumstances. There has been concentration on related aspects such as photography.
17. **AOCB:** It was agreed to give a present to Pauline in recognition of her work in relation to the toilets. It was noted that there is talk of the local smokehouse seeking a site in Arisaig. **ACTION: JG to arrange present for Pauline.**
18. **Date of Next Meeting: 10 September.**

Meeting ended: 9.00pm

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