

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST (ACT)
MINUTES**

**Thursday 10 September 2020 at 7pm
Online Skype Meeting**

1. **Board Members Present:** Julie Gordon (JG), Iain Macniven (IM), Rosemary Bridge (RB), Olivia Bridge (OB) (part of meeting only), Peter Fleming (PF), Steve Westwood (SW)
Others Present: Alison O'Rourke (AO).
Attending: Pamela King (PK)
Minutes: In the absence of Zoe Prichard (ZP) the minutes were taken by IM.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of last meeting (6 August 2020):** Proposed by SW, seconded by RB.
4. **Matters Arising:** The Scottish Tourism Action Group have produced a draft green paper on problems of tourism for submission to the Scottish Government. As ACT has already had two public consultations on the topic, the Board agreed to register their support for the paper. **ACTION:** JG.
5. **Covid-19 funding:** It was agreed to extend ZP's contract until 31 March 2021. RB confirmed that a £10k business grant received could go to funding ZP's salary until 31 March 2021, subject to board approval. Additionally this grant could go towards meeting the costs of Croner (HR) support, at just over £200 per month. There is Gower Trust money still available for use and consideration needs to be given to how best to make use of it, albeit that it can be rolled over into next year if necessary. Traditionally some of the money has been given annually to specific organisations but some of them may no longer be relevant, owing to changes over time. Also, due to Covid, events/activities which the Gower Trust could have supported have not taken place this year. **ACTION:** All.
6. **Treasurer's Report (inc. Gower Trust):** RB had provided her usual monthly report, which was noted. Among other things, it disclosed balances of £10,097 (LSIC) and £11,235 (ACT). The report also noted a number of pressures and other issues which the Board would need to consider over coming months. RB also highlighted potential CalMac funding, in relation to which it was agreed that IM would contact Alison Stewart (AS) in the first instance. SW and PK will pursue the matter of Crown Estate funding. Application can be made for funding in relation to the LSIC, albeit that any work in relation to that will be some way down the line. **ACTION:** IM, SW/ PK.
7. **Community Land: Housing:** PK had prepared a report prior to the meeting. She advised that some costs were awaited from Kenneth MacDonald. News from the Rural Housing Fund is positive. Most costings are now in place, including in relation to the sewers. PK also reported that the Scottish Rural Housing Trust had been extremely helpful in the process. The major bugbear is the very slow progress on the legal front, with ACT's lawyer appearing to be suitably responsive but Turcan Connell, for the Estate, being slow, possibly because the transaction is relatively low value in the context of their general property work. There may be a need to

raise this with Estate owners. Angus Kelly has undertaken to chase up progress too. One strip of land which was to be purchased is now to be retained by the Estate at their request, with a servitude over it being granted to ACT: this was regarded as less satisfactory but not a major problem as such, subject to comments from Kenneth. It was confirmed that the missives require to be conditional on receipt of planning, something which the Estate appeared to be resisting for some odd reason - there is no other prospective buyer in sight and ACT cannot risk buying the land and then failing to secure the necessary planning consent to enable them to carry out the proposed development. If necessary, ACT may need to consider recourse to the "right to buy" legislation. ACT also need to sort out the question of exactly what fees incurred by the Estate/Elsbeth Macmillan ACT are expected to have to bear. PK undertook to contact Jane on behalf of the Estate for clarification. There was discussion also regarding a separate area which would be suitable for business units and campervan parking, and PK has spoken to Angus Kelly about this. SW also floated the idea of an aire, being a project which HIE could assist with in relation to a feasibility study. **ACTION:** PK/SW. **Shorefront:** PK and SW have spoken to ACT's lawyer regarding buying this land as soon as possible, there being a 23/10/2020 deadline for the purchase. Option 4 seems to be the one favoured by the community - it will be subject to some further tweaking and then submitted for planning as the final proposed scheme. Issues of sponsorship/gift aid are also being looked at and SW is already far advanced with the idea of a footpath made up of pavers sponsored by donors, including locals (possibly at a lower rate). An early application for planning consent can be made if necessary, with the project kicking off next Spring. Suggested sponsorship fees do not appear to be a problem, and running initial numbers indicates a healthy prospective profit from the sponsorship idea.. **ACTION:** PK and SW. **Orchard:** This purchase would be completed at the same time as the shorefront. Trees from the Eco Project will be going in by February next year. **ACTION:** AO.

8. **Arisaig Hotel Planning Discussion:** After discussion it was agreed to write an email of support from ACT to the Hotel in relation to their current planning proposal, albeit there will be one or two issues to be discussed further in relation to some of the detail. **ACTION** JG.
9. **Toilets:** Claire Wortley has been taken on as a further cleaner. Donations via contactless payment is now available. PF is working on some teething issues. Cash donations will be retained as an option. The issue of automatic door locks is also being looked at. **ACTION:** PF.
10. **HR (Croner updates):** Draft employment documentation has been produced by BrightHR for all to review. **ACTION:** All.
11. **Arisaig Station:** (a) Heads of Terms for a lease of the Station buildings have been agreed but ACT will not progress to the stage of finalising the matter legally, given currently uncertainties. SW is looking at options for use. **ACTION:** SW. (b) Planters - there is no current activity but AO will do some tidying up etc. **ACTION:** AO.

12. **Renewables:** SW reported that he had contacted Karen Delaney, the local CARES Development Officer. CARES have been extremely busy dealing with their latest funding round and Karen will have a further discussion with SW when things have quietened down.
13. **EV Charging;** Revenue is holding up and CCF will support us until the end of Q1. CCF will cover bills until next Spring.
14. **Playing Field:** Active Schools are using the playing field, assisted by Angus Kennedy.
15. **LSIC:** JG and PF had a positive meeting with AS. AS will look at any ways to maximise any adaptations to the LSIC. Ten volunteers are willing to help out as soon as practical, including digitising the collection. AS will do her usual hours from October. AS will prepare a paper for the Board by the end of the following week, looking at strengths/weaknesses, adding value etc.
ACTION: AS.
16. **Eco Project:** AO reported that CCF claims are up to date. A photo competition has been held. There has been some donation of clothing. In the current situation with Covid there are limits as to what can be done.
17. **AOCB:** There is a DTAS AGM scheduled for 9 to 12 November. Volunteers to attend are being sought. **ACTION:** All.
18. **Date of Next Meeting: 8 October 2020.**

Meeting ended: 9.10pm