

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of meeting 7.45pm 9th March 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Board members: Iain Saunders, (Chairman) Christian Smyth (Treasurer), Angie Bird, Vicki Burnett, Rory Day, Mark Hampton, Jane Smee (Secretary)

Visitors: Aidan Gregory, Laura Leslie-Sherwood

1. Apologies: Siobhan Healy, Robin Stephen.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022 were approved.
3. Registration of Interest in The Galley of Lorne: Rory had circulated copies of an earlier application relating to land next to the Galley, so that all could see what was involved. Aidan and Laura, who have been researching this, addressed the meeting with a view to obtaining C3's agreement to be the formal applicant. Aidan explained that at this stage it was just to establish the community's right to be considered as a purchaser if and when the Galley was put on the market. Before the application could be made, the community would have to be canvassed to see if the requirement for over 10% in support was fulfilled. Laura confirmed that a questionnaire had been drafted and would be circulated soon, probably in the next fortnight. Aidan said that the need to negotiate with the owners, and an agreement with them being preferable to any formal procedure, had been taken on board and that draft letters to Andrew and Sarah Stanton had been prepared. The impact of the Galley becoming more of a focus for the community on e.g. the Village Hall, the implications for Craobh, advantages for young people in the community, were all considered. Resources were the real question: the initial costs (e.g. for a Land Registry plan for the application) and purchase and running costs, possibilities for obtaining grants and fund-raising were discussed. Iain wanted it to be clear that although C3 might be the original applicant it could not be the purchaser, and the possibilities of creating a new autonomous trust to purchase and ultimately run the venue were considered. It was unanimously agreed:
 - a) That C3 is prepared in principle to act as the applicant for a Registration of Interest, but any subsequent purchase would have to be devolved to another body.
 - b) That Laura as a non-member having special skills and/or experience which would be of assistance to the Board and being willing to act, should be co-opted to the Board with immediate effect.

Aidan then left the meeting and Laura remained.

4. Finance: Christian reported that the donation for the school whiteboard had still not been received; he had chased the charity concerned, but as the school needed it urgently, and we have £7,000 unrestricted funds in hand, a temporary outflow of £2,500 was sustainable. The purchase has therefore been made by C3. The first quarterly accounts will be available for consideration at the next meeting.
5. Risk Review: Christian had circulated a draft for consideration, and explained that having a Review was a requirement of the charities regulator OSCR, and that a formal one was preferred. It was also important for insurance considerations. The draft was approved unanimously and it was agreed it should be looked at again in a year's time.
6. Community Database: Iain reported that he had had discussions with members of the Community Council about the possibility of creating a comprehensive joint community mailing list that would be available to various local entities. The hope was that this would bring together those on the various partial ones that already exist, and those who are not on any of these, so that giving out information and obtaining public opinion covered as

many of the community as possible. At this stage no decision was required from C3 and it was clear that compiling and maintaining the list would be a large task that would need a paid manager. The pros and cons were briefly discussed, including possibilities of it being a fund raiser like the phone book produced by the school, and the care that would be needed in dealing with personal information and those who did not want to be included.

7. Local Place Plan: Iain reported (again just for information, and from the Community Council) that although the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan comes into force in 9 months' time, the LPP is separate from this and on a different timescale, and is still under consideration.
8. Talamh an Rìgh: Iain had circulated his email to Councillor Sandy Taylor and there was no more we could do until we saw what effect this had.
9. Boat Jumble: As this had been taken over by the Boat Club there was nothing to report except that we were very glad it was going ahead. Some had expressed interest in helping on the day and Jane confirmed that Topi Morris was the person to contact. Raffle prizes would be appreciated and these should be brought along on the day (Sunday 27th March).
10. Communications: Vicki had received an email from an energy company that seemed more appropriate to the Community Council and will forward it to them.
11. Any other business: Mark raised the question of the possibility of a community turbine. These had been very successful in some communities e.g. Luìng, and the present sharp focus on the need to minimise dependence on fossil fuels made it worth considering. It was noted that the ever-present objection of visual impact had to be weighed against the help it might give to those struggling with hugely increased energy bills, and the community generally. There was also the question of finding suitable land to site a turbine and provide proper access to it, but it was agreed that this should be investigated further. Angie reported that she was keen to start a community pantry and/or fridge that all could contribute to and draw from, having seen the success of one on Mull. This was unanimously supported. Iain confirmed that as the final accounts would be available for review in May, the AGM should be the 8th June meeting, and having been Chairman for three years he would be required to stand down.
12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall