

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Mark Hampton, Laura Leslie-Sherwood, Christian Smyth (Treasurer), Jane Smee (Secretary).

Visitors, in view of the need to discuss the serious landslip on the A816:

Rhys Kelly, Convenor, Craignish Community Council

Rebecca Dalton, Village Shop

Two representatives from Ardfern Marina

Actions required:

- Rhys to try and obtain some specific information from A&BC about the state of the hillside for landowners
- Vicki to contact Mandy Hampton re provision of home care services and the button service
- Vicki to contact Sally MacLeod re prescription collection and delivery
- Vicki to check what emergency grant funding might be available to us
- Laura to arrange for newspaper publicity for local businesses
- Christian to check whether we have Employers Liability insurance
- Vicki to send Jess Stewart's email to Jane, Jane to circulate with the draft minutes
- Vicki to arrange publicity for director recruitment
- Laura to report back on the joint venture with the Village Hall for the CAP consultation
- Jane to book our meetings for next year with the Village Hall

1. Apologies: Mandy Clarke, Siobhan Healy.

2. Landslip: There was extensive discussion about possible community needs and how C3 might be able to help. The lessons learned during COVID were that it was better to let needs emerge rather than rush into anything, and to keep procedures simple, and confidential so far as possible. The Community Council are holding a special meeting on 18th October and by then there may be more information available from Argyll and Bute Council about the timescale for the re-opening of the road. As the A816 is not a trunk road, BEAR Scotland will not undertake the work and it is a matter of obtaining crisis funding from central government. Moving the debris is comparatively easy; the real problem is stabilising the hill first. Christian (who lives just below the slip, and who had sheep on the land), asked if some information from the assessments already carried out by A&BC could be made available to landowners in the interests of safety and planning. Rhys will try to arrange this. The following needs were also clear, and were discussed:

- Maintaining a home care service (as almost all the carers have to come from Lochgilphead) and a response to the emergency button - Mark reported that this service has been suspended because of lack of staff. Local volunteers have stepped forward and Mandy Hampton has already done a lot of work in setting up alternative care provisions; Vicki will contact her to see if we can help with expenses or in any other way.
- Collection and distribution of prescriptions. Sally MacLeod has been working on this and Vicki will contact her to see if we can help with expenses or in any other way.
- Arranging staff travel to the Marina - again, most have to come from Lochgilphead - and the general impact on local businesses. At the moment Sandy Campbell of Venture West is providing a water taxi service from Crinan to the Marina, but this will not necessarily be available beyond the next two weeks. Concern was also expressed about this means of transport as winter weather set in. The provision of community buses and funding training for drivers was considered; Christian will check whether we have Employers Liability insurance. Laura suggested that we fund a full page of advertising for local businesses in the press, specifically to encourage visitors from north of the village, and will arrange this.

- Dealing with medical emergencies: the First Responders are on standby unofficially but the fire service may need to be called if CPR is required.
- Travel to schools: it was acknowledged that as it is half-term for the next two weeks, and the schools may offer alternative provision, this is not as pressing as some other needs. There are 13 children who should be attending Lochgilphead High School. There may be a need to help individual children who have to travel elsewhere for particular projects.

If we start to provide financial assistance our funding may not last very long. Vicki will check whether any emergency grant funding might be available to us.

Vicki thanked the visitors for attending and for their input, and they left the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting 13th September 2023: these were approved. Some matters arising were then discussed:
 - First Responders - Ali MacLeod was very grateful for the new publicity which had produced several new applicants.
 - Galley of Lorne: Laura reported that the new petitions had attracted a large number of signatures. They will be removed on Friday. Laura and Aidan Gregory have been working hard on the amendments necessary and the application will be resubmitted next week.
 - Knotweed control: will be considered at a later meeting, as Mandy was unable to attend.
4. Finance: Christian apologised that the printed version of the quarterly accounts was not yet available. The main features were the payment to us of the lump sum for backdated Gift Aid and the Just Giving payments for the new defibrillator. We have roughly £15,000 in unrestricted funds that could potentially be used for help with problems arising from the landslip.
5. Healy Arts, application for retrospective planning permission for the building at Lunga: Jane reported that this had come up at the last Community Council meeting, where it had been suggested that C3 might write in support of the application. It was decided that while the directors were free to support as private individuals, there were too many differing views about the building in the community that we represent, and it was not appropriate for C3 as an organisation to offer support. Jane has the number of the application if anyone needs it.
6. Cromach and Sea Wilding: Vicki had received an email from Jess Stewart regarding proposals for a Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area. C3 as a stakeholder are invited to comment. Jane will circulate this with the draft minutes and we will consider our next step, which may be to circulate it to members too.
7. Recruitment of directors: despite our efforts at the AGM we still need more directors, to make it easier to ensure a quorum at meetings and to get tasks done. It was agreed that a representative of a younger age group would be particularly helpful (anyone aged 16 or over can join as an Ordinary Member, which is all that is needed to become a director). Vicki will arrange some publicity for this.
8. Community Action Plan: we are still hoping to join forces with the Village Hall community consultation, and to take it out into the community as well as holding an event. Laura will get back to us once the plans for this are clearer.
9. Any other business: Laura has become aware of a need in the community for “somewhere different to walk” and raised the possibility of the creation of a map/guide of local walks. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom. It was agreed that we are happy with the present routine of an in-person meeting every 3 months, with the rest via Zoom. Jane will contact the Village Hall to make our bookings for next year.

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Chair

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Date