

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Mandy Clarke, Mark Hampton, Laura Leslie-Sherwood, Ben Weaser, Jane Smee (Secretary).

Visitors:

- Gordon Gray Stephens of Native Woods Cooperative Scotland (Ltd) (NWCS), and Angus Bevan of Craignish Conservation Volunteers (2CV), to present item on Community Woodland.
- Rob FitzPatrick to present item on musical instrument library.
- Rhys Kelly, Convener of the Community Council, to discuss the War Memorial and Kilvaree Stones.

Actions required:

- Ben to go to the NWC talk on 8th May.
- Vicki to publicise and seek views on our taking on promotion of the Kilvaree Stones.
- Vicki to publicise the Tender document for the craignish.info website.
- Vicki to talk to Johanna Carse again about the possible new noticeboard for Lunga.
- Jane to look in the old files for more information about Talamh an Righ.
- Vicki to check options for renewing our website.
- Items for the agenda for the next meeting: Knotweed; craignish.info website (formal consideration of applications and decision on appointee).

1. **Apologies:** Christian Smyth, Siobhan Healy.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 13th March 2024** were approved. Matters arising not covered under other items:

- Mark has been in touch with the potential new Treasurer and hopes to be speaking to them again tomorrow (11th).

3. **Community Woodland:** Gordon Gray Stephens explained that NWCS is working with the Woodland Trust, and with land owners and managers, to encourage better management of woodland, especially the restoration of Celtic rainforest. This is threatened by invasive species and herbivores. Craignish has been identified as a good candidate for rainforest restoration, and they have obtained a grant from the Nature Restoration Fund, a Scottish Government fund (rainforest is a stated Government priority). This will enable a start to be made, but more funding will be needed. From C3, they are looking for some support for funding applications and managing funds secured. They are keen to involve the local community, and possibly set up a partnership with C3, or have C3 represented on the steering group as a conduit for the wishes of the community. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would need to consult the community (this would be a very relevant question to be included in the CAP) before committing ourselves to anything, but that we would like to be kept informed of the progress of the venture. Gordon and Angus agreed to do this. There is a public meeting on 8th May to provide information and invite comments, and Ben volunteered to attend this.

4. Gordon then went on to explain the specific situation with the Corranmore Plantation. This is currently owned by Scottish Woodlands, and they have approached NWCS to see if they would be interested in buying it. It is approximately 30 hectares, and a map was circulated showing the exact location. There are various possibilities for its use including new rainforest, and community land ownership, though we agreed that the latter would probably require a quicker decision than we would be able to make. We would need more

information about cost and timescales, and the use of the land would have to be canvassed with the community: again this would be a question to be included in the CAP survey. Gordon will see what other information he can provide and get back to us.

5. Angus confirmed that Japanese Knotweed control was not something that 2CV were able to take on and it was agreed that we would consider this again at the next meeting.
6. **Finance:** nothing to report.
7. **Musical instrument library:** Rob explained that he was hoping to set up a 'bank' of instruments that would be available to lend to all children within mid-Argyll. It should be possible to start it up very quickly as he already has some instruments and sources of others. Risk assessments would be needed for cleaning woodwind and brass instruments between users. Rob is also able to repair, or arrange for repair, of any instruments that need this. As well as loaning instruments, he would provide encouragement to learn, with information packs and suggested tunes, and opportunities to play with others. Of course there are costs involved and he has started looking at possible sources of funding, for example from "Music for All". (Mark mentioned the Argyll and Bute Council monthly funding leaflet as a source of suggestions for funders and he will send this to Jane to circulate.) Funders almost always want the money to go to a formal body rather than an individual, and Rob asked if we would be prepared to be an 'umbrella' organisation for him. It was unanimously agreed that this was an excellent project and that we should support it.
8. **War Memorial:** Rhys explained to the meeting that the Church is under offer, with closing on 19th April. A letter of intent has been supplied to the church by the prospective owners, but it is not known what it proposals it contains. They have apparently said however that are happy for the Memorial to be taken away, or to stay where it is and they would allow access, though this would necessarily be limited and there would be no guarantee this would continue if the property is sold again. It is not a listed monument. Ben reported that he is still waiting to hear from the War Memorials Trust; there does seem to be funding available but this is usually for maintenance. It was agreed that it would be quite difficult to move, and there was no obvious site to move it to. Rhys suggested, and we agreed, to wait and see what the purchasers do once the purchase has gone through, and have a meeting with them. We will also keep on looking at funding possibilities.
9. **Kilvaree Stones:** Rhys explained that Caroline Younger was very clear that she did not own the site, and that it was still not possible to say who did, though it is Historic Environment Scotland's duty to maintain the stones and we could ask them to investigate ownership. The churchyard surrounding the chapel (which contains Commonwealth War Graves) is maintained by Argyll and Bute Council but it is not clear whether they actually own it. Following the discussion at the last meeting, Vicki had circulated notes about the history of the site and a draft agreement with NHASMA for C3 to take on the "interpretation and championing" of the stones "in the wider context of the Peninsula", in return for £3,000 of the disbanding organisation's funds. We would simply hold the money to pay anyone who works on this. It was agreed that some new information boards, with QR codes, would be a good project and that we could publicise the stones on websites and Facebook. In line with our current policy we will ask the community before taking a final decision, explaining exactly what we are proposing to do, and Vicki will put information on Facebook and noticeboards.
10. **Updates:**
 - **CAP consultation:** Laura reported that the Village Hall are ready to go ahead with their consultation on the use of the Hall, and wanted to set up a meeting with Vicki and Rhys to go through the questions that need to be asked and formulate a joint consultation to cover both the Hall and the CAP. This was agreed for 25th April.
 - **craignish.info website:** Vicki had circulated a draft Tender inviting applications to maintain the site and expand it to include existing local sites, including ours. She had explained the situation to Tiziana Tedoldi, who has previously run the site and is able to apply if she would like to. The Tender document was unanimously approved and Vicki will promote it on

the noticeboards and Facebook. She will circulate applications received, and we will decide who to accept at the May meeting. Rhys asked if we were planning to set up a Facebook page and it was agreed that as this involved much more management than a website, this was something to consider for the future rather than immediately. Laura had put to the Committee the possibility of the Hall joining the website, and reported that they would prefer to keep their own but would consider having a page on craignish.info too.

- **Noticeboards:** The community response has been positive. The cost, comprising stone bases and a board, are £1500 plus VAT plus cost of installation. They would be about half the size of the one at the shop. Vicki is still negotiating with Johanna Carse regarding the new one at Lunga and will get back to her. We also still need to establish a source of funds.
- **Roundhouse:** Vicki reported that repairs had been made to the roof, and a considerable amount (£1,900) had been quoted for necessary repairs to the play equipment. Ben will discuss this further with the member who has offered to fund it. It was agreed that it was important to go ahead with a community event to promote community use of the space, and that as May 24th to 27th is a long weekend for the School, it would be a good time to hold this. We should provide food, and subject to being available, Mark volunteered to take the lead on the catering practicalities. Investigation of the history of the site is ongoing; Mandy had checked through the file that had surfaced recently and found that information about the creation of the Trust was missing. Jane will look through the old files to see if there are any relevant documents there.

11. **AOB: C3 website:** Vicki reported that the agreement for our website is about to expire and we needed to decide whether to pay to renew it. Although it is in need of updating and this should happen when it is merged with craignish.info, we don't want to risk losing the information on it. It was agreed that we should renew, and Vicki will check if there is any cheaper option than signing up for another two years.
12. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

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Chair

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Date