

## Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Mandy Clarke, Ben Weaser, Jane Smee (Secretary).

Visitor: Will Goudy, to present item on Chelsea Flower Show garden for the Roundhouse

Actions required:

- Vicki to send our list of groups to be consulted for the possible CAP to Rachel Rogers
- Vicki to re-advertise for a new Treasurer and ask locally for ideas
- Jane to email Laura for update on progress of Registration of Interest
- Mandy to check the file for Talamh an Righ and the Roundhouse
- Vicki to talk to Christian/2CV about knotweed
- Jane to email Ali MacLeod re funding for defibrillator training
- Vicki to publicise investigations for funding of new noticeboards
- Mandy to check if grants might be available for new noticeboards
- Jane to make sure the Hall is booked for all the rest of our meetings this year

1. Apologies: Mark Hampton, Siobhan Healy, Laura Leslie-Sherwood, Christian Smyth

2. Minutes of the meeting on 10th January 2024 were approved. Matters arising:

- Vicki has started our application to rejoin the Community Development Trust, but it has turned out to be a more complicated exercise than expected and she is still gathering information
- Vicki has asked Tiziana to add Farsain Cruises to the [craignish.info](http://craignish.info) site, which is now done
- The list of Voucher scheme payments is now available for Christian
- Vicki has advertised our Treasurer vacancy - no applicants yet
- The note about our landslip work went out to members with the draft January minutes
- Mandy contacted Cromach but this has been overtaken by events and a subsequent public meeting (further discussion later in this meeting)
- The Hall is free for all the board meeting dates for which it is not already booked

3. Chelsea Flower Show Garden for the Roundhouse: Will presented the meeting with the information available so far. The idea is that the garden moves to a suitable community location after the Show, and the Roundhouse has been suggested. Ryan MacMahon, the designer, is still seeking funding, and if successful the garden would then have to be accepted by the Chelsea panel, so nothing is certain yet. Ryan has produced an outline for the second round of his funding bid, and we studied this. It is all about sustainability and biodiversity, and designed very much with children in mind; as all the children at the village school are members of Seawilding, the Roundhouse seemed an appropriate possible home after the show. It includes plenty of native plants such as heather, blaeberrys and cotton grass. It also features imitation invasives, such rhododendron (not Ponticum), as talking points. It is one of the smaller gardens, at 6m x 8m, and if successful would be housed in the Chelsea marquee. It would have to be modified to fit in at the Roundhouse - for example some of the plants would go into the grass bank - but Will thinks it would merge into the site quite easily. Also it is quite robust - able to take the odd football! Ryan is working on a more detailed plan, and more details about how it will fit into Roundhouse site.

4. In the subsequent discussion, some problems were considered. How much use would it get, given the present problems with supervision? Who would maintain it and provide additional funding for this if needed? (Will explained that the cost of the move itself would come out of the original funding for the garden, and that once it was in position it should be relatively low maintenance.) "Our" children are already very aware of biodiversity, and might

there be more benefit in moving it somewhere there is less awareness? One suggestion was that it could be split between the Roundhouse and a very different site, and the two gardens could be “twinned”. The health and safety issues were briefly considered; Ryan is very aware of these. For maintenance, weeding will be the main issue. The ideal would be if the children could look after it; Seawilding themselves don’t have the resources.

5. Will agreed to take the idea of moving the garden to a less “bio-diverse-aware” area, or preferably twinning (it seems a shame to lose it entirely), back to Ryan, and he will let us know how things progress. He was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.
6. Finance: nothing to report.
7. Community Consultation for Community Action Plan (CAP). Vicki reminded the meeting of the background to this, a suggestion from Annie Loughlin that we should have a CAP. (We are one of the few Argyll communities who don’t.) We were considering this last year, before the landslip took over everyone’s priorities. Broadly speaking the CAP sets out a strategy covering all aspects of community life for the next 3-5 years, and has many advantages; C3 could look to it in making our own decisions. We had reached the stage of deciding that we should consult the community before taking any further steps. It then transpired that the Village Hall also had to carry out a community consultation, regarding the use of the Hall, and it made sense to run the two together. There was some discussion about the difficulties of getting a true picture of the community’s views, when many were not contactable by the usual social media routes, and some preferred not to be contacted at all. Vicki had today been discussing this with Rachel Fisher-Rogers, the chair of the Hall committee. They are advertising for someone to organise a survey. Vicki agreed that we would come up with a list of local groups and think about how best to reach out to the different members of the community and encourage them to have a say. After some discussion we came up with a possible list:
  - Residents who have lived here all their lives, or for a considerable time
  - New/relatively new residents
  - People living on their own
  - Those in poor quality housing
  - Older people and those in receipt of care
  - Those without access to their own transport
  - School/PTA
  - Toddler group
  - Small businesses
  - Those involved in tourist trade
  - Artists
  - Church community
  - Farming community
  - Landowners
  - Holt Marine
  - MOWI
  - Boatyard
  - Fishing community
  - Eilean Righ
8. Obviously everyone would have the choice whether or not to be involved, and some would fall within two or more of the groups. Rachel suggested identifying a representative of each group as a point of contact. Once we are happy with our list Vicki will send it to Rachel. The next question will be what they should be asked. From our point of view, Annie has a consultation model and it would be good to make use of that.
9. Ben had to leave the meeting; this left us without a quorum but it was agreed that we could proceed with the rest of the agenda anyway as no major or financial decisions had to be taken.

10. Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area: there was a short general discussion in the light of the recent public meeting, and we agreed that it was important that we remain as stakeholders as representatives of the community.
11. Recruitment of new Treasurer: No-one has come forward yet. Vicki will re-advertise and also approach local contacts who may have suggestions.
12. Updates:
  - Galley: No-one had any news as to the progress of the Registration of Interest application. Jane will email Laura for information.
  - Community Fridge: Vicki had had some feedback on the enquiries about the possible use of the Roundhouse. It was clear that we need a definite idea of who will look after it, and how, especially given there is often rubbish left there now and how hard it's proving to find people to take on the tasks of keeping the area looked after. And we should be asking the community if there are any objections. (This could be part of the CAP consultation.) A file had surfaced with details of the purchase of the playground land and construction of the Roundhouse, and Mandy will read through it to see if there are any constraints on the use.
  - Knotweed: Vicki's feedback had highlighted two distinct responsibilities, actually carrying out the treatment, and checking with landowners for their consent. Historically we have covered both. An alternative would be to see if 2CV would be willing to take it on, as they are dealing with invasive species in general. We could continue to fund it. It would be helpful to have a map showing the areas which are normally treated, and again, possibly seek the community view, though it is a contentious issue with no "right answer". Vicki will ask Christian if 2CV might be interested in taking this on, in consultation with the existing arranger.
13. AOB:
  - Defibrillator training - Jane mentioned this had come up at recent Community Council meetings and they seem to be under the impression that there is no more funding available from us. We looked again at the accounts Christian had provided for the last meeting and it is clear that this is not accurate. Jane will email Ali MacLeod to let him know that we do still have funds for them; and if more is needed Just Giving is all set up for this.
  - Noticeboards: the one at the end of the village road has collapsed, the one at Craobh is not fit for purpose, and at Lunga the "board" is the rubbish skip. There has been a suggestion from a member that as we funded the board outside the Ardfern shop we might consider funding replacements for these 3 locations. This could involve a considerable sum of money; the shop one cost about £2,000, but there might be ways of doing it more cheaply, e.g. if smaller sizes were chosen or there was a discount for a bulk purchase. We agreed that we can say that we are investigating ways to help. We would have to fund raise for it, and Mandy agreed to see if any grants might be available; Vicki will publicise that we are working on this.
14. Venues for 2024 meetings: Jane will book the Hall for all the remaining meetings for 2024.
15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

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Chair

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Date