

## Craignish Community Company

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

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Mandy Clarke, Christian Smyth (Treasurer), Jane Smee (Secretary).

Visitors: Angie Bird (to present item on Community Fridge), Ben Weaser (to present item on Skate Park and to join the Board)

Actions required:

- Rejoin Community Development Trust (Vicki, Christian)
- Publicise updating of [craignish.info](http://craignish.info) (and check that Farsain Cruises are included) (Vicki)
- Check if grants are available to help with setting up and maintaining a community fridge (Vicki)
- Complete list of voucher scheme payments to be sent to Christian (Vicki)
- Check the insurance requirements for running a skate park (Christian)
- Advertise for a new treasurer (Vicki)
- Note about our landslip work to accompany minutes (Vicky, Jane)
- Contact Cromach re D&RMPA (Mandy)
- Find out about possible Hall bookings for future meetings (Jane)

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

2. Minutes of the meeting on 8th November 2023 were approved. Matters arising:

- We haven't yet rejoined the Community Development Trust but this will be done
- The reimbursement of VAT for our local business advertisement has been checked, and we will get it back.
- There were no further requests for "landslide" financial help; the payment that was made was very gratefully received.
- [craignish.info](http://craignish.info) update will be publicised, and Farsain Cruises will be added.
- The credit scheme suggestion turned into the business voucher scheme, which was launched in time for the Christmas Market. This was very successful and brought in a total of £1132 for local businesses. We still have a few vouchers that we can supply.
- On knotweed control, the member who has taken responsibility for it so far may be prepared to take it on personally if we decide that we no longer wish to support it. There is £647 in funding allocated that could be paid to them. It was recognised that the whole area of invasive species control is controversial and it was agreed that we would reassess our position in the spring, when Vicki will also have had a further meeting with the member concerned.

3. Community Fridge: Angie has been looking into this for the past year, and the main stumbling block is where to put it. Ideally it would consist of a fridge-freezer and a small dry goods store, and it needn't take up more space than a standard garden shed. It needs to be easily accessible but discreet, and have a power supply. It needs a charity to sponsor it, and a team of volunteers to run it including checking it every day and cleaning it once a week. Stock could come from a variety of sources: supermarket overflows, surplus local produce, food left over at the end of holiday lets. The main costs involved are the purchase of the fridge-freezer and the electricity to run it. Ben suggested that the Roundhouse (at Talamh an Righ) might be a suitable location and this was discussed in some detail. The school pays for electricity there (power is in the storage shed beside it) and obviously some agreement would need to be reached with them. But crucially the space is owned by C3 and it is up to us to decide what happens there. (We would need to check that the shed does actually belong to the Playground.) One disadvantage is that it could not be open during school hours. But it could lead to other initiatives on the site, such as a community garden. It was agreed that in principle we support the project, subject to approval from the funders of the Playground and the community. Angie will check the Roundhouse to see if

the space is feasible, and if so will put together a cost plan and consultation letters: one to the funders, and an open one to the community.

4. Skate Park: Ben reported that unfortunately there was no need to discuss this further at present, as the cost involved in acquiring a ramp had turned out to be far more than anticipated and the project had been shelved for the time being.
5. Finance, Accounts: Christian had circulated the quarterly finance report before the meeting. This also serves as a draft of the 2023 accounts, which will be presented to a board meeting in advance of the AGM in July. The financing of the various landslip projects, particularly the voucher scheme, needs to be finalised, and may need special presentation in the final accounts. Vicki agreed to let Christian have a complete list of all the voucher transactions.
6. Finance, Insurance: Christian reported that this is due to be renewed. Our brokers (Greenwood Moreland) recommend same company (Ansvar) as last year. The increase in premium is not great - £690 including the brokers' finders fee, up from £640 last year. It was agreed that we were happy to accept this. Ben asked if the insurance implications of having skate park could be explored, in case the scheme became viable, and Christian agreed to do this.
7. Christian confirmed that he is planning to stand down as Treasurer, though he will stay on for long enough to hand over to his successor. Everyone expressed regrets and thanks for all the hard work he has put in. Vicki will start the process of finding a replacement.
8. Landslip: it was agreed that our work to try and help the community after the landslip had raised our profile, and that when we circulate the minutes to members we should add a note about what we had achieved.
9. Demonstration & Research Marine Protected Area: Jane outlined briefly the stage that the consultation had reached, and explained that Philip Price of Seawilding had said in an email that "comments" were now invited from stakeholders. Mandy will contact Jessie at Cromach and find out exactly what they are expecting us to provide.
10. Defibrillator training: Vicki had received an update from Chris Booth to present to the meeting: "The Craignish community now have access to 5 defibs 4 of which are C3 funded plus an additional one at the Craobh Marina offices on the outside wall heading towards the toilets. Phil Dickinson published a map with the C3 funded defibs shown. Craobh Haven have now a trained and active Community First Responder group which will complement the team in Ardfern. We went live on 20th December 2023 and have had one call-out to Ardfern on New Years Eve (we agreed to cover the area as nobody was on call in Ardfern that evening). We have agreed that both groups Ardfern/Craobh will come under the Craignish banner. We have also managed to fund £2000 for a second Responder Bag complete with equipment for the Craobh side, this will go live as soon as the additional equipment arrives. In total the Craignish group will have 4 bags and 12 trained responders with a further 2 waiting to complete their training. Whilst that seems a lot of people we aim to give 24/7 cover on both sides of the peninsula." It was acknowledged that anyone not "trained" might be reluctant to use the defibs, while the whole point was that they were set up so that they could be used by anyone, not just First Responders. It was agreed that it might be a good idea for Ali MacLeod or Chris to talk to people about the defibs generally to make this clear.
11. Ben confirmed that he would like to become a director. It was unanimously agreed that he should be co-opted, and he was welcomed to the Board.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm. It was agreed that we would like to have more meetings in person in the future - not necessarily at the Hall if it is not available. Jane will find out if the Hall will be free for the next meeting, and what the availability might be for the rest of the year.

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Chair

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Date