

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

Visitor: Janine Calder, to present item on a Vegan Fair at the Village Hall

Actions required:

- Vicki to discuss CAP meeting with Rhys Kelly
- Mark to contact potential new Treasurer
- Vicky to let Tiziana know that we are happy to take over the craignish.info website and circulate tender document
- Mandy to look into availability of grants for website maintenance
- Laura to put the suggestion of the Hall website joining craignish.info to the April Hall committee meeting
- Ben to price stone posts for noticeboards
- Vicki to put out requests for comments on new noticeboards
- Vicki to email stakeholders re use of the Roundhouse
- Vicki to contact Angus Bevan of 2CV re knotweed
- Laura to chase the Galley application
- Laura to publicise walking routes

1. **Apologies** were received from Christian Smyth, Mandy Clarke and Siobhan Healy.
2. **Minutes of the meeting on 14th February 2024** were approved. Matters arising:
 - Vicki has sent Rachel Fisher-Rogers our list of groups to contact for the CAP consultation. Laura is now Chair of the Village Hall committee and the next step would be a meeting with the Community Council, Vicki, Rachel, and Annie Loughlin. Vicki will discuss with Rhys Kelly when they meet next week.
 - Mark knows someone who might be interested in becoming our Treasurer and will contact them.
 - The misunderstanding over funds available for defibrillator training has been sorted out.
 - The Hall is booked for our meetings for the rest of 2024.
3. **Vegan Fair at the Village Hall:** Janine explained that she had booked the Hall for this and was looking for funding to cover the hire costs and a small publicity budget - a ballpark figure of about £300. The event is aimed at everyone, not simply 'preaching to the converted' and stallholders will be coming mainly from Glasgow. The Hall is a useful point halfway between Lochgilphead and Oban. Vicki explained the procedure for using C3 as an 'umbrella' organisation to obtain funding, and we will let Janine have any details that she needs to make applications. Janine was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.
4. **Finance:** nothing to report.
5. **craignish.info website:** It was agreed that this does need to be updated. Tiziana Tedoldi has now received the bill for the renewal fee for the site, and we should decide whether we will take on the whole project. It was agreed that we should. It was decided to put out a tender to find someone from the community to maintain and upkeep the site. There was some discussion about maintenance and how this could be simplified, e.g. with a functionality button for anyone who wants to update their information or join the site; and the possibilities of expanding the site to include e.g. the Village Hall, and our own website, and have one person looking after everything. There was some further discussion about

how C3 itself is funded and in what circumstances we can apply for grants for ourselves. (It would certainly be possible for the CAP.) Vicki will ask Mandy to look into the availability of grants for community website maintenance. Vicki will also let Tiziana know that we are happy to take over, and circulate a tender document. Laura will put the possibility of a joining to the next Hall committee meeting on 8th April.

6. **Community Consultation for Community Action Plan (CAP).** Vicki reminded the meeting of the background to this, which began with a request from Annie Loughlin for us to consider a CAP; the present plan was to join forces with the Village Hall to conduct the necessary preliminary community survey. Vicki had spoken to Rachel while she was Chair of the Hall committee, but Laura has now taken over as Chair. They will have a handover meeting shortly, and then there can be another meeting as already mentioned in Matters Arising. It would also be useful for Antonia Baird, who managed the last Plan, and Mandy, to join this. The Hall had put out an advertisement for someone to manage their consultation, but had withdrawn it in order to firm up the requirements of the role. It was agreed that the consultation needs to go out to people rather than expecting them to come to us, and that every effort should be made to include the whole community, reaching those who don't have access to e.g. Facebook and noticeboards. The questions would have to be carefully framed so that we can be clear that there really are things that people want that could be facilitated by a CAP - i.e. do we need one at all? (Those with experience of them recommend them highly and we are one of the few communities in Scotland who don't have one.) It was agreed that it would be useful to look at existing CAPs and see if they point to any advantages for us. Mark has a copy of the 2009 consultation leaflet for the last Craignish Community Place Plan, which has a focus on building rather than the broader remit of the CAP, following the adoption of the A&BC Local Plan, which he will send to Jane and she will circulate this with the minutes. If the CAP is to go ahead there is then the question of how it is produced. It involves a great deal of work, and if a consultant is paid to do it this is likely to cost in the region of £25k.
7. **Noticeboards:** We need replacements at the road end, and at Craobh, and a new one for Lunga, and we have agreed to take this on. Ben noted that the one that we funded at the Shop (which cost £2k) is already rusting at ground level, and that stone posts last much longer and are not expensive. Mandy has started looking into funding and this is the sort of project that would qualify. The merits of open and enclosed boards were briefly considered and it was agreed that it was best if they are enclosed but able to be accessed by all. Ben will price stone posts, and Vicki will put something out to the community to get their thoughts before moving ahead. NOTE: after the meeting Vicki decided it would be necessary to approach Johanna and/or Colin to discuss locations and has since done so.
8. **Updates:**
 - **Kilvaree Stones** - Vicki reported that the organisation (NHASMA) who used to look after the stones is disbanding. David Jardine has asked if we would take this on, and has also asked Rhys Kelly of the Community Council if they would consider it. It was noted that A&BC had been asking for community care of cemeteries and it was possible that it could tie in with this, though this would be a much bigger project. The first task will be to confirm who owns it. It needs specialist attention; for example, after the stones were covered over the environment changed and different algae and mosses moved in. Vicki will let us know progress and feed back.
 - **Community Fridge:** Vicki reported that there still needs to be a stakeholder conversation about the possibility of the Roundhouse as its location. Mandy is still looking into the background documents. This broadened into a discussion about the general lack of use of the Roundhouse, (the community don't think of it as a community facility, seeing it as simply a playground), and ways of 'rebranding' it. A 'relaunch event' was considered, such as a community barbeque, in April. Ben volunteered to be the contact for Roundhouse affairs. Vicki will email the stakeholders about possible uses of the Roundhouse.
 - **Knotweed:** nothing further to report, Vicki will chase 2CV.

- **Galley:** Laura will chase the application to register a community interest again; it is turning out to be a very long-winded process and the Scottish government directorate are still “fine-tuning” the document.

9. **AOB:**

- **Skate ramp:** Ben reported that he had checked again with Lochgilphead Youth Club and they have not yet sold the portable skate ramp. We can't take the project on without knowing what the insurance position is, but Ben may buy it anyway on his own account, so it may still be an option for the future.
- **Walking routes on the peninsula:** this had been considered at a previous meeting and Laura was keen to progress it. Vicki has made Laura an administrator on Facebook so that she can put information there, and will also put something on the noticeboards.

10. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

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Chair

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Date