

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

Visitors:

- Will Goudy, to present items on Chelsea Flower Show garden and Cromach

Actions required:

- Vicki to let Jane have details of the new Treasurer so that they can be included in future emails and invited to the next Board meeting
- Vicki to revamp and re-advertise the tender document for craignish.info maintenance
- Ben to speak to Lucy Gladstone about possible catering for a Roundhouse event
- Jane to check the funds still available for Talamh an Righ with the accounts and Christian
- Ben to meet parents of school children re use of Talamh an Righ
- Vicki to speak to member about knotweed and Jane to check with accounts and Christian re funding
- Vicki to put information about funding applications for noticeboards on community Facebook page

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

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 10th April 2024** were approved. Matters arising not covered under other items:

- Ben was thanked for re-instating the noticeboard at the road end.
- The C3 WordPress website has been renewed for a further two years.
- Following the presentation on the possibility of a community woodland at Corranmor plantation, we had agreed via exchange of emails that it would not be practicable to consider buying the land, and this decision had been communicated to Gordon Gray Stephens.
- Laura had met a new contact who might have helpful information regarding the possible relocation of the War Memorial.

3. **Chelsea Flower Show Garden:** Will updated the meeting on progress since his first presentation, to our February meeting. Ryan McMahon has now managed to secure funding, and as one of the highest-scoring gardens there is a good chance that his will be selected for the Show to be held in May 2025. Will provided the meeting with copies of plans showing the layout of the garden for the Show, and how it could be replanted at Talamh an Righ. There was some discussion about the suitability of this, particularly in the light of Ben's recent meeting with some of the parents of pre-school children who use the playground; they have come forward with ideas for new planting there. Also discussed was the impact on nearby residents of increased use of the area, and that planting could help mitigate this. The question of maintenance was clearly very important and it was acknowledged that a maintenance plan is needed in any event, and that we should help with this. Will would be happy to look after any trees. Vicki suggested that a site visit would help everyone, especially if Ryan could be there too, and could produce a detailed planting plan for the whole area. It was agreed that we should arrange a date with Ryan for a site meeting. Will will go back to him and let us know some dates when he would be available. The deadline for the decision is in July though there might be some further time available after the RHS submission.

4. **Cromach:** Will explained that the application for a Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area (D&RMPA) was going ahead, though it would probably take a couple of years before any decision was made. Cromach are hoping to employ a Project Officer, initially part-time but eventually full-time. They will need funding for this and charitable status would open doors to grants. They are already stretched, will become more so and would prefer not to take on the added burden of becoming a charity themselves. There was also the question of distancing Cromach from the administration in the interests of impartiality. He was therefore asking if C3 would be prepared to be the “umbrella” organisation for Cromach for fund-raising and possibly employment purposes. After a short discussion it was agreed that we would not take a decision immediately, but Will will keep us informed of progress on the D&RMPA and we will consider the question again as things develop. Will was thanked for his presentations and left the meeting.
5. **Finance:** Vicki confirmed that Christian was in the process of handing over to the new Treasurer and Mark was thanked for introducing him. Christian is preparing the final accounts for the AGM in July.
6. **craignish.info website:** Vicki confirmed that there had been no response to the tender document that was circulated. There had been a comment that not enough hours had been allowed for the initial work; we might also need to re-consider the rate of pay. Vicki agreed to revamp the document to make it more appealing and re-advertise it.
7. **Talamh an Righ:** Mark apologised that work and other commitments meant that he would have to withdraw his offer to provide food for the proposed event over the school long weekend at the end of May. It was agreed that this date was too soon anyway and that later in the summer would be preferable. Asking Lucy Gladstone to cater was considered and Ben will ask her about this and possible dates. There was further discussion on the question of maintenance that we had looked at during Will’s presentation. The possibility of getting the children involved in looking after the area was considered. There is a work experience project at the school which provides training in using gardening equipment. Possible additions to the site were considered, such as a composting toilet and waste bins, and ideas that had been put forward by parents such as a sand-pit and a Wendy house. Having met the parents of the pre-schoolers, Ben will go on to meet those of the school children. Again it was noted how important it was to consult nearby residents about any plans to expand the use of the area, and that signs might be useful to make everyone aware that the space is available, and when; they could be designed so that they showed if the school was “in” or “out”. Jane will check the latest available accounts and with Christian to see what funding is still available. It was agreed that a site visit was needed and that we should hold our next meeting at the Roundhouse.
8. **CAP Consultation:** Vicki has spoken to Laura, who is chair of the Village Hall committee. It has been agreed that it will be clearer for everyone if the two consultation processes are separate; so the Village Hall will go ahead with their survey now and we will carry out ours later in the year, once theirs is complete.
9. **Knotweed:** It was agreed that in view of all the difficulties in trying to control this, and conflicting advice about methods, this was a responsibility that was no longer appropriate for us and that we should step back from it. Vicki will speak to the member who instigated the scheme and we will check whether we still hold any allocated funds.
10. **Noticeboards:** Mark reported that the noticeboard at Craobh may have been taken down. Mandy has put in several funding applications; one source looks at these every month but the others will take longer. Vicki will put something on the Facebook community page to let everyone know that we have applied for funding.
11. **Kilvaree Stones:** Vicki reported that all the feedback comments had been positive except for one. David Jardine has been promised a response after this meeting and it was agreed that we should accept the funds from NHASMA and take on responsibility for promoting and interpreting the stones. It was agreed that this would be low-key, possibly with a QR

code board. We would not be responsible for any maintenance; Sharon Webb of Kilmartin Museum has confirmed that this was the responsibility of Historic Environment Scotland.

12. **AOB:** Mark raised the current concerns about the loss of facilities for the community at Craobh and in particular the uncertainty about the Lord of the Isles, which is closed and supposedly to be put on sale this month though there is no evidence of this. It remains to be seen how much the new venture by Lucy's will help. This was noted and we will continue to take an interest in this.
13. **Date of next meeting:** This was noted to be Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 7.30pm at the Roundhouse and was later changed by agreement to Monday 10th June at the same time and venue.

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Chair

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Date