

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Craignish Village Hall, following on from 7pm public meeting

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Siobhan Healy, Ben Weaser, Ken Taggart (Treasurer), Jane Smee (Secretary).

Actions required

- Siobhan to circulate a note on plans for Healy Arts
- Ken to follow up First Responders funding with Chris Booth
- Ken to continue to investigate Gift Aid and the Kilvaree collection box
- Vicki to contact Alex Tweedly re craignish.info website
- Jane to send minutes and accounts to Alex for uploading to our website
- Ken to send appropriate accounts to Jane re above
- Funding matrix and Kilvaree stones (help from Kilmartin) to go on next agenda for Mark to report
- Ben to check with Iain Saunders re insurance for Talamh an Righ
- Ben to get a quote for the repair of the shed roof and for fence posts, and to arrange for the worn-out play equipment to be removed.
- Jane to report back to Sarah Whittle re the blister pack recycling scheme
- Vicki to check with local businesses to see if there is interest in the voucher scheme for the Christmas Fair

1. **Apologies:** Mark Hampton, Laura Leslie-Sherwood.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 11th September 2024 were approved. Matters arising not covered under other items:**

- Funding matrix: this was deferred to the next meeting for Mark to propose.
- Healy Arts: Siobhan is hoping to run a tile workshop, probably at the Village Hall as this is the most practical venue especially in the winter. She also has ideas for the Craobh/Lunga Sculpture Trail and will send out a note to all board members with details.
- First Responders: Vicki contacted Chris Booth, and while neither he nor Ali Macleod are available to be co-opted to the C3 board, they would be more than happy to provide regular written updates or attend meetings where possible. It was agreed that Chris and Ali should be invited to attend a couple of meetings a year, say January and July, to update us; and at any other time of course if they wished. Chris is away at the moment and Ken will follow up with him on the funding aspect when he returns.
- craignish.info website - Vicki had not yet circulated the businesses involved as she did not want there to be any confusion with tonight's public meeting. She will now check with Alex Tweedly to see what progress he is making. Jane will send the minutes that need to be uploaded to our website, and also the 2023 accounts - Ken will send the appropriate ones to Jane.
- We still have no information about who is being/will be billed for the electricity supply to the Talamh an Righ.

3. **CAP discussion following on from public meeting:** It was agreed that this had been overall a positive exercise and had brought out opinions and some very good suggestions such as a "postbox" to gather ideas and reach those who would not be happy responding by other means. Vicki will post a note of the discussion on Facebook and we will also put this on the noticeboards. It was very encouraging to have at least one volunteer keen to help with the questioning process, the most time-consuming one, speaking to people in

person. We need to attract more. We also need a representative from C3, and one from the Community Council, to take the lead.

4. **Finance:**

- Quarterly report: Ken had circulated this before the meeting, and confirmed that the 2023 financial statements had been filed.
- Bank Mandate: This is still in progress, with the current signatories still to be removed. Ken proposed that we close our deposit account, which is not doing anything useful, and transfer the funds to our current account. He recommends setting up a 30-day notice account as an alternative to the deposit account.
- RA Clements, who sign off the financial statements, have sent out a questionnaire asking for details from all board members, and these were circulated.
- Gift Aid - Ken has had trouble dealing with this as the gateway number and password on the HMRC site are not working. He will continue to investigate. One or two donations have come in to which Gift Aid could be applied.
- Kilvaree Stones: the key to collection box does not seem to work though the person who handed it over assured us that it did. Ken will try contacting them for further help.

5. **Talamh an Righ:**

- Storage: Ben reported that he had had no response from the head teacher about the confidential items (children's work etc.) stored by the school in the hut. There are volunteers who would remove it, but it needs someone from the school there to oversee. There is also a problem, and possible insurance implications, with fuel, and a mower containing fuel, being stored in the shed. Vicki confirmed that we do own the shed, as it was there when we bought the land. It was agreed that we must remove the school items because of GDPR implications, and they could simply be handed over to the school in the storage boxes. A lockable metal box could solve the fuel problem. Ben will ask Iain Saunders about the insurance cover for the site.
- Maintenance: the 10-year-old shed is not really fit for purpose, as it is too large and not of the most stable construction. The roof needs urgent attention and the question is whether we spend in the region of £300-£400 to patch it up or carry out a full repair for what could be thousands of pounds. It was agreed that in the long term we need to consider if we need the shed, but in the meantime Ben will get quotes for short-term repair of the roof to make it watertight, and we may consider painting it.
- Play equipment: some of it is in need of replacement. Because it is a public park the equipment needs to be of public park standard and would cost in the region of £1,000 to replace. It was agreed that it was best if it were removed, and Ben will arrange for this.

6. **Craignish Gift Voucher Scheme:** Vicki reminded the meeting that we started this to try and help local businesses following the landslide a year ago. They were offered at the Christmas Market in November last year, and she asked if we would like to offer them again this year. Vicki will check if there are any vouchers left, and ask the businesses who joined in last time if they would like us to run it again. It was agreed that if 10 or more were interested we would do this.

7. **Blister Pack Recycling:** Jane reported that Sarah Whittle the manager of the Village Hall had asked if C3 would take on the financing of the scheme that the Hall has been running as a trial, using Terracycle. It is clear that there is community demand. The cost for the large bags that the Hall are currently using is £39, and Sarah estimates that it will take 6-8 months to fill each bag. (There was a rush when the scheme first started but this has now levelled off.) It was agreed that we would fund this for a year and see how it goes. Jane will report back to Sarah.

8. **First Responders:** Vicki had already reported on this.

9. **Loch Melfort and Kilninver Company Ltd:** Jane reported that she had been to one of the introductory meetings to say hello on behalf of C3; they were successfully established, with

enough members for their constitution. Jane met Alex Tweedly, our new website manager, who is their Treasurer and also maintains their website.

10. **AOB:** Ken reported that he is still working on the 2025 budget, and is establishing contact with the “owners” of the various funds, and hopes to have a proper draft soon. If the CAP goes ahead that will change things but at the moment this is of course an unknown. Ben reported that fence between Talamh an Righ and the houses is falling over, and agreed to get an estimate for new fence posts, which he can install. He also reported that the ashes ceremony for Andrew Barclay at the apple tree went well.
11. **Date of next meeting:** This was noted to be Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.
12. The meeting ended at 9.20pm and Vicki thanked everyone for attending.

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Chair

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Date