

Craignish Community Company

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Present:

Board: Vicki Burnett (Chair), Mark Hampton, Ken Taggart (Treasurer), Jane Smee (Secretary).

Visitor: Dr Sharon Webb, to advise on interpretation of the Kilvaree Stones

Actions required

- Jane to invite Georgie Pearson, Ali MacLeod and Chris Booth, as representatives of the Toddler Group, the wildlife fund and the First Responders, to quarterly meetings next year starting in April, and also remind Georgie that we are waiting for the Toddler Group funds
- Vicki to send formal approval re insurance to Ken
- Vicki to continue to seek recruits to the Board
- Ken to reallocate the Healy Arts and Cromach funds
- Mark Vicki and Jane to work on finding out who supplies the electricity to Talamh an Righ
- Vicki to message CAP group re finance
- Mark to work on various repairs at Talamh an Righ, and to empty the shed

1. **Apologies:** There were apologies from Ben Weaser, Laura Leslie-Sherwood and Siobhan Healy.
2. **Kilvaree Stones:** Sharon was welcomed to the meeting.

Vicki explained the background to C3's involvement and the donation we had received of £3,000 from the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll (NHASMA), now disbanded, to interpret the stones. This did not bring any responsibility for maintenance, which is with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), but we had agreed to improve the on-site interpretation and arrange some publicity by including the site on the craignish.info website. We are seeking advice as to the most appropriate way forward.

Sharon advised that as the stones are legally scheduled monuments, even to put up signs we would need to liaise with HES. She recommended free-standing interpretation panels and small portable paddles; the panels would have to be fixed in the ground, and if this were within the Chapel archaeological consent would be needed, so they were best placed outside the Chapel and graveyard. The paddles could be placed in the Chapel.

Sharon kindly offered to write the text for the panels and is happy to continue to advise. The text that is on the present information sheet (which is somewhat the worse for wear) could not be used again as the rules have changed dramatically and the latest standards e.g. for disability discrimination must be adhered to.

There was then a discussion about a possible replacement for the current collection box and whether this was needed at all. Sharon advised that NHASMA used to gather about £200 a year from the box but it clearly needed to be replaced. Something similar could be sited near the information board, but another option would be a QR code for donations, or possibly a "tap for donations" though there were disadvantages with both. It was agreed that though a QR code might deter less technically-minded donees this was the best solution.

Then the question of the budget for these improvements was considered. Sharon advised that the text would need to be printed as an outdoor feature, and that it was unlikely that £3,000 would cover this. We could fund-raise to make up the difference, and there are also grants available from HES. Sharon thought that it was very likely that we would get a grant, and that applications are

considered on a simple rolling process with no deadlines. Sharon kindly offered to obtain an estimate of the costs.

Mark asked about removal of the ivy that is growing over the wall above some of the stones, and Sharon advised that even the removal of this would require permission from HES. She recommended looking at Keils and Kilmory chapels for ideas, and that once the information is in place, a small launch event with an entertaining speaker would be a good idea.

Sharon agreed to put together a simple project plan and will attend another meeting once she has something to report; this is unlikely to be as soon as February, but could possibly be March, and we will keep her informed about the dates of our meetings.

Sharon was thanked very much for her help, and left the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 11th December 2024 were approved. Matters arising:

- Jane now has all the necessary details and will send out the stakeholder invitations to Georgie Pearson, Ali MacLeod and Chris Booth. Ken has sent Georgie our bank details and Jane will remind her that Ken is still waiting for the Toddler Group funds to be transferred.
- Vicki will contact Ken formally as regards insurance
- Alex has now invoiced Ken for the work he has done on the website, and Vicki is planning to meet him in the next few weeks; he is working on a form to send out to local businesses
- No more information had been obtained from Cromach, and no-one was aware of any ongoing projects. It was agreed that the funds that we hold for them should be put back into the general fund, and we could consider any future requests as and when they arose
- Mark is still working on a revised version of the Support Eligibility Matrix
- Board members: Siobhan's resignation was noted and many thanks were extended to her for her work on the board. Vicki will continue to seek to recruit new board members and a new chair.
- Mark was thanked for stepping in to deal with the safeguarding issues that had arisen regarding filming and photography for the CAP. He has asked Arthur Hobhouse to obtain signatures to a consent form for the use of photographic images, though strictly speaking at present Arthur is within the law.

4. Finance:

- Ken had circulated a report before the meeting, attached. He confirmed that he would make the necessary adjustments for the Healy Arts (Siobhan had asked that these be reallocated) and Cromach funds.
- Ken confirmed that there was an item in the Budget for potential electricity costs for the supply to Talamh an Righ, and there was some discussion about our continuing efforts to find out who is the provider. Mark and Vicki had some further suggestions and will follow these up, and Jane will check the Talamh an Righ file to see if there are any clues there.
- Insurance: The tools in the shed are covered, and for workshops, specific activities should be notified to the insurers in advance. The cost of insurance has increased and is £75 over budget.
- There is one more step to finalising the bank mandate, the removal of former directors. More forms are on the way.
- The issue with withdrawals from the deposit account appears to have been resolved, so that only one signature will be required.
- The costs of the CAP and Land Purchase groups' Hall meetings to date will be paid. We will need to be forewarned about any future spending.

5. Support Eligibility Matrix: This had already been discussed.

6. **CAP:** Continuing on from Ken's point above, Vicki will message the group to say that they will need to discuss spending at their next meeting. The proposed posters and flyers had not yet been circulated, because the holidays had intervened, but these should start appearing soon. It was noted that what was really lacking was (understandably) someone to take overall charge of the whole project.
7. **Talamh an Righ and the Roundhouse:** Mark reported that one of the shed windows is falling apart, and has arranged for this to be repaired. He has also looked at the shed roof, and while the timber is still sound the covering felt is causing condensation which is causing damage. He suggested covering the felt with a tin roof, for which he may be able to source the materials. He also volunteered to fix the rope bridge, which seems to be the only faulty play equipment. He confirmed that the School had given the go-ahead for the shed to be emptied and he will deal with this.
8. **craignish.info website:** This had already been discussed.
9. **Location of Documents:** Jane asked for clarification of the source of documents that had appeared in discussions since the last meeting e.g. the Child Protection Policy. Vicki explained that the CPP and our Equal Opportunities Policy are available on the website.
10. **AOB:** There was no other business to discuss.
11. **Date of next meeting:** This was noted to be 12th February 2025 at 6:30pm at the Village Hall. Jane explained that she would be away then, and Ken kindly volunteered to take the minutes.
12. The meeting ended at 7.50 pm and Vicki thanked everyone for attending.

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Chair

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Date