



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Committee Meeting Minutes: 16.11.24

1 Welcome & Apologies:

Present: Jason Bold (JB), Mali MacLennan (MM), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Emma Jane Morrison (EJM), Bryony Anderson (BA), Stuart Cullen (SC), Katie Mitchell-Wright (KMW), Katy Lawrence (KL)

Apologies: Leona Coull (LC)

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Adoption of previous minutes:

KL proposed

EJM seconded

LC will upload minutes to the website

3 Election of Office Bearers:

- Chairperson - JB has stood down as Chairperson, and has proposed KL as chair
- Treasurer - SY proposed JB as Treasurer, KL seconded this
- Vice Chair - it was decided that we do not have a Vice chair this year

ACTIONS:

4 Gaeltec

- Conveyancing is getting closer to completion – waiting on a couple of small items from the seller's solicitor and on approval of the draft Certificate of Title by SLF, if this can be done in the next two weeks we have a chance of a completion date this side of Christmas.
- Rural Design have now passed the designs to the structural engineers for them to complete their work towards the building warrant. The timeline has relaxed a little bit, but Rural Design is going to provide an update on this in the coming week at my request.
- Consultation on the gym layout at the sport and leisure CAP meeting was really useful, I'm going to follow this up by sharing the designs on social media and inviting comment and following up with the equipment companies.
- Deadline for the SSEN Regional Fund is end of Friday 22 November, then Crown Estate Scotland Fund is 2 December, have been working on the budgets for these, but the next couple of weeks will be spent getting these complete.

5 Funding applications:

- JB was removed from this conversation as it involves his daughter. LB has applied for her 2nd year of educational grant funding - all agreed to fund this.
- There was an application from an applicant outside the DCC area. While DCT does fund up to £1000 to Skye Wide charities which benefit the wider area, the restrictions in terms of educational grants are fairly clear. The closest precedent to this was Makaton training for someone who lives outside the DCC area but works in Dunvegan Primary School. The committee felt like this application was outside the remit of DCT's funding.

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- An application was submitted by 'Over the Bridge Studios' , a film about Skye's musical scene. Some filming was actually filmed in Dunvegan at one of the RCSC evenings, and local musician and trust member Peter Morrison was supportive of this project and application. They are keen to run a screening in Dunvegan and we can approach them for more information for the cultural mapping of the Dunvegan area for the CAP . Minginish have donated £500, and The Old Inn £2500. This is inline with the Skye wide grant, as we do think it will involve, benefit and promote Dunvegan.
- DPS had emailed to ask if they would be getting the first half of their discretionary grant. The committee is supportive of DPS, but would like a report with information on how the funds are being spent, including some photos.

Actions: LC to contact all applicants with decisions made

5 DCC

- DCC are requesting financial help to cover the winter hardship grants which they would continue to administer. John Laing (JL) suggested £5000. It is our understanding that this grant may extend to cover more than fuel vouchers - they are usually based on referrals from the school nurse and the local doctors' surgery. The committee is supportive in principle but would like some more information on the referral process (can people self refer or was that too problematic in previous years). Also, some more information on whether DCT would be funding this in full or would it have funding from the CC or elsewhere. MM noted that the CC annual funding of £4k has not really increased over the last few years. JB suggested that a report of what the financial plans are for the next year and what this year's annual grant was spent on would be really helpful for our reporting, and could open up a conversation to see if this amount needs to be reviewed. MM is going along to the next CC meeting to talk a bit about the action plan, KL will try to attend too.
- Discussion was had around the provision of the bottle banks, which are used by all local hospitality businesses as well as residents. The area would benefit from another bottle bank or at least more frequent emptying. Unfortunately the car park at Gaeltec will be at capacity, but there was some discussion about the land opposite. That land is not included in the acquisition of Gaeltec - there is the area owned by the Fire Service, and the rest is MacLeod Estate . KL also mentioned BSCC's project to crush bottles into sand to use in paths and cutting compost. MM feels this sort of under provision should be incorporated in the action plan, including whether the land opposite would benefit the community for this sort of project.

Actions:

6 AOB

- Contract Renewals - JB mentioned that we need to renew the contracts for the existing staff (Gaeltec PO role is funded by the SLF). MM & LC are both keen to renew, but JB thinks it may need a bit of fine tuning. MM is contracted to 15 hours per week, but is currently funded by the CRF for an additional 6 hours per week to devote more time to the CAP and housing needs projects. It is easier to get outside funding for outsourced consultancy work than it is to get funding for core staff. JB & KL will review this and circulate findings with the committee.
- MM suggests that we invite DTAS to our next meeting for some directors training, a service that they provide to members.
- MM is going to be visiting the play park in the next few days and will then purchase some bits of furniture that are needed.

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- Edinbane & Struan CC's are, in principle, supportive of a collaborative fund for the Skye Foodbank. MM will follow up with Kay Alston.
- DTAS have suggested they could support a learning exchange visit, and we have had Tiree Community Development Trust suggested to us by a couple of routes, particularly as they are researching childcare provision for the island. Mull also has several DTAS member organisations that could be useful to visit, both from a building development and management perspective but also on CAP, woodland croft and housing issues. We'd like to go ahead and suggest a visit to take place between 20 Jan and 21 Feb, ferry crossings permitting!
- DTAS Trustee and staff training – bespoke training session on anything we would like support on, also have several ways to access Trustee support and training, which could be signposted in the training session designed for us.

Date of Next meeting:

This was the last scheduled committee meeting of 2024. LC will draft up a timetable of meetings for 2025 and will email them round the committee.

Actions: LC will set meeting dates for the coming year.