



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Committee Meeting Minutes: 21.05.24

1 Welcome & Apologies:

Present: Jason Bold (JB), Mali MacLennan (MM), Katy Lawrence (KL), Sylvia Meyer (SM). Emma Jane Morrison (EJM), Leona Coull (LC),
Apologies: Liza Cleland (LCL), Paul MacAskill (PM)
JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Adoption of previous minutes:

KL proposed

SM seconded

LC will upload minutes to the website

3 Financials

- We currently have £261,188.88 in the business current account. £22,342.57 is earmarked for the Playpark from fundraising and corporate sponsorship of the park. An Additional £30,000 of the balance is also reserved for the PP.
- £100,000 has been earmarked as the DCT contribution for the Gaeltec project.
- Since transferring £199,998 over to our high interest savings account in March, we have made over £1800 in interest, bringing that balance to £201,681.19
- JB had hoped that he would have had some good news on someone coming onboard as treasurer, unfortunately this has not happened and we are back to square one. It was suggested that we advertise for a paid treasurer role, for approximately 2 hours per week - all agreed this was a good idea. KL is willing to help out in the role, but is not confident in this area, and would like some guidance. KL suggested contacting DTAS to see if they had any treasurer training.
- After a few emails with Daniel Wood, our accountant, MM said that he thinks that the trust might, this year / the coming years, outgrow what Daniel can offer us in support. As the contact had just been via email, JB suggested that a face to face / telephone conversation would be beneficial to see where we go from here.

**ACTIONS: MM to write a Job description for Treasurer and JB to approve
JB to speak to Daniel Wood**

4 Gaeltec

- MM has had a meeting with IOSSS who are the current tenants in Gaeltec looking to see if they would be able to get some more workshop space when we take over Gaeltec, as they feel that they may be looking to expand the business in the coming years. Ideally they would like to be all on one floor, the ground floor. They are currently upstairs, and if we were to reconfigure the spaces, and have the upstairs a shared work space, we would have to install a lift. That would come at a substantial extra cost. It was decided that we get back to IOSSS to say that we are in talks with the architects to see if what they are

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looking for is practical, without too much reconfiguration, but it would more than likely be better for them to split their spaces over the 2 floors. We would very much like to keep them on as our anchor tenants.

- The COF window has been confirmed as 30th May - 26th June. MM has downloaded an online form that we can upload the application to and work on before the deadline. MM has started to approach businesses for corporate sponsorship. There is a £100,000 business energy small loan, which is interest free and you get £30,000 cash back, and pay it off over 8 years. There seems to be quite a quick turnaround with this fund. COF want you to have some match funding secured from other sources in your application. As soon as we own the building we could apply for that loan. We also have the CARES application for PV panels and battery storage, and the IOSR, but we do need a bit more information on the solar array.
- The conveyance of the building is now progressing after a breakdown in communication between the seller and his lawyer. Our solicitors are now exchanging paperwork.
- MM had a chat with DTAS about VAT registering, and there are lots of pros and cons for both sides. Registering for VAT could cause us more problems in the long run and it was decided that we look back at this once we have a project officer & or a treasurer, as they may have more knowledge on the subject.

ACTIONS: MM to contact IOSSS

MM to apply for the loan once we own Gaeltec

5 Playpark

- There was a really successful playpark tidy up day on 18.05.24, and there is scheduled to be one more on 25.05.24, provided enough willing volunteers can make it. MM to email out the membership and ask for help.
- Everyone agreed that MM should place the order from Kompan for the playpark equipment.
- Everything's in place with the regeneration funding. MM has had to chase HC to find out how we draw down the money that we were awarded. The gift aid money from PP fundraising has been deposited into our bank account.

Actions: MM email out membership asking for help.

6 Minibus

- Taking over the running of the minibus has been quite onerous already, but hopefully once the booking systems are ironed out, it should all work out well.
- A fuel credit account has been set up at Atholl Filling station, so we can let members know that this is where they are to fill the minibus up after usage, and add it to the DCT minibus account.
- We have decided to keep the mileage cost at 65p per mile for the time being and will review at a later date.
- MM is going to contact Minginish Community Minibus, to see how they operate their bus, as it seems to have fewer restrictions that we have for drivers.
- LC is to amend the minibus invoices to add a 30 day payment policy.
- Named drivers onto policy, if local and not costing us money to amend.
- All volunteer drivers MUST be members of the DCT, they then complete a drivers declaration form, and are added to a driver register that we hold online.
- The minibus will be going back to live up at the Fire Station once we have put the key safe up there.

Actions: KL to get the keysafe put up at fire station for the keys to live in.

MM to contact Ian Lamb re some up dates for the booking system.

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MM to contact Minginish Minibus

7 Cruachan / Orbost

- The number of responents from the survey was apparently on the low end of normal, but given the size of the project this shouldn't be a barrier to a community asset transfer. It would be good to host a face to face community event to discuss the plans.
- The CHT provided a desktop assessment, which was part of the scope of this brief, not an on-site survey and flood risk assessment, which would have to be commissioned separately. It's a more involved process, complete with digger. MM is to contact CHT to get a quote for this, and if it is under £5k we should not have to go through a whole tender procedure, and this is a typical route for communities exploring this type of project. MM is keen to commission this prior to the asset transfer request.

Actions: Firm up a date for public consultation

8 Community Action Plan

- There have been a few folk interested in joining a steering group for the CAP, but it could benefit from 2 or 3 more folk. MM asked EJM if she would ask her husband to come onboard with his links with the moorings association and the Pier.
- We do have a template for the CAP, we just need to fine tune it to what we need to know about our local area.
- Liza is sorting maps for this, which we will get printed and 'laminated' for some local mapping exercises.
- KL suggested that we get a date set for the first CAP meeting, and then if we still have more people to get onboard, we have the marker of the date to work towards.
- MM received a quote from the Communities Housing Trust for the trio of housing needs surveys, for £4300, which was more than anticipated. MM has contacted the LSHA as they did a housing survey in the last few years and it would be good to get a copy so that it is not duplicated.

Actions: MM, LCL & KL set a date for the first CAP steering group meeting.

9 Wind Farm Developments

- We have had some legal advice on the agreement of intent, which is a non-binding agreement to look into the shared ownership option. We are also waiting on legal advice on what the appropriate body would be for the shared ownership at Ben Sca. MM has chivvied the solicitors up on this.
- JB mentioned that he and MM had been chatting about possible corporate sponsorship from Renantis for the Gaeltec project, MM has already emailed them a project brief and will chase this up.

Actions: MM to chase up Renantis re corporate sponsorship

10 DCC Update

- SM noted that Laura Shirley has stepped down as chair of DCC, with immediate effect.
- SM asked if there was money to be had from DCT to fund a Park Ranger for Dunvegan area, to include the village, Coral Beach, and Dunvegan Castle area. ** Suggestion MacLeod Estate should at the very least be paying towards ranger services around the castle. As HC used to provide the area with rangers, should they not still provide them or at least be part paying for them. SM mentioned that there is one at the Old Man of Storr, paid for by PBCC. It was suggested that we get more information on how PBCC are working this and how the model is set up.

- SM noted that there had been a discussion at the last DCC meeting with regards to the DCT NOT funding the Brigade group in Dunvegan. LC noted that this mix up had come from a conversation she had had with a member of the brigade, where they asked if the group could apply to DCT for funding, and when LC checked the charities funding application, it states on the website under restrictions that 'funding may not be used to fund religious groups or political parties or projects for the promotion of any specific political or religious purpose.' The group has an element of religion attached to it, but the main reason for the group is for young people to attend and work towards awards. It was suggested that the Brigade puts in an application for funding to DCT and we can go from there.

Actions: SM to find out from PBCC on how they work their ranger

EJM will contact someone from the Brigade and let them know they can apply for funding

11 Dunvegan Traders Association

- MM received an email from DTA looking for some help with signage for the village, to point visitors in the direction of the shops and toilets and not to just bypass the village for the Castle. The DTA has done an audit of what they feel the village needs, signage wise. This is really something that HC should be providing for the village, any large sign will need a planning application.
- This is in a way linked with the ranger scenario, and a meeting with DCT, DCC & HC to discuss all signage options. It could also be added into the CAP.

Actions: Set up meeting with DCC, DCT & HC

12 Trustees for 2025

- JB noted that he would like to take a break from the trust at the AGM after 9 years on it. It would be good to have an idea of who is keen to stay on or leave the trust before the AGM. JB asked LC to speak to her cousin Stuart Cullen, who had been interested at the last AGM, as he is a QS and his knowledge and expertise could be valuable with the Gaeltec project. JB also said that he could be co-opted on at any time of the year as a consultant.

Actions: JB to contact SC for a chat.

Current trustees to let JB know if happy to continue on as Trustee

13 Environmental Policies

- KL has completed an Environmental Policy for the Gaeltec project, and although it is ambitious, there are a lot of long, medium and short term ideas. It was decided that all trustees should try and have a thorough read through of the policy and give any feedback on it by Friday 24th May, then it could then be handed over to Impact Hub.

Actions: All trustees to have a look over the policy by Friday 24th May

14 Funding Applications

- Dunvegan Agricultural show have made an application for the cost of the bouncy castles to be covered at the upcoming show, on July 29th. The cost of having 1 bouncy castle and 1 inflatable slide, both manned for the day is £695. All present agreed in principle to the application.
- LC had enquired on behalf of her other job at DPS whether they would be able to get the second part of their funding for this year. All agreed that the £2500 is to be paid to DPS asap.

15 AOB

- JB shared a job description with MM & KL earlier today for a Project Officer for the Gaeltec Project, and we will get that out as soon as possible. We have secured funding for this through the SLF application.
- MM asked whether any of the trustees would be interested in some Directors Training through DTAS. Possibly look again at this after the AGM.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.05pm and JB thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting : Tuesday 18th June, 7pm Dame Flora Lounge

DRAFT