

DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Committee Meeting: 29th June 2023

Time: 7pm Zoom

Present: Anne MacAskill (AM), Jason Bold (JB), Mali Messent (MM), Philippa MacRae (PM), Kenny Nicolson (KN)

Apologies: Gilly Alston (GA), Paul MacAskill (PM)

MM proposed previous minutes, AM seconds

Agenda/Minutes

1. New Committee Member

- DCT welcomes Philippa MacRae to the committee to fill the space reserved for a CC rep, as per new SCIO constitution
- Last years AGM in August was the final AGM for the Unincorporated Dunvegan Trust. The new SCIO was approved in late Oct 2022 and has 15 months from that date before an AGM needs to be held, so a years' accounts can be provided. This means we need to have the AGM by the end of January, which will be a push for the accountant, as our year end is Dec 31. We will liaise with him to ensure that's feasible.
- In the meantime we can co-opt trustees - AM is keen to retire from the committee.

Action: JB Contact Accountant to discuss timescale of accounts

2. Financials:

- GA is in the process of setting up a new bank account for the SCIO, once this is complete KN will complete Gift Aid Registration which will benefit any future fundraising
- Annual Grants: Dunvegan Primary has been issued the second instalment of its grant and Dunvegan CC comes out by standing order
- In GA's absence we do not have the exact balance but will include it at next meeting.

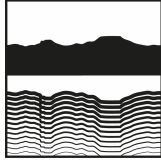
Action: GA continue with new bank account set up

3. Gaeltec Update

- DCT is in the process of negotiating a discussion about the community purchase of the Gaeltec buildings.
- Funding routes available to DCT all take time - the Scottish Land Fund is the most secure option and if successful we would not get the funds until May 24 at the earliest. Other funds are similar time frame
- DCT are currently waiting to hear from the owners about whether they are happy for us to begin the community discussion about whether there is support (and happy with the long-time scale.) Once we hear back from them, a community survey created with support from the Impact Hub in Inverness will be released and we can start having conversations about the opportunity.
- The current owners have had the buildings valued at £300k but we would need to have our own surveys/valuations/business plans etc. done, which is funded by Stage 1 of the Scottish Land Fund. Stage 2 is the funding for the purchase of the buildings.

Action: JB Contact Gaeltec owners again - we are giving them a bit of time because they have suffered an illness

4. Playpark Update



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

- The Playpark Committee (PPC) are doing great work fundraising for the park. They are running a lunch on Thurs 27th for the Macleod Parliament, and will have a fundraising stall at Dunvegan Show
- They have received a quote of £150k from Kompan (plus VAT, but THC has said they can work round this so we do not have to pay VAT - we have requested clarity on this arrangement from Kompan, and JB suggested a binding agreement that THC would commit to the transfer of ownership of the park land to DCT after completion. KN and PPC and will be meeting with Kompan w/c 04/07 to finalise plans for display at the Show. The quote of £150k plus VAT has expired but they have committed to honouring it anyway.
- They would like the Trust's feedback on the plans, all thought they looked great, MM had only minor suggestion of a larger slide (like Edinbane's) but realises that space might be an issue.
- Multiple funding options, the Highland Council Regeneration Fund seems like a good bet. A recent application to The Prince's Countryside fund was rejected.
- AM asked whether we are likely to get any funding from THC considering the state of play, or lack of, of the school/pitch/housing project. KN said they are different funding pots, and the regeneration fund does fund a lot of projects in Skye. He pointed out that, unusually, THC had applied for and was granted funding from the regeneration fund for one of its own projects recently.

**Actions: KM to seek clarification on park ownership/VAT arrangement suggested by THC
KN and PPC meeting Kompan w/c 04/07/23**

5. Cruachan Wood/Orbost Update

- Price at last valuation was 28k
- JB emailing HIE to discuss boundaries, title (there is not a separate title currently for Cruachan woods) and to make sure Bluebell hill is included. HIE want to re-value it, which will likely result in an increase in price but the option of an asset transfer is there too. JB requesting info in writing and for HIE to do their work.

Action: JB to contact HIE to ask them for titles and boundaries, and a new valuation.

6. Windfarm Updates

- MM expressed a need to provide some info about the proposed wind farm developments on the website, and emailed a draft post, which if approved by the CC can go live week commencing 3/7. PM will share with CC.
- Not had contact with Edinbane CC or Struan group for several weeks.
- Renantis (formerly Falck), owners of Ben Aketil have merged with Ventient Energy.
- JB to seek clarification on proposed community benefits and any shared ownership offer.
- Erin Murchie has been in touch to say the Managing Director is going to be in Dunvegan on 26th July and would like to catch up with the trust. KN suggested the CC is invited to attend as well.

Action: PM to share Windfarm post with CC. MM will post to Website on approval.

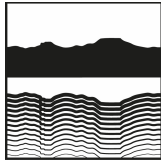
JB to reply to Erin setting up meeting on 26th

MM/JB will invite John Laing to attend

7. Update on THC Project School/Pitch/Housing

- The Master project's future is looking increasingly uncertain as we wait to find out whether Dunvegan has been included in the League 3 funding. MM and JB are meeting Maressa and Kenna from the NWFC to discuss the pitch side of things on Tuesday. They have been left in a very frustrating position by THC and Sport Scotland, and there is pressure from THC for DCT to step in to be a vocal advocate for the project. KN expressed concern that this is a tactic to absolve THC of at least some of their responsibilities to provide us with much needed facilities, and we agree we need to start calling out these failings as well as offering support to NWFC, in particular Maressa and Kenna, who have been working hard for years on this project.

8. Community Council Update



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

- PM shared news of a project the CC would like to collaborate with DCT on - the replacement of the Dunvegan Defibrillator and the installation of 4 new at Roag, Harlosh, Lochside and the Fishfarm Shed. The cost is roughly £2.5k each. JB suggested also Orbost and Claigan. JB asked for more info on the infrastructure each defib requires. KN sure there will be external funding available for this project, investigation needed.
- Donna from the CC tried to fill in a large project application form on DCT website and it was not working properly, MM to investigate and ask Ian Lamb for assistance.
- JB also suggested funding community training days to use Defibrillators.
- Agreed to run as a joint venture, funding application shouldn't be necessary.
- PM also gave an update on the hardship fund, which has not had a great take-up. The CC is reluctant to share info on Facebook because they are hit by scammers every time they do, so DCT sharing it wouldn't help.
- Considering diverting funds according to advice from the School Nurse
- Facebook suggestions- there were a few suggestions made on the DCT Facebook page, one for a community skip and one for a helipad. The committee were quite unanimous in their view that a skip would be quick to fill, expensive for the benefit it would bring, and impossible to regulate. All were supportive of the helipad suggestion and great to have folk engaging with such ambitious ideas. We will contact the folk in question to tap into their enthusiasm and expertise and see if we can all get this project in motion, down what will probably be a fairly long road. Suggestions of Macleod Estate land/ Common Grazing as a possible site but need expert advice.

MM will contact trust members about helipad

PM will get more info about defibrillators

KN will look at funding

9. Applications

- James Coull - Education and Employment Grant
This is the second student to apply. We decided with our initial applicant that we needed to cap the grant @ £3k over 3 years, which can be used as £1.5k in year one, if necessary, for 1st year expenses like a laptop, household purchases etc., £750 in years two and three. Approved a grant of £1000 for James, owing to him already completing year one and entering year two.
- Dunvegan Community Hall- this application is to replace windows and doors in the community hall, to improve energy efficiency and warmth in the hall. They have applied for £4000 from DCT and have also successfully applied to Isle of Skye Renewables Cooperative for £4000. All present are supportive of this.
- Skye Dance- this application is for £50 to cover hall rental for a dance workshop day in Dunvegan Hall for children during the school holidays. MM said it was great they were doing something in Dunvegan, and JB suggested we grant the £50 and donate £50 towards their next Dunvegan workshop day. All in favour.
- We are expecting an application from Dunvegan Show Committee for a bouncy castle at the Show but haven't received one yet. We are keen to approve it, having been given some details prior to the last meeting.

Actions: MM will reply to applicants

10. AOB

- LSHA contacted the trust to enquire about funding for new Velux windows in some of their houses in Dunvegan, 30k. MM said she didn't think it was appropriate for the trust to fund this- this should come from THC or SG funding, even as a tenant of the houses in question. AM and JB agree.

Actions: JB will reply to IoSRC to decline this opportunity

MM will upload archived minutes to website

Next Meeting 3rd August TBC