



# DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

## Committee Meeting Minutes: 09/11/2023

1 Present: Jason Bold (JB), Mali Messent (MM), Anne MacAskill (AM), Kenny Nicolson (KN), Paul MacAskill (PM), Philipa MacRae (PMr), Leona Coull (LC)

Apologies: Gilly Alston (GA)

2 Previous minutes:

PM Propose, AM Second

**Actions: MM will upload to the website.**

3 Financials:

- There is no huge change with the bank account. We have had a few payments going out in the last few days. GA, MM & LC are going to get together for a catch up session for all things financial, including checking the old bank account and making sure that it is closed off and all funds transferred to the new account. LC to get access to digital banking.

4 Gaeltec:

- KN informed us that we are nearly ready to submit the stage 2 application to the Scottish Land Fund for funds to purchase the Gaeltec building. We can apply for 95% of the building valuation that we had valued by DM Hall. The tenders for the revised business plans and architectural drawings will be with us by Friday 17th November.
- Impact Hub in Inverness has been very helpful with the business support. KN has had a look at the first draft of the business plan which is extensive. Rural Design has undertaken the architectural side of this and the concept design is very exciting for the space we have. There is lots of scope to re-jig the design with what best suits the community.
- It was discussed that we try to have lots of community engagement with the Gaeltec project by sharing the business plan and gathering ideas from groups who wish to use the space. It would be beneficial for us to gauge interest on the use of what we plan to have in Gaeltec, ie gym memberships, childcare places, office space users.
- JB & MM met with Morvern from HIE, who was really positive about the place and the fact that the building was already standing and wouldn't need to be built from scratch.
- MM has started the process to 'Register an Interest' in Gaeltec. Part of this process is to show that our group is a genuine local group and not being run by people who do not live here. A petition has been placed in the Post Office which appears to have a decent amount of signatures so far.
- KN mentioned that from feedback from the Stage 1 application, we really need to try and boost our membership. We will put some membership forms into the Post Office and get some posters up in and around the community.

**Action: LC to buy printer**

**MM to design poster**

#### 5 Playpark:

- HC's Community Regeneration Fund has invited us to apply but for only ½ of the funding we had asked for in our expression of interest, which itself was only ½ of the total project costs. This is very disappointing. Emails have been sent to all our local Councillors looking for support and clarification on why this is.
- JB suggested that we ask one of the Windfarms, Wind 2, to get behind the Playpark project and help with funding.
- Would it be worth us looking into local contractors who could carry out the ground works and install the playpark to help cut some of the costs. We could ask Komplan to sign off on the works and deliver a completion certificate so as not to affect insurance.

**Actions: JB to get in touch with Wind 2**

**KN & MM to look at budget and then come back to committee about upping our contribution**

#### 6 Cruachan:

JB has drawn a boundary outline of Cruachan & Bluebell Hill showing what area we want to buy and has sent it to HIE. Morvern from HIE came out to view the area and was impressed by the location. It is up to DCT now to decide how we progress with this. Do we go along the same route as Gaeltec and apply using the Scottish Land Fund? We currently have stage 1 funding for Orbost, now wondering if we should go for stage 2 funding. HIE have said we could go down the Community Asset Transfer route, which would be a slightly slower route or a negotiated sale, where we would need to get a valuation done.

**Actions: JB to contact Morvern about Scottish Land Fund**

**MM will look into Community Asset Transfer.**

#### 7 Helipad:

Ongoing. It was suggested that we commission a Community Action Plan for the village, which would reflect how the community would like to see issues addressed and to help overcome challenges in the area. The Helipad being one of these. Discussions can be held with ME at a later date with regards to land.

**Actions: MM to start Community Action Plan.**

#### 8 Minibus:

- MM is going to speak to Tina Allan about getting it formally set up as a working group with DCT. Gather information on the minibus, when MOT due, life expectancy of the minibus, Insurance policy
- What next for the minibus, could we look at siting an electric charging point at Gaeltec for a new electric minibus? Discussions have been had about the possibility of funding the gap between buying a diesel mini bus and buying an electric one, by the community fund from Ben Aketil shareholders.

**Actions: MM to contact Tina.**

#### 9 Wind Developments:

- We looked at this CLS letter after the last meeting. It doesn't appear to read properly. The only positive being that it was supported by Community Land Scotland.
- Lots of meetings behind the scenes for Glen Ullinish II project. Muirhall have rejected the 40% to Struan 40% to nearest neighbours and 20% Skye Wide Fund, which had been a collective point of view. They came back with 60% Struan, Dunvegan, Minginsh, Edinbane and Portree and 40% Skye Wide Fund.
- Wind 2 is the windfarm towards Edinbane and has been consented. We have an opportunity to have community investment in this project, collectively with Edinbane and Struan. Edinbane are waiting to see what DCT would like to do.

**Actions: Contact Edinbane and Struan on Ben Sca to find out position on community ownership and ask about community benefit package.**

#### 10 School Project:

- After being told that there would be no new school in Dunvegan in the next few years, MM & JB were invited along to meet the new Chief Executive of the HC at Dunvegan Primary. He was shocked by the state of it. He cannot make us any promises as there is no money in the pot. They will look to be creative with what they do have and offer some improvements.
- The HC propose to carry on with the enabling works that were due to start in Summer 2022 and finalise the land purchase from John MacLeod. James Swinerton from LSHA was present at the meeting and he said that they still have this project in their build plan for next autumn if they can come up with the money and the enabling works are completed.

**Actions: None currently.**

#### 11 Community Council Update:

- The defibrillator project has been completed, with 4 new defibrillators in situ around the community council area. Lucky to be here are waiting on training dates and will let us know when these will take place.
- The CC is currently in limbo while they wait for the results of the CC elections.

#### 12 Communications:

The following news posts will be published over the next few weeks:

- Registering an Interest for Gaeltec
- Application and Press Release
- Trustee appeal
- AGM information

**Actions:**

#### 13 Funding Applications:

- School Annual Fund - All agreed to continue with this - £5000
- Revolting Crofters - The group had asked to become either a working group of DCT or receive funding via small projects - trustees agreed to £1000 small project *(MM left the meeting temporarily, owing to personal interest)*
- Lola Bold Educational Grant - All agreed in principal to £1500 applied for, and she would be invited to reapply for subsequent years. After the meeting, Lola Bold was contacted with regards to her application. LB confirmed that she was only applying for her first year and not an amount that would cover her full 4 year course. All Trustees agreed that if she receives £1000.00 this year she would be eligible to apply for a further £2000.00 split over the next 3 years. *(JB left the meeting temporarily, owing to personal interest)*
- First Responders - All agreed to up the grant from the £991 that they had applied for originally to the full £1000 small project
- Senior Citizens Club - Invoice came in from the group for last year's dinner.
- Catherine Robertson Shinty Trip to America - All agreed to £1000 small project

**Actions: JB to look into correspondence from Donna Campbell re Senior Citizens dinner to check what we are to pay.**

#### 14 AGM Planning:

- Agreed date of Thursday 18th January 2024
- Suggestions made about making the AGM more of a social event
- It would be good to increase the membership of the trust. Put out a post that we are looking to fill various roles within the committee.

#### 15 AOB:

- Youth Club - MM had thought there would be an application put in about starting up a new youth club in the area, but this has not been done yet.
- MM spoke to HIE re financial planning and was referred to Just Enterprise for financial one to one support for groups. MM will make an account for the trust. Looking long term with the different variables of when Ben Aketil funding stops and Ben Sca funding starts.
- Bank Signatories - It was approved by the committee to add Leona Coull as a signatory to the bank account. LC will then be able to keep an eye on bank balance, and make payments to applicants.

#### **We authorise that:**

if we add or remove Authorised Signatories in the "Add or Remove Authorised Signatories" section on the "About your request" page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's "About your business" section

if we change the Signing Rules in the "Change the Signing Rules on the Mandate" section on the "About your request" page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's "About your business" section and the current mandate will continue as amended.

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Next meeting : AGM Thursday 18th January  
Committee meeting 18th January after the AGM

Meeting came to a close at 9.05pm

Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO (SC052078)  
[www.dunvegantrust.co.uk](http://www.dunvegantrust.co.uk)