



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Committee Meeting Minutes: 18.06.24

1 Welcome & Apologies:

Present: Jason Bold (JB), Mali MacLennan (MM), Sylvia Meyer (SM). Emma Jane Morrison (EJM), Leona Coull (LC),

Apologies: Liza Cleland (LCL), Paul MacAskill (PM), Katy Lawrence (KL)

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Adoption of previous minutes:

EJM proposed

SM seconded

LC will upload minutes to the website

3 Financials

- MM confirmed that the Local Amenities Funding allocated by local councillors for the PP was now in our bank account.
- MM thought it would be a good time for the trust to draw up a 'Reserves Policy' so that we have a clear overview of what the funds in the bank account are for. This is often looked for when applying for funds, so it would be handy to have. JB suggested that it might be a good idea to chat this over once we have managed to find a treasurer.

ACTIONS:

4 Gaeltec

- The legals with regards to Gaeltec are proceeding. MM noted that Corra, the solicitor that has been dealing with this project for us, has requested Asbestos Surveys and an EPC from the current owners.
- MM mentioned that we need to find out a bit more about the IOSSS lease and terms of agreement currently in place to ascertain what space they are actually leasing and if there is not one, it would be a good idea to draw one up.
- MM has asked Jo Smales if the site surveys are ok to take place before the sale is finalised and he is happy with that. Prior to 2nd July the surveyors will need the walls and floors opened up in both buildings, downstairs and upstairs. MM has been in touch with IOSSS to let them know that this is to take place and it will be done with minimal disruption and as close to 2nd July as possible. MM to ask on local social media for a tradesman to undertake the job.
- The Community Ownership fund application has been started, although it is now unclear as to whether or not it will still be going ahead. This is due to the upcoming general election and the potential new government may not honor the same funding as previous governments. Rural Designs are still currently working to the COF timeframes.

- MM has applied to the Community Learning Exchange to visit some tool libraries and KL is planning on going along with some of the volunteers who have expressed an interest in helping with the tool library, if we are successful
- JB received an email from Joe Smales of Gaeltec to confirm that there will be no VAT charged on the building sale.

ACTIONS: MM to find tradesman to complete work

5 Playpark

- Good news, the grass that was planted on the volunteer days is now growing.
- The playpark has officially been ordered. There was a height discrepancy with one of the items that was ordered but MM has now confirmed with Kompan that all is correct and given the go ahead.

Actions:

6 Cruachan / Orbost

- MM was in touch with the community housing trust about a flood risk survey for the area and has been told this could be between £5 & £8K, they are seeking quotes from external tenders.
- MM said it would be really good to have a face to face event in the hall to discuss the Cruachan project once we have the survey results.
- The subject of Orbost Farmhouse came up in a conversation. It has been empty for almost a year now, the LSHA have been managing this property but are keen to pass this over to the Community Housing Trust, but they in turn would maybe like a partnership with DCT on this project. This would have the added benefit of DCT being able to ask for an asset transfer on the building, from HIE at a later date. This could be an extension to the housing needs in the area.
- JB mentioned that if we have a face to face event for Cruachan, it would be good to have members of Community Housing Trust in attendance, showcasing some examples of successful collaborations.
- MM to put out a quick update to say that the survey findings will be due soon and that flood risk surveys will be happening soon.

Actions: MM to put out update on survey findings

7 Community Action Plan

- Unfortunately the initial CAP steering group meeting has not yet taken place. MM has been individually contacting folk from the area to ask if they would be keen to help out, as the original email did not generate much help.
- Lots of the community engagement would be undertaken by DCT and then the creation of the CAP would be outsourced to someone with previous experience.

Actions: Firm up date of meeting

8 Healthy Homes

- KL was not present at the meeting to discuss this further.

Actions:

9 Wind Farm Developments

- MM will be attending a meeting with representatives of Struan and Edinbane trusts to discuss the legal advice on the non binding document they have been given for Ben Sca.
- JB received an email from Muirhall who are behind the Glen Ullinish II project and they have confirmed what the community benefit would be for Struan and the local areas:

40% Struan

40% Dunvegan, Minginish, Portree & Braes and Skeabost

20% Skye Wide Fund

- JB mentioned he would reach out to Ali Morrison at Struan with regards to the next steps to be taken.
- MM is going to email Erin at Renantis for a chat about corporate sponsorship for Gaeltec

Actions: MM to chase up Renantis re corporate sponsorship

JB to contact Ali in Struan

10 Community Regeneration Fund

- MM received an email out of the blue saying that the Community Regeneration Fund has opened, with a closing date of 17th July. The budget is considerably smaller than in previous years and has a quicker turnaround. We could apply for several smaller funds, one possibly for Sports & Leisure, for a feasibility study for a new community pitch and the gym to be housed in Gaeltec. Other possible projects could be the Police House and the public toilets and car park in the village.

Actions:

11 DCC Update

- DCC are no further forward on finding out information on who is funding and employing the ranger at The Old Man of Storr, but JB & MM know who the ranger currently is, and will try to find out some more information.
- Councillor Drew Millar has said that if the DCC take over ownership of the Public Toilets and the public car park, and have these metered they could then use the money generated to part pay for a ranger for the area. This had been discussed previously, but now could be a good time to re-look at this idea and it would be good to have some further discussions.
- SM also noted that there are currently no disabled parking spaces in the village as the ones previously in the public car park have now been changed to electric charging ports for cars.

Actions:

12 Funding Applications

- DCC approached JB to ask if DCT would help to part fund the grass cutting at St Mary's Church in the village, they have asked for £1000, all agreed to fund this.
- DCH has put in a funding application for new windows and doors for the hall. JB wanted to check on what the stipulation was on groups reapplying for money from DCT for projects that are the same in consecutive years. This being as DCH received funding from DCT last year for the first phase of the window & doors project. LC to confirm the amount looking for on the project, but all in attendance agreed in principle.
- Kirsty Leitch has applied for an educational grant for her college course starting in August. KL has requested £3000. This is the top figure that DCT grants for a 3 year course, and therefore this would not be granted for a 1 year course. Everyone in attendance agreed to fund KL in principle, but we will come to an agreement on the amount over the next few weeks.
- JB asked LC to pull together an overview of what educational grants have been awarded over the last few years and what the course length was.

Actions: LC to collate overview of educational grants

13 AOB

- We had 1 applicant for the Gaeltec PO post, JB & MM will meet with applicant next week to bring them up to speed on all things Gaeltec and what will be expected of them during their PO role.
- LC asked JB to sign the final 2022 Accounts sent over by Daniel Wood.
- JB mentioned that he had an email from LCL saying she was planning to step down from DCT at the moment, her circumstances have changed recently. JB will get back in touch to say that if she would like to stay on in an advisory role as and when she could help out, that would be brilliant as she has a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Actions: MM to contact applicant

LC to scan signed accounts back to DW.

JB to email back to LCL

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.30pm and JB thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting : There will be a bit of a pause in meetings over the Summer Holidays and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th August, 7pm Dame Flora Lounge