



# DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

## **Committee Meeting Minutes: 20.08.24**

### 1 Welcome & Apologies:

Present: Jason Bold (JB), Mali MacLennan (MM), Sylvia Meyer (SM). Emma Jane Morrison (EJM), Leona Coull (LC), Katy Lawrence (KL), Bryony Anderson (BA)

Apologies: Liza Cleland (LCL), Paul MacAskill (PM)

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2 Adoption of previous minutes:

KL proposed

EJM seconded

**LC will upload minutes to the website**

### 3 Financials

- MM has started to draw up a reserves policy for our accounts, and showed all attending what she had done so far. As this is not an area that MM has not had much experience in, she does not feel confident enough to complete the policy. It was suggested that we speak to an accountant to help out with this.
- Dan Wood has sent us our draft 2023 accounts but has asked that we amend some of the narrative to coincide with our new SCIO constitution. MM has made some notes on this already.
- MM has been recommended some accountant firms that have worked well with groups like ours and will go ahead and reach out to them to see if they would be able to take over as our accountant.
- MM noted that she has made a few purchases of late, mostly PP related, compost, fertilizer, turf and manpower to lay the turf. There have also been some A1 size Maps of the area printed out which will be really handy for when we get going with the CAP. We also had to replace front and back discs and pads on the minibus.

**ACTIONS: MM contact potential new accountants**

### 4 Gaeltec

- JB welcomed BA to the group as our new PO for Gaeltec. BA has been in post for a few weeks now, and has had a handover with MM.
- PO update attached.
- After our last meeting, we were contacted by Alexander MacFarlane, who had been doing some work on Gaeltec for the previous owners. He has sent over some images and files on work done / needing done at Gaeltec. He proposed himself for any future work needing to be carried out.

**ACTIONS:**

## 5 Playpark

- Diarmuid from Kompan came to see the site recently and told us that the place needed leveling out a bit, due to the difference in height in some of the equipment that is going in. MM hired a digger & driver to level out the area and turf has now been laid on top and.
- We have officially been given an installation date of 30th September.
- We have a draft lease for the park but have been advised by our solicitor that we query some restrictions now. One being that we are not allowed to put up signage in the park. We had always planned to put up multiple signs in and around the park to showcase our sponsors. EJM noted that in the new park in Matheson Place in Portree, there are signs that you are not allowed balls, dogs, or bikes/scooters. MM to check this out.
- EJM reminded the group that after one of the planning days for the park, it was suggested that there be a nice big sign overlooking the loch with gaelic names for the area in view, or the old gaelic alphabet. All agreed that it would be a good idea.
- SM asked if there would be any Gaelic based funding for this. MM will contact Bord Na Gaidhlig.
- MM is going to get some quotes for benches and signage in the park. Possibly some fruit trees or a herb garden also.
- MM to get quotes for chopping down some low trees that are overhanging part of the park.
- MM to get quotes for someone to trim and cut the grass at the park on a regular basis.
- MM mentioned that now might be a good time to get some volunteers to the park and help cut back the brambles and gorse - EJM said she would go down at some point.
- MM said we should have a clause in the lease about who is responsible for maintaining the Japanese Knotweed in the park area - all agreed this should be added.

### **Actions: MM to contact BnG re funding for gaelic signage**

**MM to find out about 'rules' for the park**

**EJM to cut back gorse & brambles at park**

**MM to get quotes for benches & signage, someone to chop down low lying trees and someone to trim & cut grass.**

## 6 Cruachan / Orbost

- The business plan and feasibility study are now complete. If there are no comments from the committee we should be good to get it signed off.

### **Actions:**

## 7 Community Action Plan

- The CRF application has been submitted and we should hear by the end of the month if we have been successful. MM suggested a date of 19th September for an inception meeting for CAP.
- MM mentioned that a Biodiversity audit would be good to undertake but is mindful that members of the crofting community already have to complete studies like this and do not want to duplicate work for folk. It was suggested that MM is to contact an ecologist in Glendale for some information.

### **Actions: MM contact ecologist**

## 8 Sports Pitch Feasibility Study

- MM got a couple of quotes to carry out a feasibility study for a sports pitch to be sited on the ground below the current DPS school. MM felt that the quotes were reasonable, both on or around £3500.00.

- MM to have a look around to see if there is funding available for feasibility studies and we can go from there.

**Actions: MM to look for funding for study**

9 Minibus

- We received an email from someone who had hired out the minibus saying that it was a bit on the grubby side. MM asked in our last newsletter if anyone would like to volunteer to keep the minibus clean & tidy - there were no replies. BA suggested that we speak to someone at the fire brigade and ask if we can use their power supply to plug in a Hoover to clean it out.
- JB asked LC to add to our minibus correspondence to folk that the bus should be left clean and tidy.
- MM asked if we should be putting our mileage costs up as we are still relatively low compared to other minibuses on the island. It was agreed that we would increase our mileage costs from 65p per mile to 80p per mile from the 1st October. This information will go out in our next newsletter.

**Actions: BA to contact member of Fire Service**

**MM to include minibus price increase in next newsletter**

10 Wind farm updates

- *We have not had the revised agreement of intent, a non binding agreement, to say that the 3 neighboring communities are looking into the option of shared ownership at Ben Sca. The general consensus between the 3 trusts was that because it is a non-binding agreement, that we should not be spending too much time working on it. 1 comment was made that if the company sold, then the same option should remain on the table, as that was potentially the only thing that could have been binding. All legal advice on this stage has been completed. The agreement of intent could not be signed until after the 1st of October because it needs to be minuted.*
- *Mark Brennan sent an email about the Skye wide fund, and had reached out to Edinbane to see if they would like to lead on this, as there is funding from local energy Scotland for legal advice, but it can only go to 1 group. There currently is NO Skye wide fund group so they are looking for 1 group to take the lead, but currently no one is wanting to do this.*

**Actions:**

11 DCC Update

- The new wrap around signs have been put up in and around the area, and they are looking great. SM mentioned that more have been ordered.
- The police report for the area had 29 calls within the Dunvegan, Waternish & Glendale areas.
- DCC are still hoping to celebrate 25 years of the Durinish Stone
- JB congratulated DCC on the work put into the new website [skye.scot](http://skye.scot). There is a host of useful information on it. MM will add it to the next newsletter for members to share with their guests.

**Actions: MM add [skye.scot](http://skye.scot) to the next newsletter**

12 Funding Applications

- DCC put in an application for the repair and renewal of signage at St Mary's Church - all agreed to fund this.
- Dunvegan Moorings Association put in an application for the renewal of 6 pickup strops on the guest moorings - all agreed to fund this.

- Sam MacLelland, a young community resident, had emailed DCT to enquire about whether we could help to fund his continuing placement at Radio Skye. After discussion between the committee, it was decided that we would go back to Sam and ask him to apply for an educational / employment grant and we would grant him £1000.00. Radio Skye, who are a charity could then apply to our Skye Charities grant for up to a further £1000.00 to help fund Sam's placement with them. It was also mentioned that maybe we could get some sort of reciprocal advertising on Radio Skye.
- A member of DTA had been in email contact with MM about possible DCT funding for a new website to promote business' & facilities in Dunvegan. The general feeling of the committee was that the proposed amount was quite expensive for something that they feel would only be benefiting commercial business' in the area and not the community as a whole. It was agreed that we would not fund this project.
- James Coull applied for an educational grant. All agreed that £1000.00 be paid to him this year and that they would welcome applications from him in subsequent years of study.
- MM had anticipated an application from the Skye Food Bank, they have run at a serious loss this last year, and are in need of funding. We would happily look at an application for this if they were to apply.

**Actions: LC to contact all applicants**

13 AOB

- MM & JB signed and witnessed the formal 'Appointment of Architect' form needed for Gaeltec.

**Actions: LC to send forms back**

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.10pm and JB thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting : The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st October.

## **Gaeltec Building Update**

### **Solicitor**

- Conveyancing is ongoing for the building, the solicitor is happy with the land use side of things, however we are waiting on some items of documentation from the seller.

### **Architect**

- They have had some delays with surveys so will send over updated timeline.

- Have received 3 x solar PV quotes, but the current funding options likely to time out before the building purchase is complete.

- Preparing an end of stage 3 report to share at the end of August, would like to schedule a meeting after this to update Trust.

- Went into building on 16 August to check in on survey info before starting work on more detailed plans for building warrant.

### **Finances**

- Have updated cashflow with spending to date, and started budget using current quotes and info from Impact Hub business plan.

- Started work on timeline for project, will await updated timeline from Architect to inform this.

- Fund identified by Mali, £20-50K from Crown Estates Scotland for non-capital costs, could be applied to for PO job role post March 2025.

- Regularly check funds listings for capital cost funds. Polly from Impact Hub said there is some optimism that COF will be reopening, she's going to see what she can find out.

### **Tool Library**

- Knowledge exchange trip largely planned to coincide with DTAS conference at the end of August.

### **Childcare**

- Had a meeting with people interested in running a childcare facility of some kind in Dunvegan, they are very proactive and ready to help.

- Would like to propose setting up a working group now, to coincide with their offer and with the upcoming working group meeting run by SLCVO.

- Working group tasks to include getting together a survey to assess specific demand

### **Gym**

- Have contacted one gym design company, but yet to hear back from the consultant.