

Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting 13th August 2024, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Kate Biss, Colin Parsons, Martin Irving, Roddy MacPherson and Lizzie Bird.

Apologies: Chris Cartwright, Neil MacRae

Action

<p>1. Welcome Colin McA welcomed all to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 9th July 2024 Matters Arising –</p> <p>a) Still no invoice received from Joe’s Sheds. Georgie has chased and Chris has asked Lisa twice. We do have a note of costs etc. Colin P asked about tools and Colin McA has produced a list which he will pass to Georgie for payment when he orders from Screwfix.</p> <p>b) Insurance – Lizzie had contacted NFU and refund received in our bank on update to our policy regarding removal of old Forestry Office and addition of new wooden shed and tools.</p> <p>d) Bench below Kissing Gate – ongoing</p> <p>e) Allotment day – Colin P reported around 12 people attended. It was not good weather that day. Couple of things raised were need to cut trees, bushes on path and missing marker posts. We have posts that Colin P can use.</p> <p>A tree on edge of Murray Waddell’s plot allotment needs looking at as it has a hanging branch. Roddy said that taking this out or the whole tree will need to be carefully done as close to the shed on the plot. Roddy will look at and if extra help needed Lizzie suggested asking Chris MacDonald.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by Georgie, seconded by Kate and agreed.</p>	<p>Georgie</p> <p>Colin P</p> <p>Roddy</p>
<p>3. Correspondence Monthly Newsletters received from CLS and CWA and email from CLS encouraging members to participate in their Declaration of Intent from CLS about ownership of community land in ten years’ time.</p>	

<p>4. Finance</p> <p>Georgie presented the June accounts.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td>£</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td>£</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Balance</td> <td> £</td> <td> 69,408.81</td> </tr> </table> <p>Georgie had investigated various savings account options regarding funds received from sale of the old office. Varied accounts offer accessibility but with low interest rates and others offer variable fixed term accounts with better interest.</p> <p>After some discussion and various options considered, Colin McA proposed and it was agreed that we stay with RBS and place £60,000 into an RBS 35-day notice account with 3.24% interest. Georgie will action.</p> <p>Colin McA confirmed with Georgie that the end of this month is the end of our financial year and we continue as we are until hopefully accepted as a SCIO..</p>	Income	£	0	Expenditure	£	0	 Balance	 £	 69,408.81	<p>Georgie</p>
Income	£	0								
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<p>5. Land issues</p> <p>a) Allotment Road Bridge Damage/ Repair</p> <p>Colin McA has made and placed a 'No unauthorised vehicles' sign at the bridge.</p> <p>Colin McA, Martin and Roddy had meeting on bridge site with James McDowell who is a Civil Engineer. He recommended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doing the topside to cover bottom side wear - Use concrete foam - To sandbag the burn to divert away from work area on upstream - Make shuttering to contain foam - Top and case the pipe <p>James said our temporary fix was good</p> <p>We will need to investigate possible environmental issues. He will advise.</p> <p>Colin P asked about the damaged pipe and Colin McA said that pipes are not used any more as they rot at the bottom, constructors now use u-shaped pieces,</p> <p>Colin McA asked about option to replace whole bridge with bailey bridge or something similar– some bailey bridges have been replaced due to weight of log lorries, Not having such a weight issue across the burn it was worth further investigation. Roddy will investigate old fish farm walkways he has spotted at Glenelg.</p>	<p>Roddy & Martin</p>									

<p>Georgie asked if we leave the bridge as it is for the time being and answer was yes but sandbagging would initially help with water flow against the bridge and be first phase of work needed on future repair.</p> <p>b) Path Clearance</p> <p>Georgie referred to mowing the path. Becky and Ritchie volunteered so should we have a roster although she was surprised that no other offers of help received. Georgie thinks we should also have a work party to help clear sides of the path and Colin McA proposed a work party on Sunday 8th September 2pm to 4 pm.. Martin suggested Colin P putting a note out to the membership and Lizzie said we could also advertise at the FCT Open Day on 31st August.</p> <p>Lizzie asked about Roddy's weed burner, and he will try on the path.</p> <p>Kate mentioned seeing a sapling removal grabber as being a good tool to help on the land and beside the path.</p>	<p>Colin P</p> <p>Roddy</p>
<p>6. SCIO Process</p> <p>Draft Constitution</p> <p>A) Colin P had sent email with draft copy of constitution but had a couple of queries.</p> <p>1) Regarding members' meetings (AGM & EGM) Clause 47 says 'The quorum for a members meeting is 6 members present in person of whom at least 3 are Trustees.'</p> <p>Colin P felt this was very small number. Lizzie said we have agreed 5 Trustees for a Board Meeting and Kate said she had looked at the SCVO.website, where it was recommended that for a members meeting the number be one tenth of the membership or 20 members whichever is the smallest. With our membership of around 120, one tenth would be 12 members. It was felt that this would be appropriate for the FCT as a feasible number considering past attendance at members meetings, and it was agreed to amend clause 47 to '12 members present in person of whom at least 5 are Trustees'.</p> <p>2) The other point Colin P referred to is mention of a Code of Conduct in Clause 100 and should this be included?</p> <p>Colin McA pointed out that we are writing a constitution which could be around of twenty years. The Code of Conduct OSCR refer to is a document, The Scottish Third Sector Governance Code, produced in 2018 and republished in 2023 and is a living document which can again be updated or changed in the future.</p>	

<p>However, Colin McA said we should add on to sentence in clause 100 'prescribed from the Board or other sources from time to time e.g. the Scottish Third Sector Governance Code.' This was agreed.</p> <p>B) Lizzie raised the point about the Trust's official name – some previous documents refer to 'Fernaig Community Trust' or 'The Fernaig Community Trust'. It was agreed that we refer to 'The Fernaig Community Trust in the Constitution.</p> <p>C) Lizzie had proofread and identified doubling of reference numbers, due to making corrections, in some paragraphs and went through those to which these applied.</p> <p>Colin P will update to produce and send Draft 4 of Constitution to the Board.</p> <p>Colin McA said our next step is to circulate Draft 4 to the members prior to holding a meeting. We are going to ask people if they have any comments. Colin McA agreed to do the wording for the communication and send to the Board for approval before sending to the members.</p> <p>Colin P asked if we should run the draft Constitution past solicitors, but it was generally agreed this not necessary as OSCR provided the template Constitution, a legal document, and on our submission to them they would certainly come back if they had any queries.</p> <p>Colin P said we could get free legal advice but after discussion and, considering the minor customised changes we have proposed, it was agreed that OSCR would certainly check the legality of what we have changed. Kate said if they do come back to us with a query then perhaps that would be the time to seek legal advice.</p> <p>Lizzie asked if the Board was happy for Draft 4, when amended, to be sent to members and then to OSCR and this was agreed. At the members meeting there will be only two Agenda items, firstly for members' approval for the Trust to apply to become a SCIO and the second item is to approve the Draft Constitution.</p>	<p><i>Colin P</i></p> <p><i>Colin McA</i></p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>a) Trust's Open Day date agreed - the 31st August. 2-4pm</p> <p>As for previous Open days we will need a meeting to confirm/make arrangements and Tuesday 20th August. was agreed. Colin McA asked Roddy if Janet McPherson could also attend.</p>	<p><i>All who can</i></p>

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| <p>b) Allotments – Lizzie had spoken to Lynn about an oak tree growing on one allotment and people planting trees. Lynn suggested sending out a note to Allotment holders referring to their leases about not planting trees except fruit trees, which was agreed. After discussion, Colin McA suggested we leave this to another meeting where Allotments are a main Agenda item and look at the existing lease as well as the recent one proposed by H.C.</p> <p>c) Lizzie had also spoken to Lynn and confirmed that she now wished to officially resign as a director rather than an assumption that she would stand down at the next AGM. due to other commitments. Lizzie has completed Companies House paperwork.</p> | |
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Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th September 2024, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.