

Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting 9th January 2024, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Colin Parsons, Martin Irving, Lizzie Bird, Lynn McLaughlan, Roddy MacPherson, Neil MacRae, Kate Biss and Chris Cartwright

Action

<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Colin McAndrew welcomed everyone, particularly our three newly appointed directors, to this short meeting following the AGM</p>							
<p>2. Election of Officers</p> <p>The following were elected as Trust Officers</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>Chair</td><td>Colin McAndrew</td></tr><tr><td>Hon. Treasurer</td><td>Georgie Grimson</td></tr><tr><td>Hon. Secretary</td><td>Lizzie Bird</td></tr></tbody></table>	Chair	Colin McAndrew	Hon. Treasurer	Georgie Grimson	Hon. Secretary	Lizzie Bird	
Chair	Colin McAndrew						
Hon. Treasurer	Georgie Grimson						
Hon. Secretary	Lizzie Bird						
<p>3. Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to hold a meeting on the 23rd January, Achmore Hall at 7.30pm to update all but especially our new directors following the AGM prior to the scheduled February meeting on 13th February</p>							

Date of next meeting: 23rd January, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Fernaig Community Trust

Draft Minutes of Meeting 23rd January 2024, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Colin Parsons, Martin Irving, Lizzie Bird, Lynn McLaughlan, Neil MacRae, Kate Biss and Chris Cartwright

Apologies: Roddy MacPherson

Action

<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Colin McAndrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and as part of their induction as Directors mentioned a document on the OSCR website which is very helpful.</p> <p>Lizzie asked that she could digitally record the meeting as well as taking notes and all agreed.</p> <p>As Roddy unable to attend the meeting due to work and following the resolution passed at the AGM, a virtual connection will be set up for Roddy. Colin P agreed to contact Roddy.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 12th December 2023</p> <p>Minutes proposed by Georgie and seconded by Martin.</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising / Correspondence / AGM actions</p> <p>a) Correspondence</p> <p>Colin McA had received and circulated an email from CLS regarding interest in Oral History.</p> <p>b) Matters arising</p> <p>Footpath Group – Colin P confirmed no group meeting has yet been held.</p> <p>c) AGM Actions</p> <p>Lizzie reported on preparing and sending documents to Companies House. The Mem and Arts were unacceptable to register with them as parts were unreadable. Lizzie and Colin McA had to do considerable work on the document, to include the amendments passed as motions at the AGM, so that it was readable and this was then accepted. Other documents lodged with Companies House were the notice of special resolutions from the AGM, the registration of new directors and resignation of Duncan as a director.</p> <p>Colin McA reported that, as Lizzie had done with Companies House, he had prepared and registered the updated Mem and Arts with OSCR for their consent. As with Companies House this could be completed online but also included copy of draft mins of</p>	

<p>the AGM. OSCR will be back in touch within 15 working days to confirm consent.</p> <p>Lizzie will circulate a pdf file of the updated Mem and Arts to all directors and Colin P can update the S&A website. Lizzie will also circulate a pdf of the draft minutes of the AGM once she has received the finance report file from Georgie and Colin P will put on the S&A website and can circulate to the Members group.</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i> <i>Colin P</i></p>
<p>4. Finance</p> <p>Georgie presented accounts for November/December</p> <p>Income £ 40.00 (Very kind donation from the Waddells)</p> <p>Expenditure £1,155.00 (£1,125 Shed deposit, £30 CWA Membership)</p> <p>Balance £11,318.08</p> <p>Georgie has sent the accounts for audit to Nevis Accountancy Service and confirmed she will be sending a cheque for £245.40. to Ruaridh Matheson for the shed base paving slabs..</p> <p>Colin P said someone had asked after the AGM why there was a £0 entry on the accounts with regard to the Footpath as they had put money in the path donation boxes and Georgie confirmed that income from the path was under 'donations' in the accounts this year and was in the wrong column last year.</p> <p>There was a discussion about online banking which had not been viable for the Trust in the past. Colin McA said having two debit or credit cards instead of having to issue cheques and access to the bank account online to pay bills would be beneficial and Georgie will contact RBS.</p>	<p><i>Georgie</i></p> <p><i>Georgie</i></p>
<p>5. Shed Update.</p> <p>A field visit was held on the 17th December and the best site for the shed up at the picnic area was pegged out – 3.6m x 2.4m.</p> <p>Paving slabs for the shed base were ordered from Jewsons, using Ruaridh Matheson's account and they were delivered to the shed site.</p> <p>We will need sand and a ton bag of sand will be ordered. Delivery would be to the allotment road and then for us to arrange movement up to the site. (via Duncan or Roddy's trailer).</p> <p>We will also need fasteners to secure the shed to the sand but need to wait to confirm thickness of base.</p>	

<p>6. Office Update</p> <p>The letter of complaint to our Solicitors in Stornoway was hand delivered by Roddy. Colin McA received a phone call last week with profuse apologies and they will now treat as a high priority.</p>	
<p>7. Land Issues</p> <p>a) A fallen tree was reported, and Colin P offered to check.</p> <p>b) Georgie raised the issue of Colin’s horse rubbing against and causing post to lean. Colin P will reposition post.</p> <p>c) Colin McA referred to the kissing gate (stored in the Fank) and its installation which is still outstanding. Colin McA will contact Ruaridh Matheson and Lizzie will contact Chris and Ewan in Strome regarding installation.</p> <p>d) Colin McA confirmed that the renewal lease date for the small holdings is end of March. He will contact small holders to find out who wish to renew but it was agreed to freeze the rents for renewal.</p> <p>Chris raised the question of what incentive is there is to take on a lease if the land is poor. Martin replied it was pride and reported that he had begun digging a ditch to prevent his own field flooding last summer and will continue to do so this year. Lizzie also pointed out the rents are not high. It was noted that SRDP funding, including the Rural Payments scheme which has changed, has narrowed over recent years,</p> <p>There was a discussion about the current lease wording and perhaps the need to review. Martin and Chris agreed to look at and, as Chris does not have copy, Colin McA will send him copy of lease.</p> <p>e) The work to improve the entrance to the allotments is ongoing and waiting for good weather. Duncan will be contacted,</p>	<p><i>Colin P</i></p> <p><i>Colin P</i></p> <p><i>Colin McA</i> <i>Lizzie</i></p> <p><i>Colin McA</i></p> <p><i>Martin/Chris</i> <i>Colin McA</i></p>
<p>8. Discussion on Mem & Arts process.</p> <p>As discussed at previous meetings and considering the recent amendment resolutions passed at the AGM, our M&A needs overall review. Colin P said he had looked at other M&As. Colin McA pointed out that since ours were written in 1998, which satisfied the Trust at that time, there have been two changes to the Companies Act in 2005 and 2011 and quite a number of paragraphs do not apply to the Trust. There is also the work involved in updating the M&A by resolutions in having to notify not only Companies House but OSCR as well.</p> <p>Colin McA recommended that the Trust seriously consider ditching the existing M&A and, through OSCR, look at becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – a SCIO.</p>	

<p>A SCIO is a legal form unique to Scottish charities, and they can enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. It also provides a high degree of protection against liability so the Trust would still have limited liability. However, there are important differences between a SCIO and any other type of body with charitable status in Scotland. Before applying, we need to be fully aware of the requirements for this form of charitable status including a constitution.</p> <p>As an existing company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, we can convert to a SCIO and OSCR provide a lot of information on this on their website. Neil read out advantages of a becoming a SCIO and there was a general feeling that looking at becoming one would be advantageous to the Trust particularly in only having one legal body to report to on company matters – we already submit accounts to OSCR annually.</p> <p>Colin McA will circulate a link to the OSCR site and information on SCIOs to the Board and we can discuss further at our next meeting.</p>	<p>Colin McA</p>
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>a) Colin P raised the issue of discussing the FLS Concordat and it was agreed that he contact FLS to arrange a possible meeting in March.</p> <p>b) Colin McA said we need to confirm our Workplan for the coming year at our next meeting.</p>	<p>Colin P</p>

Date of next meeting: AGM Tuesday 13th February, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.