

Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting 10th September 2024, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Martin Irving, Chris Cartwright, Neil MacRae, Roddy MacPherson and Lizzie Bird.

Apologies: Kate Biss and Colin Parsons

Action

<p>1. Welcome Colin McA welcomed all to the meeting.</p>										
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 13th August 2024 Lizzie apologised that Roddy's name had been omitted from those present at the meeting and will adjust minutes accordingly. Matters Arising – a) Joe's Shed Still no invoice received from Joe's Sheds. Georgie has original invoice and will pass this to Colin P to complete paperwork on Awards for All grant application b) Re 8 AOB b) Allotments – Trees on allotments. Colin McA had checked the Allotment Lease where it states, 'the planting of trees is discouraged'. At our last meeting it was agreed to look at and review the existing lease. Minutes proposed by Martin, seconded by Roddy and agreed.</p>	<p>Lizzie</p> <p>Georgie</p>									
<p>3. Correspondence Monthly Newsletters received from CLS and CWA. Email received with information on CWA annual Conference and email received from SSEN Transmission Regional Fund and HIE Wealth Research.</p>										
<p>4. Finance Georgie presented the June accounts.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Income</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: right;">£</td> <td style="width: 80%;">207.38 (£42.38 NFU rebate, Allotment rent £165 including c/f rebate of £5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> <td>411.26 (£364.92 Tools with grant money and £46.34 additional tools).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> <td>69,408.81</td> </tr> </table>	Income	£	207.38 (£42.38 NFU rebate, Allotment rent £165 including c/f rebate of £5)	Expenditure	£	411.26 (£364.92 Tools with grant money and £46.34 additional tools).	Balance	£	69,408.81	
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<p>The Open Day and Duck Race was very successful with 113 ducks bought. The board gave a vote of thanks to Ellie May for her duck selling efforts and Duncan for organisation and trophies. Georgie confirmed that we had made £372.84p on the day.</p> <p>As discussed at the last meeting it was agreed that we stay with RBS and place £60,000 into an RBS 35-day notice account with 3.24% interest. It took Georgie a frustrating 3 weeks to organise this with promised phone calls from the bank not happening. However, Georgie decided to call again today and this time received help, apologies for the delay, and within 5 minutes was able to set up a Liquidity Manager 35 Day Account and confirmation emails received today re the opening of the account. Georgie asked if all agreed for her to transfer the £60,000 to the Liquidity account and this approved unanimously.</p> <p>Colin McA thanked Georgie for all the hassle she had gone through.</p>	<p>Georgie</p>
<p>5. New Shed update</p> <p>Colin McA gave George list of tools to buy whilst she and Joe were in Perth. Tools purchased from Screwfix rather than buying online which were sent by post and invoice for these given to Colin P to complete paperwork for the Awards for All grant. Also, other tools were purchased, one of which was a pole saw which arrived in a damaged parcel and has been returned to the supplier, but we have been reimbursed and new one will be delivered. We now have a good selection of tools as well as a basic first aid box.</p> <p>Colin McA suggested that we purchase a vehicle ramp to ease movement of the mower and this was agreed.</p> <p>Regarding completing paperwork for the Awards for All grant which Colin P has been organising, it was agreed that the Trust needs a copy of official paperwork for its files.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Colin P</p> <p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Colin P</p>
<p>6. Open Day and Work Party debrief</p> <p>Around 36 people attended the Open Day and feedback was that it was a good day. Colin McA thanked all who came and those who helped with set up the night before, BBQ, cakes and drinks on the day and breakdown the following day.</p> <p>The volunteers who came on the Work Party day to clear the path were thanked for all their efforts. Lizzie suggested that the side of the path nearest to the fields need a heavy strim in the future. Future work needs to be included on the workplan.</p>	

<p>Colin McA had investigated Kate Biss's mention at our last meeting of a sapling removal grabber. He had found a tool called an 'Extractogator' which costs around £300 from his web investigations. At this stage we do not need but will keep in mind for the future.</p>	
<p>7. Land issues</p> <p>a) Update on Allotment Road Bridge Damage/ Repair</p> <p>Following our last meeting and option discussed regarding replacement of the whole bridge with a bailey bridge or something similar– Roddy had sent photographs of ex-fish farm walkways he had seen. He will investigate further re cost but we will need to sort uplift and transport.</p> <p>Chris suggested gabion baskets to divert water when repairs being undertaken. Neil mentioned fish farm walkways up at the old quarry. These are on FLS ground and will be further investigated.</p> <p>Georgie asked about the Allotment Road and Martin will call contractor, having spoken to them a couple of months ago, to ask price etc for infill</p> <p>b) Bench below Kissing Gate – ongoing</p> <p>c) Tree by Waddell's allotment – It is leaning and causing concern as very close to their shed. Roddy will look at to see whether it can be taken out in sections. Lizzie said if more help needed then Chris MacDonald would be good person to ask with his tree felling experience.</p>	<p>Roddy</p> <p>Martin</p> <p>Roddy</p>
<p>8. SCIO Process – Constitution (final) draft – next step for members</p> <p>Draft 4 is agreed by the directors as the final draft to be sent to members before an EGM.</p> <p>Colin McA had sent round a draft note yesterday to send to members with an update on the sale of the Old Forestry Office and the proposals to become a SCIO together with a copy of the Draft Constitution.</p> <p>Colin P had sent email feedback on Colin McA's draft note to members which the Board discussed. It was agreed that his point that the date of 2022, when the directors at the time approved the sale of the Old Forestry Office, should be added. He said that Colin McA's note did not include any of the context and information he had provided in his original suggested bulletin. On checking this the Board felt this was not the case. Colin P did not agree that suggested use of money should be included and to wait and see what people came back with. However, the Board</p>	

<p>agreed that inclusion of suggested areas fits in as a guide to members of the FCT's overall aims. His last comment regarding use of money was taken on board including match funding, using funds to make a lasting difference, ideally towards facilitating or creating some kind of income stream, were taken on board.</p> <p>Lizzie said she will send Colin McA some minor amendments to his draft note to members and he asked anyone else to let him know any other comments. Lizzie will create a PDF file of the Draft Constitution for Colin McA and suggested it go on the website. He will send out to members within the next week.</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i></p> <p><i>Colin McA</i></p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>a) Trust's Minutes on Website. Lizzie will check with Colin P re the Trust's minutes on the website as it appears they are missing from March 2024 onwards.</p> <p>b) Attending external Trust meetings etc. Martin asked if the Board support covering expenses for external meetings on behalf of the Trust. Colin McA referred to previous meetings where it was agreed that if any directors wish to attend such meetings and for expenses to be covered, they get approved by the Board prior to the event.</p> <p>c) Red Kite appeared when Alec Townend took silage off the hayfield.</p> <p>d) Hay Field. Concern was expressed about the state of the hay field before Alec took the silage off. It was noted that the silage looked extremely poor.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the hay field's future and that the Trust should investigate investment in work, equipment and costs that would be required to bring the field back to provide benefits for the community and income generation in the future. Other suggestions including partitioning the field to allow for winter grazing if required with applications for a lease to be advertised. Overall, it was agreed that we discuss at our next meeting as an agenda item and develop a good business case as to how we develop and manage the hay field to make a lasting difference for the future.</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i></p>

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th October 2024, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.07 pm.