

# Minutes of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

## Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Via Zoom

Board Directors present: Chair - Harry Whiteside (HW), Vice-chair Felix Paterson (FP), Elizabeth MacEachen(EM), Jeff Dymond (JD), Lorn MacKay (LM), Derek Sumner (DS), Chris Nelson (CN),

Apologies: None

In attendance: Chief Officer – Ian Leaver (IL), Sam Jones (SJ)

Minute taker: Karen Edwards (KE), Administrator

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> HW welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.	
2	<b>Minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> These were approved as a true record. Proposed by HW seconded by LM	
3	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes</b> Millennium Hall Toilets – A letter was sent following the meeting to advise the new Board members that the Community Company would not support any further grant applications for toilet refurbishment within the next 20 years.	
4	<b>AGM</b> KE advised the Board that just over 20 members had requested invitations to this meeting, which is now on Zoom. If they all attend the meeting will be quorate. There are 2 applications for Directorship, leaving space to co-opt a candidate with appropriate skills if needed.	
5	<b>Chairs report</b> HW Gave a final report to the Board as outgoing chair, on the items that she has been working on that will need to be taken forward/continued once she leaves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transfer has just been done to top up the Community Legacy Fund to £391,490. This is always done after the year end accounts are finalised.</li> <li>1 Bunoich – The purchase of the property will not go through until the middle of February at the earliest.</li> <li>Caledonian Court – The shower heads at all properties are being replaced as the ones currently on are not to the specification agreed. The planting that was undertaken is also not satisfactory and more work will need to be undertaken in the spring. The shed is now due to go up next week, need to check with tenants if they would value having shared grass cutting equipment stored in it.</li> <li>An application will go in to Great Glen Energy for money towards creating better footpaths around the Old Convent Land.</li> <li>Medical Centre – A meeting needs to be organised with NHS to finalise the sublease. The sleeping policemen have now been replaced, the lighting reduced at the front of the building and 3 new spring bollards placed near the front door.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village Hall – With the announced increases in electricity prices the Board may wish to look carefully at the electricity supply in the hall.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Chief Officers Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village hall – The hob in the kitchen has failed the commercial gas test and needs to be replaced. As the changes to make it compliant with gas are expensive it will probably need to be electric. As the Hall is a designated emergency space for the community a contingency plan will be needed in the event of power outage. It was agreed to investigate the option of a generator.</li> <li>The Community Action Plan review is underway however the open events had been delayed due to covid restrictions. As these are now lifting IL will get them planned in.</li> <li>ELSAN tipping point – the drawings are now almost ready for submission to planning dept. If the Community Council are in agreement the submission will be done from them.</li> <li>Electric Vehicles – The survey has now closed. With only 37 responses and only 21 of those positive it was not felt appropriate to pursue the community car club option at this time. However, it is planned to go ahead with cars for Sunflower Care. The plan is to purchase 3 cars, 2 e-bikes and charging points in Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and Glengarry. FAGCC will own the fleet (with responsibility for maintenance) and lease it to Sunflower Care. Sunflower Care will insure the vehicles as part of their fleet package. The total cost will be £106K. Applications are being made to SSE for £85K, the Energy Savings Trust for £6K, Glengarry Trust for £5K and FAGCC for £10K. The decision from SSE will be available in April.</li> <li>Old Convent Land – Following advice from Glen Campbell it has been decided to get contractors to remove just the 2 large, damaged trees in the woodland. Glen is updating his chain saw skills so that the remaining work can be undertaken by FAGCC if required. Glen applied for free trees from the Woodland Trust. We have been awarded a pack of 420 native saplings which will be used to improve the hedgerows and wildlife garden. A community planting event will be planned.</li> <li>Sam Jones will be leaving us at the end of this month as he has been successful in obtaining a permanent position. IL thanked Sam for all his hard work in the past 2 years and wished him every success. This was re-iterated by the Directors who had all been impressed by Sam's abilities.</li> </ul>	<p>IL</p> <p>IL</p> <p>IL</p>
7	<p><b>Update on Communication Survey results</b></p> <p>SJ Conducted this survey in Autumn 2021. It was undertaken with a combination of online, email, face to face and paper versions being available. SJ went through the results with the Directors. The results indicated that there were 5 key methods that were the primary communication tools people wanted. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook – A dedicated Community Company page has now been set up</li> <li>Website – A new website is being developed with a more modern look and easier to navigate to what you want.</li> <li>Newsletters – We will continue to participate in contributions to Ness News but also investigate the possibility of our own updates either by email or in paper form.</li> <li>Noticeboards – We are working with Glenmoriston Improvement Group to set up an additional noticeboard in Invermoriston. Also</li> </ul>	

	<p>looking to set up a new noticeboard by the Hall and next to the road in Bunoich Brae.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open meetings – This possibility needs to be explored more.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst we already do most of these things to some extent, we obviously need to extend the range and bring it up to date with current requirements. This will be work that is undertaken in the coming months.</p> <p>The full report, with comments made, will be sent to Directors following the meeting.</p> <p>The Board thanked SJ for his hard work in pulling together this valuable piece of work.</p>	SJ
8	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 new members were accepted.</li> </ul> <p>CN Left the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In March 2018 the owners of the Old Convent were granted the right to occupy a small piece of land, approx. 10m wide by 31m long to the right of their property, which was however part of the Old Convent Land. The owners would now be interested in purchasing this piece of land along with a further 10m to take it to the end of their garden boundary. After discussion it was agreed that as the land was of no use to the community, being a bank with scrub growing on it, the Directors were happy to proceed with investigating this option further. A valuation will be sought and permission from the Scottish Land Fund. It is not anticipated that the land will be worth a great deal, but any proceeds will be put towards the purchase and renovation of 1 Bunoich Crescent.</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>Date of next Meetings:</b>  <b>25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – AGM</b>  <b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b></p>	