

# Minutes of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

## Grant Meeting

Held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

In the Resource Room, Medical Centre, Fort Augustus

Board Directors present: Chair - Felix Paterson (FP), Vice-chair - Derek Sumner (DS),  
Lynne West (LW), Michael Alvey-Anderson (MA), Dave Francis (DF),  
Fiona MacCormick (FM), Jeff Dymond (JD) via Zoom,  
Chris Nelson (CN) via Zoom,  
Apologies: Elizabeth MacEachen(EM)  
In attendance: Chief Officer - Ian Leaver (IL)  
Minute taker: Karen Edwards (KE), Administrator

Item	Minute	Action									
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> FP welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular our 2 new co-opted Directors FM & DF. Apologies were received from EM.										
2	<b>Minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022</b> These were approved as a true record. Proposed by DS and seconded by LW										
3	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes</b> <b>CAP Review</b> – This is currently being typed up. <b>ELSAN Tipping point</b> – IL is in the process of obtaining a contractor. <b>Electric Vehicles</b> - IL advised that the grant application for this project is awaiting a decision. <b>Director Training</b> – IL is trying to find a suitable person to lead this. <b>1 Bunoich Crescent</b> – Renovation work is well underway. Tenant has been selected and the anticipated move in date is 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022. <b>RBS Loan</b> – This loan has now been paid off <b>Convent Wood Paths</b> – Work on this is subject to some scrub clearance which cannot now be undertaken until the end of the bird nesting season. <b>Jubilee events</b> – Discussions are underway with various groups who would like to run events. We await their plans and costings to allocate funding.										
4	<b>Group Grants</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3">Glenmoriston Improvement Group</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Grant Ref</b></td><td><b>Requested</b></td><td><b>Decision</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>G-143-2021</td><td>£9,949</td><td>Approved</td></tr> </table> <p>Conditions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the group were to cease operating, the lease to not be renewed on the playing field, or volunteers be unavailable to cut the grass then the equipment would become the property of the Community Company</li> <li>Equipment to be available for the Community Company to use.</li> <li>Annual review to ensure that sufficient volunteers are available to meet the agreement with the Highland Council.</li> </ul> <p>The grant had several elements and was discussed at length. The most discussion was around the grass cutting aspect where a variety of views were held. However, it was agreed that allowing the community to take</p>	Glenmoriston Improvement Group			<b>Grant Ref</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Decision</b>	G-143-2021	£9,949	Approved	
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	<p>responsibility for the playing field was a positive step to increase usage. Concern was expressed by JD that he felt the Community Council should have been involved in the discussions with the Highland Council about a service level agreement, due to the perceived risks of a volunteer team taking this on. Grass cutting at the cemetery will not form part of the remit of this project. Options are being discussed with the Highland Council for undertaking grass cutting at the Invermoriston cemetery, however these have not yet been finalised.</p>	
5	<p><b>Regular grants and support</b></p> <p>a) <b>Children's Christmas Parties</b> – It was agreed by all that a contribution of up to £250 would be available for Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Dalchreichart for these events. No paperwork would be required to be submitted.</p> <p>b) <b>Ness News</b> – It was unanimously agreed that the Community Company would pay for the quarterly printing costs for this publication without any grant application being necessary.</p> <p>c) <b>Defibrillators</b> – There has been an assumption in the past that the Community Company would pay for all costs relating to the 4 Defibrillators in the area. Directors have now formally agreed that this should be the case.</p> <p>d) <b>Community Hub annual grants</b> – IL explained that the 3 Village Halls in the area are suffering from having limited income over the past 2 years and are facing significantly increased running costs going forward. He proposed that from 1/4/22 each hall would be given an automatic annual grant of £10K which they can spend as they like for the benefit of their community. They can still apply for grants over and above this, however this contribution would be taken into account during the assessment. This proposal was unanimously accepted by all Directors with an agreement that the value would be reviewed annually.</p>	
6	<p><b>Review of grant conditions</b></p> <p>IL explained that each year a significant amount of money is available for grant applications, but the value of applications has been very limited. Comments have been made that the process is very onerous on applicants who are regularly volunteers who are unfamiliar with this kind of thing. On top of that the guidelines have not been reviewed since 2012.</p> <p>A paper was shared with Directors in advance of the meeting detailing issues that had been raised by applicants over the past few years to enable a discussion to take place. It was agreed that many of the points needed more detailed discussion than was possible at this meeting so the majority would be held until the Directors strategy day is organised.</p> <p>However, some decisions were unanimously agreed, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications for student travel bursaries would be agreed by the office team provided criteria have been met.</li> <li>• Applications under £1k would be assessed (using the guideline agreed by Directors) by the office team, Directors will be notified of the application by email and unless a Director raises a concern these would be agreed by the office.</li> <li>• Completion reports would no longer be requested from students</li> <li>• Completion reports will now be undertaken by the Administrator following a meeting/discussion with the applicant</li> <li>• Grant applications will now be accepted as they arrive and assessed at the next possible meeting.</li> <li>• Work to start on simplifying the forms for approval by the Directors.</li> </ul>	KE

7	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>Community Composting</b> – It was confirmed that this facility is now open and will be publicised in the Ness News, due out before the end of March. A request was made for a similar facility in Glenmoriston however as the Community Company does not currently own any land there this is not possible right now. LW to ask Trees for Life if they may have space for such a facility.</p> <p><b>Medical Centre</b> – DS asked what progress had been made on a dental service being available at the Medical Centre. IL to re-visit this.</p> <p><b>Convent Land</b> – IL to ask Glen to give a tour of the site prior to the strategy day to familiarise new Directors with the space.</p> <p><b>Community Bus service</b> – DF explained that he is researching a possible Council funded solution to get residents who have no local bus service to “connect” with the services that do run. He explained about the trial in the Black Isle that he has been in touch with. He is looking to see if it is possible to make this about more than just connecting to bus routes but to include visits to other parts of the Community Council area. It was felt that area’s of Fort Augustus and Glengarry might also benefit. He will keep the Directors updated on the progress of this long term project.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>IL</p> <p>IL</p>
8	<p><b>Date of next Meetings:</b></p> <p><b>19<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b></p> <p><b>15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Annual General Meeting</b></p>	