

Minutes of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday 6th July 2021
In the Village Hall, Fort Augustus

Board Directors present: Chair - Harry Whiteside (HW), Vice Chair – Felix Paterson (FP), Lorn MacKay (LM), Derek Sumner (DS), Chris Nelson (CN), Vivien Taylor (VT)

Apologies: David Campbell (DC), Elizabeth MacEachen (EM), Ronald MacKenzie (RM),

In attendance: N/A

Minute taker: Karen Edwards (KE), Administrator

Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome and apologies HW welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting in over a year. Apologies were presented by EM, DC & RM	
2	Minutes from 25th May 2021 The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record. Proposed by HW seconded by LM	
3	Matters Arising from previous minutes HW asked for an update on the communications survey. KE explained that the suggested changes had been made. However following talks with the Chief Officer it had been agreed to focus on the distribution of the annual report/newsletter and postpone the survey until the autumn. The Annual report is being amended to reflect the more recent activity of the year 2020-21 however as the year end finances have not been audited these will not be included.	
4	Grants Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glengarry Shinty Club – This group made a last minute application which it was not possible to take forward in the form in which it was presented. Contact was made with the applicant and attempts made to get it to the stage that was needed for submission but this was not possible in the timescale. An offer was made to, exceptionally, accept a re-worked application for discussion at the August meeting however the group decided they would prefer to submit an application once they fully understood the grant criteria and could make a more measured submission. Fort Augustus and area Gaelic Group – This group also made a last minute application for a grant to hold a weekend festival in Glenmoriston. It was not possible to accept the application as the group had already received a grant just 6 months ago. However KE did meet with the applicant to try and see if an alternate group might be a suitable applicant or indeed a change of date might be practicable. Unfortunately this did not prove possible. Glenmoriston Improvement Group – The Directors were shown 	

	<p>photographs of the completed work on the war memorial site and a rubbing post for the Beastie Trail along with the booklet that has been produced for the walk. The Directors were very impressed by both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilchuimen Primary “Mini money fund” – The Directors felt that this had been a really good idea and were delighted that the children were being exposed to the concepts early on. They were very supportive and would be happy to see this repeated and indeed extended to the senior school. The funds provided were £200 from the Community Company and £200 from Falck. Our thanks to Falck for agreeing to support the scheme. There have been subsequent local press articles in the Ness News, the Oban News and the P & J • I-243-2019 – This grant was awarded to a member of the Cadets for a battlefields visit. The initial trip was postponed due to Covid and despite re-arranging several times has now had to be cancelled altogether. The grant has therefore been declined and will not be used. If a subsequent trip is planned the group are aware that a new application will need to be made. <p>The Board agreed that the style of completion report undertaken by KE for the “Mini money fund” would be a good replacement for the existing group’s completion report. It will involve KE meeting with the applicant and discussing the grant in detail. This also provides an improved report for our funders.</p>	
5	<p>Chair’s report HW went through her report: Recruitment – Ian Leaver has accepted the position of Chief Officer and will be starting on the 9th August. Caretakers – DC has been around and about with Glen to agree the priorities for work in the coming months. The team remains at just 4 for this year while we endeavour to retain social distancing. It was noted that the grass at the Medical Centre has been left longer at the request of the practice to encourage wildflowers, however it just looks a mess and as if it has been forgotten. HW & DC to discuss with Glen. Apprenticeships – There were updates on a new pre-apprenticeship for an agricultural worker which is starting this week. Also a couple of administrative changes for others. Houses – These continue to be on schedule for completion at the end of July with potential move in date of the 1st September for the tenants. The landscaping plans are being reviewed to ensure that the planting is appropriate for the site and will not have a long term impact on the residents’ views. The project is running over budget, largely due to the significant increase in prices of building materials following Covid & Brexit. Thanks to the grant and loan from SIS this does not cause us any issues. It is now necessary to organise some events for the community to celebrate the acquisition of the Old Convent Land and the new homes completion. After discussion it was agreed to hold 3 events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community celebration in mid-August to both celebrate the land acquisition and allow people to see the homes. This will be a family event. • A community planting day in October to put in the fruit trees and some of the other bushes all of which will be available for the community to pick the produce from. • A Funders event – probably in 2022. The housing minister is to be invited and their availability will probably drive the date. This will be a formal event to show off the homes to those that have helped make it possible. 	HW/DC

	<p>Directors Training – SSE have offered a place on a training course they are running for one Director and one staff member. It was agreed that FP & KE would attend via Zoom. The date has yet to be set. KE is also trying to organise through Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) a face to face training session on the role and responsibilities of Directors for both the Community Company and the 3 Glens Community Care Board.</p>	
6	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees for Life – This organisation had approached to ask if they could be considered for a grant to help cover some of the costs of the interpretation at the new Visitor Centre being built at Dundreggan. Following discussion the Board agreed that they would be happy for the group to submit a stage 1 application for consideration. They were keen to see an emphasis on the community benefits of the project and in particular for the young people. • Glenmoriston Tourist map – The Company had been approached by the Glenmoriston Improvement Group to fund a replacement tourist map for the car park at Invermoriston. The current one is badly faded and water damaged, making large parts of it illegible. It was agreed by the Board that they would fund a like for like replacement, however it would not be done until after the work on the toilets is completed this autumn. However it was also suggested that the group might like to apply to the Ward Discretionary Fund at Highland Council to replace it with an upgraded map to show the new walks they have added as part of the Beastie Trail. 	
7	<p>Date of next Meetings:</p> <p>Wednesday 18th August – Village Hall Tuesday 28th September – venue TBA</p>	