

# Minutes of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

## Grant Meeting

Held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

In the Fort Augustus Village Hall

Board Directors present: Chair - Felix Paterson (FP), Vice-chair - Derek Sumner (DS),  
Jeff Dymond (JD), Chris Nelson (CN), Lynne West (LW),  
Michael Alvey-Anderson (MA), David Francis (DF)

Apologies: Elizabeth MacEachen (EM), Lorn MacKay (LM),  
Fiona MacCormick (FM),

In attendance: Ian Leaver (IL), Chief Officer

Minute taker: Karen Edwards (KE), Administrator

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> FP welcomed Directors to the meeting and thanked them for their time. Apologies were given as shown.	
2	<b>Minutes from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> The minutes were approved by the Board as a true representation. Proposed by DF, seconded by MA.	
3	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jubilee Events – FP advised all had gone ahead as planned with good turnout at all.</li> <li>Dental services – LW updated the Board. She has found a dentist who is very interested in the proposal and is hoping to meet with them in Fort Augustus soon to look at proposed venues. In the meantime a survey of need is being done in Fort Augustus to add to that already done in Glenmoriston.</li> <li>Asset Transfer Requests – IL confirmed that the process has been started and both organisations have responded to confirm they have been received.</li> <li>ELSAN Tipping Point – This is currently in the hands of our solicitor who is waiting on Highland Council to confirm the lease on the land.</li> <li>Community Growing Group – They met recently on the Old Convent Land to look at what might be possible. Now plan to discuss with “The Lovat” Hotel a piece of land that they may be prepared to allow them to use. This was felt to be a better option by the group but needed investigating further.</li> <li>Lovat Estates – The Estate has provided a letter of agreement to allow the land next to the school to be purchased for community recreation. A virtual meeting was held with FP and the Glengarry Shinty Club who presented a plan to HIE and Sport Scotland for the development of this site. They had been led to believe that more funds were available than</li> </ul>	

	it turned out is the case. This means that the development would need to be in 3 phases and revised accordingly. The first phase would be an all-weather pitch.																																								
4	<p><b>Grants</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Trees for Life</th></tr> <tr> <th>Grant Ref</th><th>Requested</th><th>Decision</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>G-147-2022</td><td>£24,432.38</td><td>£20,000</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Conditions –Local community groups to be allowed to use the Tipi tent for free if available.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There was significant discussion around the purchase of outdoor wear and sundries like a kettle and fire pit. It was generally agreed that these did not add value to the local community and would not therefore be funded hence the reduction in grant value.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">West Glenmoriston Community Company</th></tr> <tr> <th>Grant Ref</th><th>Requested</th><th>Decision</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>G-148-2022</td><td>£61,934</td><td>£56,934</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Conditions – Plaque to be put up in 'The Hub' recognising support given. FAGCC to be up-dated on progress of the work.</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">NB SSE had confirmed their approval of this grant.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>DF – Introduced the grant application but then left the room due to a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Directors discussed the need to keep the building in usable condition and recognised that this work was essential. There was discussion about the group having funds of their own and it was felt appropriate that they be asked to make a small contribution to this. It was felt that £5K (Less than 10%) would not seriously affect their ability to continue operating.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Glenmoriston Heritage Group</th></tr> <tr> <th>Grant Ref</th><th>Requested</th><th>Decision</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>G-149-2022</td><td>£5,110</td><td>Granted £3,852</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Conditions – Logo to be on the interpretation board and on literature.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>LW – Introduced the grant application but then left the room due to a conflict of interest.</p> <p>There was discussion around the differential between the quotations that had been submitted for the work. It was felt that the higher one was inappropriate. The grant offered was reduced to the 10% matched funding that they needed for the Beinneun funding to be released and allow the work to be done but not by the more expensive contractor.</p> <p><b>Additionally</b> 2 new applications for 'Individual for Community Benefit' grants have been circulated to Directors. These are from Andrea Bennett, Dalchreichart and Moira MacDonald, Fort Augustus. They have been assessed with a recommendation to approve. Unless a Director expresses a concern by the 27<sup>th</sup> June these will be granted.</p>	Trees for Life			Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	G-147-2022	£24,432.38	£20,000	Conditions –Local community groups to be allowed to use the Tipi tent for free if available.			West Glenmoriston Community Company			Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	G-148-2022	£61,934	£56,934	Conditions – Plaque to be put up in 'The Hub' recognising support given. FAGCC to be up-dated on progress of the work.			NB SSE had confirmed their approval of this grant.			Glenmoriston Heritage Group			Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	G-149-2022	£5,110	Granted £3,852	Conditions – Logo to be on the interpretation board and on literature.			
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5	<p><b>Proposed new Group Grant application forms and guidelines</b></p> <p>The Board had received the proposed new form, new guidelines and a list of the changes and decisions that needed to be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed to trial the new form and make adjustments as needed once they are in use.</li> <li>• It was agreed that grants would be discussed at any Board meeting but they must have been received at least 4 weeks prior (3 weeks for assessment and 1 week for distribution to Board in advance of the meeting).</li> <li>• It was agreed that the age on Group grants would be lowered to 16 to reflect their ability to vote at that age.</li> <li>• The need for the grant to be spent in one year will be adjusted to add in the guidelines that it may be possible to extend this upon application.</li> <li>• It was felt that the annual income limit needed to be amended. It was agreed to change this to trading income and to set the limit at £150K.</li> <li>• Whilst in the past overseas trips have not been funded it was felt that this would penalise the school and the wording should be changed to read. <i>“Overseas trips are not generally funded, however if there is significant benefit to the group it may be considered”</i></li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IL</b> proposed that Board meetings are rotated around the area. Agreed. However concern that this should not happen if halls are going to charge for it. Initial idea agreed and IL and KE to try and resolve.</li> <li>• <b>FP</b> Advised Directors that there would be a tree planting for Harry's Tree at Caledonian Court on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 17.30. All are welcome to attend along with anyone else who would like to come. Harry did not want a general advert to go out.</li> <li>• <b>KE</b> advised that the advert for Minibus driver training has been placed on Facebook, posters and in Ness News. To date only 2 community people have asked to be added and several from the school.</li> <li>• <b>IL</b> Explained that a local paramedic has offered to run 1<sup>st</sup> aid courses for the community as a volunteer. However, she would need equipment such as dummies, a training defib among other bits. The cost of these items would be around £3000. The board agreed that this was worthwhile. Courses for local residents could then be offered free of charge. It was discussed that perhaps if she was trained to run a certificated course they could be offered for sale and funds raised could support the cost of defibrillator maintenance.</li> <li>• <b>DF</b> expressed the opinion that the West Glenmoriston Community Company should be allowed to share in the proceeds of the wind farm monies and not have to apply for grants to do so. The view of that committee is that they (and the other 2 centres, Invermoriston and Fort Augustus) should be given their share to do with as they please. The impression being that Fort Augustus spends the money as they want without having to go through that process. FP suggested that as funds have always been available to any applicants in the area this was not a discussion for this time but could be considered more fully in the future.</li> <li>• <b>DS</b> suggested that other groups be offered the opportunity to come along and introduce their applications. The Board agreed that this would add value to higher value grants particularly and asked that a proposal be emailed out to agree how this might work.</li> <li>• <b>CN</b> asked for an update on the progress of a Men's Shed group locally.</li> </ul>	<p>KE</p> <p>IL</p> <p>KE</p>

	<p>IL is meeting with two representatives of the new group tomorrow to find out more on what they would like to do. It was noted that this group is as a result of the 3 Glens Community Care who will be the host organisation for them until they are established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LW</b> had been approached by some people who had heard that some groups did not have to apply for funding and that they wanted to be able to automatically get theirs too. Unfortunately, those that had approached her did not have their facts correctly. The only automatic grants are for the 3 hub buildings (£10K each and the 2 children's Christmas parties £250 each). It was agreed that this should not be extended at this time, particularly as the application process is currently being made easier and more flexible. The groups interested were the Parent Teacher Council and the Friday after school club. KE is meeting with Parent Teacher Council chair next week and will discuss. LW will advise the after school club to apply for a grant.</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Date of next Meetings and planned venue:</b>  9<sup>th</sup> August – Millennium Hall, Invermoriston  13<sup>th</sup> September – Fort Augustus Village Hall (NB changed date)  18<sup>th</sup> October – The Hub, Dalchreichart  15<sup>th</sup> November – AGM – Fort Augustus Village Hall  13<sup>th</sup> December – Millennium Hall, Invermoriston</p>	