

Minutes of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday 9th August 2022
In the Fort Augustus Village Hall

Board Directors present: Chair- Felix Paterson (FP), Vice-chair- Derek Sumner (DS), Elizabeth MacEachen(EM), Lorn MacKay (LM) via Zoom, Chris Nelson (CN), Lynne West (LW), Michael Alvey-Anderson (MA), Fiona MacCormick (FM),

Apologies: Jeff Dymond (JD), David Francis (DF)

In attendance: Ian Leaver (IL), Chief Officer

Minute taker: Karen Edwards (KE), Administrator

Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome and apologies FP welcomed Directors to the meeting and thanked them for their time. Apologies had been received from JD & DF	
2	Minutes from 21st June 2022 These were accepted as a true record. Proposed by LW seconded by EM	
3	Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda Dental services – LW explained that this continues to be a work in progress. The response from Fort Augustus has been limited so far. It is proposed to re-visit that once the tourist season is over. FP had approached another practice in Fort William but they were not interested. The practice in Dingwall is still interested but lack of trained practitioners is currently a big issue. This will continue to be monitored.	
4	Community Investment Fund – Foundation Scotland IL explained that we have money invested for the future however it is currently not earning very much interest. Foundation Scotland are running a pooled investment fund for charities in this situation which invests only in ethical businesses. The fund has only been running a year or so but with the Board's approval can obtain more information to see if this should be considered. The Board unanimously approved exploring this and other similar investors.	
5	Chief Officers Report Memorial Hall – The petitions have now been closed with 108 in favour of us progressing the asset transfer and 3 against. IL is currently awaiting a meeting with the Council which is anticipated in being this month. Glentarff House – The petitions have now been closed with 108 in favour of us progressing the asset transfer and 3 against. Scottish Canals have failed so far to deliver the information requested and are saying that a meeting is not possible until October. IL will be pursuing this for an earlier meeting. ELSAN Tipping Point – This has been held up as the Highland Council have yet to finalise the lease on the land. Work cannot be started until this is	

completed. The actual work is anticipated to only take a week if all the elements can be timed to work together.

Community Growing – The Lovat had kindly brought in a garden to give advice on what is possible at both the Lovat and the Old Convent Land. The group now have some excellent recommendations to work on. It is envisaged that they may apply for funding to get a garden planner in to give guidance specifically on the best areas to use for which produce.

EV – IL has been advised that there is a delay and the cars are unlikely to be here until October/December. Good news though in that he had applied for another grant for charging points and has been awarded a further £5,500 towards this.

Management Accounts – The new style report has taken a while to create as Sage needed to write a special report for us. They arrive yesterday but as IL needs to discuss with Finance and then with the Finance sub-group they will not be available until the next Board meeting.

Lovat Estates – The estate have now had a valuation done and have confirmed that they would offer the land (for recreation use only) at a discounted price of £20K per acre on the basis of Lovat retaining some of the land for possible future development. There is about 7.5 acres available. We need to agree how much is required. They also asked if the Community Company would be interested in doing anything with the land near the old bridge where the old railway abutments are and/or battery rock. After some discussion it was agreed that FP would take a look but it was difficult to see what use could be made of either for the community.

Caledonian Court- IL advised the Directors that one of the Caledonian Court tenants had sadly died. However, her husband will be continuing the tenancy for the time being.

6

Grant applications

Fort Augustus Lunch Club		
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision
G-150-2022	£10,000	£10,000 approved
For: Subsidise lunch club		

Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council		
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision
G-151-2022		
For: Transport to swimming lessons and a visit to the pantomime		

Glenmoriston Bowls Group		
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision
G-152-2022	£8620.80	£8000 approved
For: An automatic winding mechanism for the bowls mats		

	Glenmoriston Heritage Group			
	Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	
	G-149-2022	Additional £398	£398 approved	
	For: To supplement the grant given previously for £3852 as the quote for the work has increased.			
7	Apprentice Application FP went through the assessment for this application for Grace Bremner to study for an SVQ2 in Adult Health & Social Care, whilst working at the Glenurquhart Care Centre. The apprenticeship would include driving lessons to allow Grace to extend the course into a 3 rd year should she wish. The Board unanimously approved the apprenticeship which will now go to the combined Apprentice Panel (includes Glengarry Trust and Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust for final approval.			
8	Minibus Training KE went through those who had come forward for the training and their requirements. The only groups specifically requesting training are the school and the Shinty Club. Other names were offering more general help. As the school had been awarded £500 towards community driver training as part of the original grant G-109-2017 they would be asked to pay for the MiDAS training for the 5 who had come forward for this. There had been an initial discussion by the Board that £3000 would be earmarked for additional training however as the costs are around £1400 per delegate this will not go far. It was agreed that the Community Company would pay for 1 teacher to have D1 training, to replace Bill Hepburn. An approach would be made to the Glengarry Trust to ask if they would help support the cost of training for the nominated person from the Shinty Club as there is benefit to both areas. This would then leave enough to support the training for one other person if a group came forward in the future with a need.			KE
9	Invermoriston Community Shop - update There had been minimal response to the Facebook posts, posters and Ness News. With responses indicating minimal interest in using it for more than the odd pint of milk. Concern was expressed by Directors that this would mean that it would never be self-funding. LW advised that there had been strong interest expressed by local crafters who would be interested in selling their products there. It was suggested that perhaps the option of them running it as a co-operative and selling a few basic supplies on the side be explored.			LW
10	Cost of Living Grants IL advised the Board that SSE have offered us the option of setting aside £25K for use as cost of living grants. They would want the maximum offer to be £250 for one person and £500 per household. There was a unanimous decision that this money should be set aside and used for this purpose. After discussion it was agreed that a grant offer would be developed which would be a simple form that can either be completed by the applicant or a third party on their behalf. To keep it simple the criteria would be that the recipient must be either in receipt of a universal or pension credit or to be receiving full council tax benefit. The paperwork and guidelines to be drawn up ready for the grant to be advertised in the next edition of Ness News.			IL & KE

11	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Directors – FP advised the Board that DS was stepping down in August and Directors were asked to consider if they knew anyone who might be interested in standing for election at the next AGM. FP thanked DS for all the time and energy that he has given to the Company , in particular for all his help in making Caledonian Court happen. • Strategy Planning Day – IL advised that he hopes to get this planned for October it was agreed that he would send out a request for available dates. • New Signatures for the bank accounts – The Board agreed that LW and MA be asked to become signatories. • Student Grants – The Board approved a change to the student grant to make it a straight payment of £600 with no split for travel or equipment. The wording to be up to £600 to allow for anyone applying for a part time course which may result in a lower payment. All students in 2022 to be offered this new amount. • Jane MacKillop had asked if a donation could be made to the Charity Sheepdog Trials to be held this month in aid of the Children's Ward at Raigmore Hospital. It was agreed that a donation of £250 should be made. 	<p>IL</p> <p>KE</p> <p>KE</p>
12	<p>Date of next Meetings:</p> <p>Tuesday 13th September – Fort Augustus</p> <p>Tuesday 18th October - Dalchreichart</p>	