



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday 13th August 2024

At Memorial Hall, FA

Board Directors present	Catriona Watson (CW) – Chair, Helen Clay (HC) – Vice chair, Lorn MacKay (LM), Chris Nelson (CN), Michael Alvey Anderson (MA), Patrick Ungless (PU), Frances Mansell (FMM), Kelvin Hill (KH),
Apologies	Fiona MacCormick (FM), Paul McIntosh (PM)
Also in attendance	Karen Edwards (KE) - Operations Manager, Donna Green (DG) – Finance Manager
Minute Taker	Simon Canning (SC) – Admin Officer

[illegible]

5.	<p>Community Larders CW reported that the posters have curtailed the exaggerated use of the larder's goods in Fort Augustus. CW further reported the available funding for the community larders is now running low with approximately three and a half months of restricted funds remaining. CW suggested the board consider ways to continue funding the larders. KE will investigate grants from alternative funders and report back to the board at the next meeting.</p>	KE
6.	<p>Memorial Hall KE reported on the meeting with CW and the consultants who will support the Community Company to obtain funding and the point of accepting tenders for the works. The consultancy suggested consideration is given to the addition of a mezzanine floor and relocation of the WC and the meeting room. KE has presented this idea to the architect who is currently working on the plans. Anticipate hearing from Scottish Land Fund if they will support the purchase in early September along with news from the Highland Council about the pre-emption that we have requested they remove.</p> <p>Glentarff House Facilities Officer David Campbell has submitted the felling licence application for removal of the trees in the canal-facing garden. Plans have been submitted to Highland Council for the work to convert the property to two homes for affordable rent. Scottish Canals continue to delay the completion of the legalities.</p> <p>Janitor's House Following a request from the Highland Council the housing subgroup have viewed this property and would recommend further exploration to take it on via a Community Asset transfer. Expenditure was approved to obtain a valuation initially.</p> <p>SSEN Compound at Convent Land David Campbell has been discussing this with SSEN who are prepared to consider selling the land to us. The intention being to use it for the Community Caretakers who are running out of storage space. Board approved obtaining a valuation for this prior to making an offer.</p>	
7.	<p>FAGCC Management accounts & finance restructuring DG presented the management accounts. DG proposes to restructure the funds which will make the funds analysis easier to understand and simpler to identify available and unavailable funds.</p>	
8.	<p>Community engagement Further to the discussion last month KE asked the board if they had any suggestions for alternative methods of community</p>	

	<p>engagement. MAA noted that the Ness News articles often report on FAGCC activities, but it may be worthwhile including an explanation of what FAGCC is and what it does. Additionally, flyers left in appropriate locations promoting FAGCC's purposes.</p> <p>CW suggested an Instagram page is created to reach out to online audiences.</p> <p>It was suggested that the office staff consider holding open coffee mornings for residents to drop in for a chat. This would be easier in the Memorial Hall but could be undertaken now as a test.</p> <p>PU suggested consideration is given to employing someone on a part-time basis to focus on marketing. KE will investigate this further.</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>SC/KE</p> <p>KE</p>
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>KE asked the board if they would approve the purchase of a digger attachment for the Caretakers' tractor at a cost of £6,500 (VAT exclusive). All agreed.</p> <p>KE reported that Glen will be undertaking pest control to reduce the damage to the centre of the village caused by rabbits. This will be controlled appropriately.</p> <p>KE reported to the board that rent for the affordable rent properties has remained at the same level since pre-Covid. The board agreed the rent levels should now be reviewed. KE will investigate and report to the board at the next board meeting.</p> <p>KE suggested that we ask a sample of grant recipients to talk at the AGM about the impact of the funding and how it has benefitted them. KE will investigate.</p> <p>KE reported DTAS are running online director courses and suggested directors notify KE if they are interested in attending. PM has expressed an interest.</p> <p>CN was approached by a community member in reference to the CCTV recently installed at the Convent Land. KE clarified the CCTV was intended to provide information on how many community members use the path and confirmed it was not aimed in a way it would infringe anyone's privacy. However, the CCTV was removed and will be replaced with a people counter in the future.</p> <p>SC informed the board the Golf Club have kindly requested the presence of two board members and accompanying partners to the centenary celebration on 31st August at the Village Hall.</p>	<p>KE</p> <p>Glen/David</p> <p>KE</p> <p>KE</p> <p>KE</p>
10.	<p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 17th September 2024</p>	