



Date/Time	12 th December 2023
Location	ZOOM (Video Conference)
Attendees	Trust Directors: Rhoda Meek (RM, Chair), Christine Coghill (CC), Jacqui Bennett (JaB), Ronnie Baird (RB), Matthew MacDowell (MMD), Fiona Malcolm (FM) Trust Staff: Phyl Meyer (PM), Inge Armstrong (IA – minutes), Augustijn van Gaalen (AvG), Shari MacKinnon (SMK)
Absent, Apologies	Martin Finnigan (MF), Neil MacPhail (NMP)
Absent, No Apologies	John Bowler (JB)

1. Welcome & Introductions

RM welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Neil MacPhail (NMP) and Martin Finnigan (MF)

2. Declaration of Conflicts

None declared.

3. Previous Meeting

a. Minutes

The November 2023 minutes were approved:

External minutes approval proposed by RM and seconded by JaB

Internal minutes approval proposed by Jab and seconded by RM

Initial Board Meeting - MC proposed and seconded by MMD minutes.

b. November Actions Update and Matters Arising

Please also see the Action Tracker

4. Actions taken since November Board meeting.

Discussion on the proposal of purchasing Kirkapol house.



5. Draft Budget/Cashflow

The budget is complex as each project has its own budget and then there is a core (Trust) budget. These are all kept separate from each other as it is helpful to understand what the overall financial impact of each work area is. They historically have been subsidised by the windfall fund.

Expenditure has increased in the last year, as we have expanded the staff team, as will need more staff to cover the new projects.

The Trust technically have the funds for all the projects, and with more funding still to be received. The Trust would like to have funds available to spend on bigger projects i.e., purchasing of a island house. We have £360K available funds which will be expected to carry forward to 2024. This is a combination of funds within the Trust current account, plus funds which are allocated to the Windfall fund (these are not earmarked to any projects). There is the Community Resilience fund which the previous board had ear marked against possible large repairs on the turbine, etc., and has been built up by donations from our subsidiaries. The general fund will enable us to investment in community assets to safeguard our future income.

TREL will be possible donating this month. We will have a clearer view once we have had a discussion with the tax consultant at the auditors and they will recommend if we can make the donation within this tax year.

If TREL has a full year in 2024 there is a cashflow suggests £400k which could be donated to the Trust and if TREL needs to pay tax, a calculation will need to be made to see if we can do both.

We have prices for next year logged in, which is about 12-14 pence per kilowatt, etc.

The draft budget includes all the work/positions which are currently in place, and some are covered by external funding sources. The ranger project funding ends in 2024, Cruas project and Youth activity officer, we have some external funding in place to cover these positions, but the salaries for these have been included in the budget.

Gaelic project only has funding until end of august 2024, but (Bòrd na Gàidhlig) are pleased with what Mary-Ann has been doing and we are positive that they may increase their funding.

We are encouraging the staff to search/apply for funding grants which will benefit their projects, i.e., Emmie received funding to host the digital skills clinics for the Cruas project for the last year and Jack our previous CPO also obtained funding.



Housing, we applied for funding for a Housing officer, and budgeted for it in 2022 unfortunately we were not successful in the funding. The work we are currently doing on housing is done by PM or KB, this is funded by HIE which funds housing, business units and working towards net zero. This goes into the core budget. If we are successful with the Scarinish housing project, the seconded stage is through the Scottish Land fund, which they allow you to apply for capital funding which covers the building cost and acquisition of the land, and the revenue funding will cover staffing costs.

Historically a decision is made on the funds received by Tilley and how it is split across the Trust owns expenditure and what stays in the windfall fund, or to be applied for by the community or using for projects by the subsidiaries. The finance subgroup agrees on those allocations - 60/40 split in 2022.

Salaries have been increased in the past by using the Consumer Price Index to uplift all salaries, therefore the salaries will be increased by 4.7%, and this will be implemented in January 2024.

Draft budget and salary changes approved by RM, seconded by all Director (RM, RB, JaB)

The croft camping scheme has been at the same fee (£12) for a period of time, it is felt that this needs to be increased, currently crofters receive 75% and the Trust receives 25%. Hayley felt campers may be unhappy with this increase - the options are either £14 or £15 per night increasing from the currently £12 per night.

Board approved to increase the fee to £15 per night.

Fees to be assessed on a bi-annual basis.

To note Calmac no longer advises on their booking site that accommodation, camp site etc., is needed before making a booking. It was requested for a letter be sent to them to reinstate this notice.

ACTION (159) PM



6. Windfall Fund update and Tilley Legacy fund plan

RM mentioned that the FSG are looking into what will happen when Tilley stops working. Replacing her like for like is not an option, how do we start planning for when Tilley is unable to produce and how the legacy fund plan will work. Do we bank as much as we can, etc, and this is what the FSG is working on at present.

JaB commented that people are asking when/if they will get support from Tilley on the electricity/heating bills. PM stated that we do have a feasibility project which is currently working towards an energy co-operative, buying, and selling locally produced electricity to people on the island.

FM requested that updates on what is happening at the Trust/Windfall fund via An Tirisdeach would be appreciated by the people of Tiree.

7. Health & Safety

All policies within the Health & Safety policies are gathered from reputable source. JaB is the health and safety director. Staff members are reviewing the policies, and once reviewed will be passed to the board for approval, policies can either be approved as whole or approved as they are reviewed.

RB has offered to review the health and safety policies and feedback to KB

The board accepted the policies, proposed by JaB and seconded by the board.

8. Funding

No updates at this time.

9. Gaelic Workplan and Workgroup (Terms of Reference)

A working group has been established with membership on- and off-island to support and advise the Gaelic Team (Loran and Mary-Ann) in their work and the Trust in general on Gaelic issues etc. Mary-Ann has received funding from the Gordon Connell Fund to fund the music group.



10. Working Group Report

- a. Finance Subgroup – Feedback has been received from AM; feedback is still to be received from MF (to be pushed to January).
- b. Housing – The Trust requested PM to look into funding for the purchase of a island house as a short-term solution for the housing crises on the island.

The proposal is to ask PM/KB to look into the viability of purchasing the house and the how to manage this proposal – proposed by RM and seconded by the Board.
ACTION (160) PM/KB

RB will be on the Housing working group.

Childcare – Feasibility work has been taking place in this last year. The Trust are collaborating with the council in regard with this. A meeting took place with Director of Education at the council, it has been agreed that they will be coming to the island in January to discuss and to look at Mill house as a solution to increase the service. We are working with Cala in regard to this project. The ambition is to have a solution as soon as possible.

11. Staff Reports

TCEL update (business units) – Two units have come available and a proposed press release is to go out with regard to offering the remaining units out for proposal and if interested to apply by the 5th February 2024.

Tilley is up and running but only running at 65%, a part is required to return her to 100% service.

Take key points out of the monthly reports and publicise in An Tirisdeach.

12.AOCB

- a. Crossover director appointments
TCEL - Fiona Malcolm, TCMAL - Christine Coghill, CIT - Matthew MacDowell
TREL – no director appointed
- b. Subsidiary director appointments
TCEL requires another director, a request to be put out if anyone is interested.
- c. CMAC Loan update



No further updates, updates to follow in January

- d. Approval of appointment of TCMAL chair – Kris Milne, replacing Ross MacLennan
Proposed by RM, seconded by JaB
- e. Internet access issues by those who do not have access to be added as a point to January agenda or pass onto CIT.
- f. All directors to supply a photo and short biography which will be then used to in the next newsletter.

ACTION (161) IA

13. DONM

Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7pm by Zoom



14. Action Tracker

Action #	Meeting Date	Action Description	Action Owner	Deadline	Status
150	Aug-23	The Housing Working Group to compile a paper on options for property lettings and management with recommendations for the TCDT Board to consider.	PM	12-Sep-23	Ongoing
156	Sep-23	Prepare a public statement regarding use of the minibus based on the text agreed by the Board and keeping the wording close to the Trusts Charitable Objectives. This will be circulated to the Board for approval.	PM	11-Oct-23	Ongoing
158	Nov-23	Update on the progress on the Health and Safety policies	KB	16-Jan-24	Ongoing
159	Dec-23	Write to Calmac re all persons to have a booked camping pitch prior to arrival on the island, for them to put a note on their system , etc.	PM	16-Jan-24	new
160	Dec-23	The proposal is to ask PM/KB to look into the viability of purchasing a island house and how to manage this proposal	PM/KB	12-Jan-24	new
161	Dec-23	All directors to supply a photo and short biography which will be then used to in the next newsletter.	IA	12-Jan-24	new

Action 159: There is a note on Calmac website, just not very clear. (see attachment).