

# Urras Thiriodh Tiree Community Development Trust March 2024 Board Meeting



Date/Time	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Location	ZOOM (Video Conference)
Attendees	<b>Trust Directors:</b> Rhoda Meek (RM, Chair), Christine Coghill (CC), Ronnie Baird (RB), Fiona Malcolm (FM), Martin Finnigan (MF), Jacqui Bennett (JaB) <b>Trust Staff:</b> Phyl Meyer (PM). Inge Armstrong (IA – minutes)
Absent, Apologies	Apologies received from John Bowler (JB), Neil MacPhail (NMP) No apologies received from Matthew MacDowell (MMD)

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

RM welcomed all to the meeting.

## 2. Declaration of Conflicts

None declared.

## 3. Previous Meeting

### a. Minutes

The February 2024 minutes were approved by MF and seconded by FM

### b. February Actions Update and Matters Arising

[See action tracker](#)

## 4. Actions taken since February Board meeting.

Gaelic funding press action – letter went out to our elected parliamentary members, we have had a few responses that mostly have acknowledged the letter and few murmurs of support, but nothing really substantive has been received.

- Ranger Funding – board approved accepting the grant from NatureScot
- Appointment to Discover Tiree Committee – board approved the appointment of Skye Swift.
- Letter of support for Hynish – We wrote a letter of support for Hynish for their funding bid.
- Audit report and fee proposal approval – a request for a split of Audit fees across the subsidiaries is required **Board proposed and approved the fees**
- Community Development Plan review meeting was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

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## 5. Funding

### a. Gaelic

It was requested by RM for Mary-Ann Kennedy to draft a communication which could be published on this issue. Bòrd na Gàidhlig have responded that they are looking into options on the funding issue.

### b. Ranger

The NatureScot grant has been accepted, and review needs to be put into diary

**Action: 167: PM**

### c. Climate Adaptation

Brodie Sim successfully secured a seed grant of £1500 from the Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network fund to work on the design / communications output from the work with researcher Leslie Mabon and Science Ceilidh.

## 6. Working Group Reports

### a. Finance Sub-Group

FSG are unable to respond on Tilley until ENERCON have arrived and Tilley has been repaired. A table will be created with the recommendations of improvement by AAB, so that it may be monitored/progress tracked – CC will keep an eye on the progress, etc.

Legacy fund is parked for the present time, until we know where we stand with Tilley's future, etc.

TCMAL – FSG to look at mooring fees at Milton. This is not urgent but needs to be done before the end of this year.

### b. Housing Working Group (verbal update)

Work is ongoing to pin down the costs for the modular house-build project and the project team are in discussions how to progress with this, i.e. gathering case studies on actual Tiree residents who would be interested in such a scheme and what they could afford as a mortgage. It was proposed to contact a mortgage advisor to see if they would be interested in collaborating with us on this option.

### c. Childcare (verbal update)

- We have been in contact with the care inspectorate regarding childcare.
- The Trust are still looking to encourage the council to provide childcare i.e. council to provide childcare to a larger group of children i.e. wider age range, unfortunately they can't do that at the school due to space and it would only be during term time, but if we can identify a possible space then this could be an option. It will need to be cost neutral for the council.

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We are awaiting to hear what the plans are for the library from the council and if this is an option.

- HIE were eager for us to retain the business units as a childcare option however this is now not an option. We may need a board member to sit in on the any discussion with HIE if and when it happens.

## **d. Vet Practice Group**

There are currently two options on the table;

1. Build a new unit (no funding currently sourced for this option)
2. Keep the existing vet practice and make improvements etc. (We have had confirmation from the owners, that they would be open to the prospect of the Trust purchasing the existing Vet house and practice. (assuming agreements can be made on values etc).

Next stage is to prepare feasibility studies for both options.

## **e. Discover Tiree**

A meeting is being planned and feedback will be given after the meeting.

## **7. Staff Reports**

### **a. Trust Activities Report**

No further comments were received from the Board.

### **b. Business Units**

- TCEL have approved the allocation of the business units – hairdresser, office space, general retail space and an art studio.
- Heads of terms meeting have been had with two of the potential lease holders.
- Two of business which are social enterprises businesses, may request financial support (deposit assistance), from the Trust. This is due to the service charge costs being much higher than initially estimated (insurance fees were more than initially estimated, and the cost of maintenance and replacement fees of the heating system) and they hadn't built that into their financial planning. PM stated that assistance may be required on the deposit and not the rent.
- Construction is due to be completed this month, though due the pending install of electricity meters we are now expecting this to hold up the completion of the site.
- We are still looking for suggestions on the opening event.

### **c. Filling station staffing**

No further comments

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**8. AOCB**

**a. CMAC loan update**

The trust received feedback from TC Young and further actions were discussed.

**b. Community Development Plan Progress update**

The Community Development Plan review meeting took place on Saturday (9<sup>th</sup> March). Staff will update the plan and then work on a Community communication event, this will need to be completed before the Easter holiday (29<sup>th</sup> March). Draft to the board by the 26<sup>th</sup> March to be signed off at the next board meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. **Action 168: PM**

**c. Diesel club donation**

The diesel club have written to us, as they are closing the company and, as a CIC, TCDT are to receive the surplus funds – approximately £8000. There is a thought is to use the “donation” for something specific, i.e. signage, etc.

**d. Scarinish public toilets upkeep**

TCB own the toilets in Scarinish, there is an expenditure/costs on the upkeep of the toilets and due to this they are requesting assistance from the Trust.

It was commented that the response to the request is for them to complete a “windfall fund” application.

CPO's to look at cost to replace the signage at the public toilets **Action 169: CPO**

**9. DONM**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm by zoom.