



Date/Time	9 th September 2025 at 7pm
Location	ZOOM (Video Conference)/in person at Trust Office
Attendees	Chair - Neil MacPhail (NMP), Ronnie Baird (RB), Martin Finnigan (MF), Mark Vale (MV), Coinneach MacKinnon (CMK), Marshall MacPhail (MMP), William MacLean (WAM),
Trust Staff	Phyl Meyer (PM), Inge Armstrong (IA). Rhoda Meek (RM)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Neil MacPhail (NMP) welcomed all to the Board Meeting.

Apologies from Matthew MacDowall (MMD), Kris Milne (KM)

Matthew MacDowall has tendered their resignation from the TCDT board for the upcoming AGM, Neil requested a thank you letter to be sent to him.

ACTION 210: IA

2. Declaration of Conflicts

None declared.

It was decided that there would be no conflict of interest with TCEL members making a decision within the TCDT board on the matters on the agenda.

3. Previous Meeting

a. Minutes

The August 2025 minutes were approved MF and seconded by CMK.

b. Actions Update

Action #	Meeting Date	Action Description	Action Owner	Deadline	Status
206	June	Supporters Proposal Rhoda to send the updated Supporters Proposal to the board	RM	July	Ongoing
207	August	Solar Project PM to respond on the decision from HIE to the board via email	PM	September	Ongoing
208	August	Buth Bhaile PM to revert back to board on the previous funding conditions.	PM	September	completed
209	August	Buth Bhaile PM to request valuation of the building, etc.	PM	September	completed



c. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Action taken between meetings

a. Business Units PV Array Project

The board reviewed the status of the PV array project, which is awaiting a decision from HIE on 20% funding. Despite uncertainty about the funding, the board agreed to proceed with the project due to sufficient available funds and potential financial benefits, estimated at £15,000 per year. They emphasized the need to maintain pressure on HIE for a quick decision and to clarify AES's responsibility to meet the project's timeline. MF commented that the FSG were not comfortable with the decision, but if there was no HIE then the funds would need to be raised if the project had to continue.

The board agreed to underwrite that 20% funding for TCEL to ensure the project progresses. PM to seek further clarity on funding from HIE and circulate more detailed figures for an email decision on the Trust essentially “guaranteeing” the HIE portion of the funding.

b. Gaelic Youth Activities Assistant

The board approved the advertising of the Gaelic Youth Activities Assistant by email, which will be a 0.8 FTE role. PM commented that the role doesn't have all of it fully funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, but in theory there should be a bit of the Robertson Trust Youth Activities money we could put towards it, and there is another possible short-term funding option just in, that may be available for this role.

5. 2025 Budget review

a. Budget Review update

b. Windfall Fund

The Windfall fund is currently closed until further updates are received about Tilley.

c. Finance Report

6. Working Group Reports

a. Crofters Support Project

IA updated the board on the Crofting Support Project and that no applications had been received in August.



b. Housing Working Group

PM presented the proposal paper to the board, outlining the various components, timetable and costs up until the end of stage 4, and asked the Board to agree to commit a further £62,374 of the Trust funds to the project, with the understanding that we should be able to reclaim it at later stage but cannot guarantee this.

The board discussed the project, focusing on fee levels and consultation strategies and agreed to proceed with the project, with fees to be paid in phases and a fixed fee structure to avoid cost overruns. They also decided to consult with potential residents, particularly younger people, and to consider using HebHomes for cost comparisons. They noted that the flood risk assessment would affect the layout, with a 10-meter offset to the ditch likely requiring a road upgrade.

The board approved funding of £62,374 for the project up to the end of Stage 4. Approval of stage by stage is required.

c. Childcare Working Group

PM met with the Council on 14th August. They continue to state a willingness to work towards solutions, although also continue to mainly focus on problems and reasons why they cannot do what is required. We will continue to push for a resolution and seek to get to a bottom-line position where we have identified what it would take to deliver a wider service. HIE are very much on board with how big of a problem this is and keen to help. They have “hooked” the Trust up with CALA to do a survey to see if there is a need for childcare (how many parents have children, would use a childcare service, and in particular asking people with children for 0-5 years of age).

d. Finance Subgroup

The Board discussed funding for various projects, including the housing project requiring £62,000 and a VAT cost of £13,300. They reviewed a cash flow model for the windfall fund, which showed sufficient funds to cover current commitments and strategic projects through 2030, even if the Tilly stopped generating. The board also noted that a £90,000 donation from TREL which will go to the investment fund, which would help address the current deficit.

The board approved the Trustee report and Trust final accounts.

The TCEL board (who were present at the meeting as TCDT directors) were asked if they would make no donation to the Trust, which would therefore mean no tax is paid, or if they made a donation then there would be a tax bill. They agreed to keep the funds within TCEL.

TCEL board agreed not to donate any funds to the Trust for the 2024 financial year.



e. Vet Project update

The board addressed concerns about veterinary services, noting that while a farm vet has been booked for testing, etc., pet owners may face difficulties accessing specialized veterinary care.

7. Staff Activity Reports

The board discussed concerns about safety and crowd management at events in particular the Ultramarathon, noting issues with “wild” camping and lack of control over where people were camping, etc. They highlighted a risk where weather conditions and lack of proper accommodation plans posed risks to participants' well-being. The board also addressed a growing problem of unauthorized long-term camping in various locations, which they attributed partly to changes in CalMac's booking system messaging.

They agreed to have a conversation with the ranger about her observations and potential improvements, while also considering ways to support her role in managing unauthorized camping.

8. AOB

The board discussed arrangements for the upcoming AGM on 29th September, including the preparation of guidance for chairs (or nominees) making reports and the need for nominations for director positions to be submitted by the 22nd September. There was clarification that while the rules require three directors to stand down at the AGM, we already have at least three that are already planning on leaving or who must stand down at this AGM anyway due to being appointed to a casual vacancy. This means that no additional directors need to retire this time.

9. DONM

The next board meeting will be the 21st October 2025 – 7pm.

10. Action Summary

Action #	Meeting Date	Action Description	Action Owner	Deadline	Status
206	June	Supporters Proposal Rhoda to send the updated Supporters Proposal to the board	RM	July	Ongoing
207	August	Solar Project PM to respond on the decision from HIE to the board via email	PM	September	Ongoing



210	September	A thank you letter to be sent to retiring directors	IA	September	New
-----	-----------	---	----	-----------	-----