

247th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sleat Community Trust

On: Monday 24th of November

In: Board Room & via [Teams](#)

MINUTES

1. Attendance:
 - a. Duncan MacInnes DMI, Ciorstan Howarth CH, Andy Williamson AW, Garry Noakes GN (SRL), Ade Stokes AS, Paddy McKay PM, Eilidh Grant EG (as chair), Myrielle Macleod MML (Admin), John MacDonald JMD
 - b. Teams: Gillian Munro GM (SMO)
 - c. Apologies: Donald MacDonald DMD (SCT Chair), Ruud van Ruitenbeek RvR (SCTCL Chair)
 - d. The board is quorate.

2. Items for AOB:
 - a.) Armadale Redevelopment Money (MML)
 - b.) Plot C (MML)
 - c.) Scottish Affairs Committee (AW)

3. Declarations of interest:
 - a. AW, DMI Sleat Community Council
 - b. CH, MML, DMI for Shop
 - c. PM for Hydro

4. Minutes of the last meeting, matters arising:
 - a. Proposed: AW, Seconded DMI
 - b. See action items below

5. Finance (AS):

AS circulated the latest Cashflow Report ahead of the meeting and it was shown on the screen at the meeting.

SCT's and SRL's Status remains Amber while SCTCL's Status remains green.

The combined cumulative Income & Costs slide shows that the income is ahead by approximately £30,000 of the target income. Meanwhile the costs are higher than anticipated by approximately £50,000.

The SCT bank balance is in better position than forecasted. The October income showed figures that were corrected from the September income. The forecast does show a downward trend which can be changed by the MOU End of Year Payment from the Shop as well as Money from selling Plot C as well as SRL doing the felling.

However, this does show that the revenue SCT can make is not an ongoing revenue, but one offs.

The SCTCL Cumulative Income and Costs slide shows that the costs have been higher than the expenses. This may be due to the Power cuts and stock lost through this as well as buying in Christmas Stock ahead of time.

In the SCTCL Minutes the shop reported that October's figures were not as good as September's figures however in the forecast, October is actually looking better than September.

The SCTCL Bank Balance slide shows that the Shop balance is sensitive to changes and as SCT is dependent on Shop Income this needs to be added to the Risk Register. The Savings Account is also shown on the SCTCL Total Cash Balance Slide, and this includes now £5,000 from Skyenet.

SRL has managed to get some income from selling the blower however VAT had to come off the Sale and 52% of sale will have to be repaid to HIE who originally gave the Grant to buy the blower. Overall, the bank balance is still looking healthy.

The Forecast has been done before the new arrangements with Matt Adams Woodfuel business came into effect so pre-dates the transition. This makes the figures not accurate anymore.

The next VAT Return for SRL will be in February and the VAT for the sale of the blower will show up then.

6. SRL (Renewables): General update

GN updated the board.

The Head of Terms Agreement that was signed between SRL and Matt Adams was supposed to become a contract but on speaking to a solicitor it was decided to make this into a licence to occupy instead.

The Long-Term Forest Plan has still not been approved. Alan Drever, Chris Pendlebury and Polly MacInnes will meet with Susan Jones who has taken over the LTFP on 9/12 about this.

GN has contacted politicians to speed up the approval process for the LTFP.

The Certification for Woodland Accreditation is proving very onerous. Phil Webb from UKWAS has given several action points to fulfil with various deadlines attached to them.

The Certification would provide SRL with better prices for selling wood on but is proving difficult to obtain as a result of various issues including First Aid Requirements for the Deer Stalkers. The Standards for this certification are designed for much larger ventures than Tormore Forest.

The SRL board is therefore considering to not go ahead with the Certification even though this may result in less revenue. The SCT board agreed to leave the decision with the SRL board for determination. However, AW pointed out that at the moment

there is no market for uncertified wood due to a lot of wood flooding the market after the recent storms.

7. SCTCL (Trading): General update

RvR was not available to update the board however the latest Trading Minutes for October and November were circulated before the meeting.

The first Power Cut claim has gone in, and the second claim is being dealt with at the moment.

In the foyer, a new CCTV camera has been installed, and the board is looking at installing more lights outside the shop.

8. Strategy, governance and management (AW):

a.) Skills Review: nothing to discuss this meeting

b.) Risk Register:

The Risk Register will need to be resend to all 3 boards again so they can flag anything that needs changing. The Risk Register needs to be regularly reviewed and updated. PM set up another meeting to discuss the Risk Register.

c.) Local Action Plan: nothing to discuss this meeting

d.) Gaelic Policy Review: nothing to discuss this meeting, a meeting on this will follow after the SCT meeting

e.) AGM November 2025/Accounts approval:

The AGM has now been rescheduled for Thursday 22nd of January at 7pm in An Crùbh.

In the Accounts, it shows that there is money being owed from SCT to SRL. These numbers need to be looked at and clarified before the accounts can be signed off. AS reminded the board that any intercompany transactions in the accounting system need to have corresponding intercompany invoices to ensure an audit trail.

9. IT Matters (PM):

Nothing to report on at the moment. PM to set up Sleat Email Accounts for John and Ciorstan.

10. Development (AW):

a.) Old Sleat Road project

The Old Sleat Road project aims to restore the old road from Drumfearn via the Cattlegrid to Skullamus in 3 Phases to make it accessible for walking and cycling. The first phase is the to link the current track to the Drumfearn Road and clear the road to its original width.

A grant towards this has been offered for £250,000 and Highland Council have quoted this amount for the work. The money for this needs to be claimed by the

End of February which means Highland Council needs to guarantee that the invoice has been raised before this so the money can be claimed back otherwise SCT will be liable for payment.

b.) Community Ranger Tormore & Tormore Management Group:

Employing a Community Ranger is dependent on the Management Group. The TMG will be discussed at the AGM and a meeting for the group will follow after the AGM.

Polly and Duncan MacInnes will be going to Holyrood on 4/12 for the Woodland Award and the SCT board would like to note their thanks to them and all the Tormore Volunteers.

c.) Strengthening Communities Programme update:

The bid for this funding is now in, and the shortlisted applicants will be informed in December. The Fund has had more applications than anticipated.

d.) Formation of Development sub-group:

To tie up any loose ends and project ideas, AW is suggesting to form a Development sub-group which will be a focussed group that will look at proposals and project ideas and check if these may be feasible. This will need to be done before a Development Officer can be employed.

The formation of this group will be mentioned at the AGM.

11. Defibrillator use course (MML):

It was suggested to hold a course on how to use the defibrillator correctly and do this as a joined course with the community. MML is awaiting costs on the course.

12. Hydro Funding (DMI):

For the last Funding round at the end of October, 3 funding applications have gone in. The Funding Group decided to award all 3 Applicants £500 each. The applicants are Bun-Sgoil Shleite Parent Council, the Community Café and Ardvasar Polyntunnel Permaculture group. The SCT Board approved these proposals.

The Polyntunnel group applied for more money to help with their tasks but instead it would be good to have a discussion with them or maybe set up a working group to provide help.

DMI will contact the applicants on behalf of SCT's Hydro Fund Group.

The Deadline for the next applications will be End of February and then End of June followed by End of October, so every 4 months. DMI will advertise these deadlines in the next Newsletter.

MML will circulate the Hydro Funding spreadsheet with all the information again to the board.

13. AOB

a.) Armadale Redevelopment Money (MML):

MML pointed out that there is still a bank account for the Armadale Redevelopment which has around £50 in it. It was suggested that the money in there can be used to repair the Shop Office's door lock or be used for other improvements in the building.

b.) Plot C (MML):

A request has been made from a couple who were interested in purchasing the plot and building on it with help from R house.

After looking at the information, JMD informed the board that the Rural Housing Burden has NOT been lifted yet and that a Planning in Principle application without the affordable housing terms needs to go in. After that, the plot can be offered on the open market.

JMD will proceed with putting in the planning application. MML will contact R. House and let them know about the change in circumstances with the Plot and that it cannot be sold yet.

c.) Scottish Affairs Committee (AW):

The Scottish Affairs Committee is coming to Skye and AW will be meeting with them on behalf of the Sleat Community Council on the 8/12. DMI will possibly join the meeting. To be discussed are Resilience in Network, High Streets and Bridges building. If anyone would like to mention something in regard to this, please contact AW ahead of the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 19:08 pm and the next meeting is on Monday, 15th of December in the Boardroom. This meeting is being held earlier due to the Christmas Period.

ACTION ITEMS

	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOME
1	Put up proposition for transitioning from Dropbox to Sharepoint and general IT strategy	PM	In process
2	Speak to VOLTSHARE to transition white charger over to them	MML	In process
3	Identify CDLT land outwith sales and register interest	JMD	In process
5	Go ahead with amending or getting new Shop sign and show to Trust	RvR, PM	Carry Forward
6	Get SCT Offices sign	RvR, PM	Carry forward
7	Contact SSE about funding for Generator	RvR	In process
8	Follow up with Octopus energy about EV Charger Rate and Hydro Peer to Peer use	RvR	Carry Forward
9	Bring forward Old Pier proposal	DMD	Carry Forward
10	Circulate Risk Register with all boards and invite to meeting	MML	Done

11	Get accountants to clarify Accounts	MML	Done
12	Get Accounts signed off	MML	This Meeting
13	Set up Sleat Email Accounts for John, Ciorstan	PM	
14	Put TMG and Development Sub Group on AGM Agenda	MML	Done
15	Organise Defibrillator use course	MML	To do with First Aid Course
16	Inform applicants of successful award of Hydro Funding	DMI	
17	Advertise Hydro Fund and Deadline in Newsletter	DMI	
18	Circulate Hydro Funding information to board	MML	Done
19	Put in PIP application and remove housing burden	JMD	
20	Email R.House about change in Plot circumstances	MML	Done