

250th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sleat Community Trust

On: Monday 23rd of February

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

MINUTES

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

2. Items for AOB:
 - a.) new Scottish Languages Act 2025/proposed Areas of Linguistic Significance/proposed Gaelic Plan for Skye and Lochalsh (GM)
 - b.) Minibus Charger (MML)
 - c.) Member Approval (MML)
 - d.) Visit from Glenfinnan Community Trust (DMD)
 - e.) Marquee (DMD)

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

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

5. Finance (AS):

AS circulated the latest Cashflow Report ahead of the meeting but is now no longer Finance Director for SCT.

It was noted that the Status of SCT is now red due to the Money in the Bank falling below the Reserve Level. It is continuing to go down with no income coming in to offset this. There is still income due from SRL such as the accrued MOU payments but going forward, SRL is not going to be paying any MOU.

The Trust will need to speak to the SCTCL Board about increasing their share to the Trust. Overall, SCT needs to save on costs and generate funds. The application for getting a grant to hire a BDO is therefore important.

Ideas need to be generated, and discussions need to be had.

In the past there has been Finance Group and during the Meetings it was looked at how to deal more productive with the Finances of the Trust. Ade is still generating the spreadsheet for the SCT Meetings but not presenting them.

The Finance Group can be involved in the Finances until a replacement for Ade can be found. There will need to be presentation from all revenue generating Boards so from SRL and SCTCL as well as SCT.

Tracy Broadley has expressed an interest in taking over Ade's Role as Finance Director, but she is to be contacted by the end of the next quarter to check if she is still interested.

The spreadsheet was discussed and there was a difference between Page 9 to Page 11 of 2k to 11k noted. An explanation is inserted here:

Page 9 shows all income to the Trust Bank Account and all Expenses leaving the Trust Account. This includes the £7141.23 received and £8201.68 going out which came in and were paid to Trading for their Insurance Claim. This also includes any income and expensed that are for the restricted funds such as the Sleat Nature Group, South Skye Table Tennis Group, Hydro Benefit Fund, Community Café etc.

Page 11 only shows the Bank Balance of Unrestricted Funds for SCT so the balance without any of the restricted funds.

6. SRL (Renewables): General update

No representative was available to join the meeting. The Meeting Minutes were send to the board ahead of time.

7. SCTCL (Trading): General update

No representative was available to join the meeting. The Meeting Minutes were send to the board ahead of time.

The Board wanted to know why the decision was made to raise funds via a bake sale rather than go down the route of getting a grant from SSEN.

The shop has its 5-year anniversary of moving into the new building with a celebration on Tuesday and Saturday. On those days there is also a 10% discount on items in the shop. There is also a photo competition starting in conjunction with Visit Sleat and there are different categories for people to take part in. Prizes will be supplied by PM.

8. Strategy, governance and management (AW):

There was no strategy to be discussed this meeting.

9. IT Matters (PM):

PM is still working on the transfer from Dropbox to SharePoint. This is not an urgent task.

MML has had Issues with her desktop recently and a new machine is probably needed. There is the option of getting a refurbished machine with warranties. PM to look at this. MML to ask HIE for funding for a new PC.

A question regarding Cyber Security was raised. At the moment the Trust is not certified, and people are being encouraged to use sleat.org email address which will in future link to Microsoft SharePoint. PM is trying to migrate data from Dropbox to SharePoint and then access to documents can be controlled via the Email Addresses.

10. Land Purchase Rawlinson (MML):

The Rawlinson' want to buy a small amount of land adjacent to their Plot and asked for this in 2025. All present agreed that this is fine however the process for the sale has stalled.

The Rawlinson's solicitor should be making an offer to the Trust's solicitor about buying the plot. Meanwhile MML will check with TC Young Solicitor's if they received any paperwork for this. It was agreed to continue to use TC Young for this sale as the local solicitors are busy and the Rawlinson's are paying the fee.

JMD updated the board on progress with the Plot C Sale. The neighbours have received a planning permission notice from the council. The Plot has now been advertised for Planning and is awaiting any comments.

Meanwhile the Council is asking the Small Housings Trust for feedback on their advertising and responses to this while the Rural Housing Burden was still attached. This is to determine whether the Plot can be advertised in future without the Rural Housing Burden. Things are all moving along well and hopefully there will more information by the end of March.

The Market price SCT can be expecting upon sale is about £70,000 as per Remax valuation.

11. Tormore Management Group: Report on Meeting (DMI):

DMI sent out a report from the recent Tormore Management Group Meeting. It was overall a good meeting with 12 participants. It was an informal discussion about what management to aim for, and it was highlighted that this new group is not there to replace SRL. A lot of brainstorming of projects was done and the management of community parts of the Forest was discussed such as invasive species. It was agreed that communication with visitors and locals needs to be improved and a list of current and potential woodland users was made.

One future user could be SMO, where the students could come and help on a Wednesday Afternoon by doing for example Tree planting. The primary school can

also get involved by providing different projects for different age groups. EG confirmed that SMO students are off on a Wednesday afternoon however they still have a lot of other commitments so a regular Wednesday at Tormore is not feasible. However, their Community Module could be used to tie in e.g. students could meet Gaelic Speakers such as Polly in Tormore and speak in Gaelic while working. The minibus can be used to help facilitate this, but it needs to be booked in advance. The next meeting will be on the 10/3 and then there will also be a Tormore Open Day at the Polytunnel on the 21/3 which will be advertised via the Tormore Facebook page as well as the normal SCT Facebook page and SCT Website. It was noted that the SCT Website is not shouting or promoting Tormore as much as liked. DMI and PM to converse what to change.

It was also suggested that a photography competition in Forest could take place in the summer. There will be open days in Tormore with guided walks in March and during the Sleat Nature Group Festival in July.

12. Tormore Volunteers Budget and Funding (DMI):

It was discussed where the Hydro Funding would be best used for. The ongoing Public Funding is due its next tranche at the End of February, but Ciorstan has now left the Hydro Funding Group and SCT Board.

DMI suggested that a percentage of the annual Hydro Money should be used for the Tormore Management Group so things in Tormore can be done professionally. A budget was pulled together and a copy provided to the board of the various items required for the management of the Forest. The whole budget is for £6,327.87.

It was suggested to therefore allocated 50% of the Community Benefit Fund to the Tormore Management Group each year. The yearly Hydro allocation is currently £6,000 which needs to be used up. The current money held by the Trust for this is over £7,000 with another yearly tranche of money coming in soon.

If the money is allocated to the TMG this would provide a conflict of interest with DMI so DMI is withdrawing from the Community Benefit Fund group and someone else will have to step in.

All present were happy with the proposal, and it was accepted. For this, a restricted Tormore Management Group Fund will be set up by MML in Xero and on the spreadsheet. All payments can then be made via the SCT bank account.

An initial allocation of £3,000 to the TMG restricted fund was agreed to and this will be reviewed at the end of the year.

With DMI and Ciorstan leaving the Allocation group there need to be 2 more people to join EG. It was agreed that both JMD and GN should join. Decisions are usually made via email.

DMI to put invitations for Funding for Community Groups into the next Newsletter.

13. Newsletter Update (DMI):

The next newsletter is in process with some information and articles from the AGM, what's been going on over last months and Hydro Funding Note will be added in this as well. A list of Board Members will also be put in, MML to send up to date list to DMI. DMI will also contact the new Clan Donald Landowners and EG will be involved in this as well. PM will also talk to new owners on behalf of Visit Sleat. DMD to put the new owners in touch with PM. DMI will drop new owners an email.

14. Tourism Opportunity for SCT (DMI):

Overseas Adventure Travels made contact through the Trust office and DMI spoke with them. They are a commercial enterprise who take 16 visitors up to Scotland to engage with communities. They are looking for somewhere to go for 2.5 hours on an afternoon, and the company would over 2,000 dollars to set this up which is over 38 dates between April and November. This would work out as only £32.50 per visit which is not a lot for the extra work and commitment that would have to be put in. DMI will contact them to say the Trust is interested however this would be an enormous commitment and would require a guaranteed profit to make it financially worth while for the Trust. DMI to contact the group.

15. Ferry Group Update (PM):

PM gave some updates via email and in person from the Ferry Group. There will be no Loch Fyne at all this year for Ferry Crossings and the Coruisk can only hold 36 cars and the Loch Bhrosda only 12 cars. This is a big loss in carrying capacity and there will also be no coaches on some ferries. The vessels can all be called away at short notice as Skye has the bridge. The Sound of Sleat Ferry Users Group has written Calmac as well as getting the MSPs involved; a meeting will be arranged hopefully as well. There is a big loss of confidence in the route and there now has been an announcement that there will be no ferry service at all over the Easter Holidays.

16. AOB:

A.) new Scottish Languages Act 2025/proposed Areas of Linguistic Significance/proposed Gaelic Plan for Skye and Lochalsh (GM):

GM updated the board that there is now a new act in place to protect Gaelic and Scots. SMO is mentioned in the new act, and this act gives the opportunity to review funding and the status of the college.

An important part of the new legislation is that it will create areas of linguistic significance which can be funded by the Highland Council. For this, a new group has been set up which will make a language plan for Skye and Raasay. GM will attend these meetings on behalf of SCT every month. All

present are happy for GM to attend these meetings. SL will likely join this meeting as well. GM to send information to SL about this.

B.) Minibus Charger (MML):

The transition to a new provider for the minibus is still ongoing. The latest Feedback from Volt share mentioned the option of getting a Free Plug and Charge Charger which then is only being used for the Trust Minibus. All present happy to proceed with this.

C.) Member Approval (MML):

A request for joining the Trust came through via email. All happy for person to join the Membership.

D.) Visit from Glenfinnan Community Trust (DMD):

DMD updated the board about a recent visit from the Glenfinnan Community Trust who looked at the shop and Tormore. It is great that groups are hearing about the Trust, Shop and Forest and are interested in finding out what we are doing.

E.) Marquee (DMD):

DMD has currently got a large marquee in storage that can take up to 50 people. As there is no marquee hire locally available it was suggested to store the marquee and rent it out locally to make some income for the Trust. The marquee could also be used for local festivals and events. DMI to mention this in Newsletter.

The meeting concluded at 19: 10 pm and the next meeting is on Monday, 23rd of February in the Boardroom.

ACTION ITEMS

	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOME
1	Identify CDLT land outwith sales and register interest	JMD	In process
2	Go ahead with amending or getting new Shop sign and show to Trust, get SCT Offices Sign	RvR, PM	In process
3	Contact SSE about funding for Generator	RvR	In process
4	Find Replacement for Finance Director	SCT Board	
5	SRL and SCT to discuss how to go forward with WOC and money owed	SRL and SCT Board	
6	SRL Meeting about Woodland Certification	SRL Board	
7	Look at changing SCT Constitution	AW	
8	Organise Finance Group Meeting ahead of next SCT Meeting	MML	

9	Find explanation for difference in money in spreadsheet	MML	Done and added to Minutes 25/02/26
10	Ask RvR why Bake Sale rather than Grant from SSEN for generator	SCT Board	
11	Look at refurbished PC's with warranties	PM	
12	Ask HIE for funding for new PC	MML	In Process 25/02/2026
13	Email TC Young about Rawlinson Plot Sale	MML	
14	Report back to Rawlinson with Solicitor answer	MML	
15	Set up restricted Fund for TMG	MML	
16	Transfer £3000 from Hydro Fund to TMG	MML	
17	Send up to date Board Member List to DMI	MML	
18	Put new Clan Donald Owners in touch with PM regarding Visit Sleat	DMD	
19	Drop new owners an email regarding Newsletter	DMI	
20	Get back in touch with Overseas Travel	DMI	
21	Send information about Group Meeting to SL	GM	
22	Add Marquee Hire in Newsletter	DMI	
23	Speak to SCTCL Board about raising MOU	SCT Board	
24	Change Tormore Part on SCT Website	DMI and PM	