

253rd Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sleat Community Trust

On: Monday 25th of May 2026

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

MINUTES

1. Attendance:
 - a. In Person: Duncan MacInnes (DMI), Andy Williamson (AW), John MacDonald (JMD), Paddy McKay (PM), Catherine de Vries (CdV, Shop Manager), Norma MacPherson (NM, Shop Manager)
 - b. Via Teams: Eilidh Grant (EG), MML (Office Admin), Gillian Munro (GM, SMO), Donaidh MacDonald (DMD, SCT Chair)
 - c. Apologies: Ruud van Ruitenbeek (RvR, SCTCL Chair), Garry Noakes (GN, SRL)
 - d. The board is quorate.

2. Items for AOB:
 - a.) Animal Policy (MML)
 - b.) Hole in SCT Garden (MML)
 - c.) Marquee for BCT (MML)
 - d.) Newsletter (DMI)

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

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

AW was chairing the meeting.

5. Finance:

AS circulated the latest Cashflow Report ahead of the meeting but is now no longer Finance Director for SCT. Commentary was missing on the graphs this time around. The Finance Working Group is going to meet up with AS to discuss the forecast and how to take it forward and over from AS. The insurance meeting can be held on the same day so the Finance Meeting will be on the 3/6 at 2:30 followed by the insurance meeting at 3:30.

DMD spoke with Donnelly who is a former accountant and interested in helping the board out with Finances. DMD has already linked her up with AS. She will also be invited to the next Finance Meeting.

6. SCTCL (Trading): General Update:

No one from the Trading board was available however Shop Managers CdV and NM joined the meeting. The shops board report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Shop Managers reported that the sales have been quieter than expected. This is mainly due to the delay in getting any ferries but the fuel prices may also have an impact on sales. With some ferries back up running the sales should have picked up by now but are still lagging behind. It seems that people are not coming down to Sleat but if they are they are also not stopping and spending money. This is being felt by all the businesses in Sleat at the moment and it is therefore important to promote the area better. Visit Sleat is at its capacity and can't do too much more.

To help people visit the shop more one idea is to increase the signage on the main roads and also to get brochures into the rental properties. At the Network Event that was held recently a list of businesses had been gathered that could work together. CdV informed the board that Councillor Christine Gillies has got in touch to get a dialogue going with all the independent/community owned grocery stores. A joined advert in the WHFP is also possible. Another advert in the WHFP and also an advert in the Echo could be a good idea for the shop. Overall, there needs to be more spending on advertising which also includes getting some advertising onto the Calmac Ferries. Shop Managers to speak to Calmac. To bring in more visitors, using social media more would be beneficial. Some of the younger shop staff might be able to help with promoting the store on social media.

The board will back up any promotion the store wants to do in conjunction with Visit Sleat. The Shop managers also mentioned that they would like to recruit another Trading Board member, ideally someone with Marketing/Social Media skills.

In regard to the generator, Gift Aid has now been approved by HMRC and can be used for the Crowdfunder RvR is working on currently. There is also an application in with SSEN. For a crowd funding target, it was suggested to go higher rather than lower and set the target at £20,000.

7. Finance Subgroup Report (PM):

a.) Recruitment – Community Development Officer

Recruitment is underway with several adverts. Closing date for applications is the 12/6. An interview panel needs to be organised with someone from the Trust, Trading and a non board member in it. Di van Ruitenbeek has offered to be the non board member for this.

Once the application is closed, the board will be informed who has applied for the post.

The advert for the post needs to be boosted and promoted again. MML to push out on FB again at the end of the week.

8. SRL (Renewables): General update

No one from SRL was available at the meeting.

a.) Tormore Open Day (DMI):

The last Open Day was successful with 40 people joining which consisted of the regular volunteers, some visitors, and some people from Broadford. Another open day will be held soon.

b.) New equipment (DMI):

DMI informed the board about the new equipment that has arrived. A powered wheelbarrow has been purchased, and this will be launched at the next open day. The VAT on this cannot be claimed back as per Accountant as the item is not classed as an asset for getting income by the accountants.

MML to speak to Accountants about the possibility of getting a VAT exemption certificate for SCT and also what would be a justified asset to be purchased via SRL to claim VAT back.

DMI also informed the board that the signage at Tormore is being reviewed and there is the opportunity to add a sign there as well guiding visitors to the shop.

9. Strategy, governance and management:

a.) Risk Register Review:

This can be discussed and agreed remotely.

10. IT Matters (PM):

Nothing to report for this meeting.

11. Ferry Group Update (PM):

PM informed the board that the last Ferry Group Meeting had been postponed and is now due on Friday. With having some ferries back on, PM reported an uptake of sales in his business however this is still not as much as was 2 years ago as there were also ferry issues last year.

12. Old Pier Update (DMD):

DMD is still awaiting details from Lucilla Noble's advisor about the proposal what will be gifted to the Trust.

DMD met with the Mooring Society Committee, and they were all pleased about the pier being gifted.

For this to work, a business plan needs to be developed and grants for upgrading the old pier would need to be looked at. There is also the query if FEI would help to upgrade the old pier.

It is also important to speak to Calmac about their new pier and get a dialogue with them.

The Moorings Society has already identified some issues with the Old Pier and there are risks with this. The vision for this project would be 15-20 years.

13. AOB- from items given in 2 above

a.) Animal Policy (MML):

A draft version of a policy was circulated among the board and the shop managers also reviewed this. All present agreed with the policy, and this has now been ratified and put into place as of the 25/5/2026.

b.) Hole in SCT Garden:

The hole in the garden which was supposed to be an archeological site has been there for a long time. All present agreed to get it filled with soil and then plant something on top. MML to tell Maggie at the Historical society about the plan and advise that it can always be opened again. DMI to speak to the Community Payback Scheme to see if they could help with filling the hole.

c.) BCT Marquee Hire:

MML asked on behalf of BCT about using the Marquee for their Old Mill Hall opening on the 21st of August. The marquee takes 4 people a full day to get it up and about 3-4 hours to take it down. It therefore needs to be gotten in advance and set up and taken down on a dry day so takes a lot of effort and time.

The suggestion was that BCT can borrow this for a realistic donation. MML to pass the message on.

It was also suggested to make up an info sheet about the marquee with guidelines. MML to action.

d.) Newsletter:

DMI done a shout out for the next newsletter and the deadline for this is in 3 weeks time. Local commercial enterprises can place adverts in the Newsletter for a price as well. It would also be beneficial to mention the next Hydro Fund Deadline in the newsletter.

Overall, it was also agreed to extend the Hydro Fund deadline to mid July and to advertise it again on Facebook.

The meeting concluded at 19:15 pm and the next meeting is on Monday, 29th of June 2026 in the Boardroom.

ACTION ITEMS

	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOME
1	Go ahead with amending or getting new Shop sign and show to Trust, get SCT Offices Sign	RvR, PM	In process
2	Review List of potential projects	All Board Members	In process, put on next months Agenda
3	Pull together proposal for new PCs, laptop	PM	In process
4	Quarterly Risk Register Review due	All Board Members	To be put on next months Agenda
5	give RvR access to Bank Accounts	MML	In process
6	Get back in touch with Voltshare about Minibus Chargers	MML	In process
7	Open Go Fund Me Page for Generator	RvR	
8	Check Time Zones for Meeting Requests	PM	
9	Finance Group meeting to organise with AS to look at Forecast on 3/6 at 2:30pm	MML	DONE
10	Confirm Insurance Meeting on 3/6 at 3:30pm	MML	DONE
11	Speak to Calmac about Shop Advertising on Ferries	Shop Managers	
12	Invite Donnelly to next Finance Meeting	MML	DONE
13	Set up Interview Panel	MML	In process
14	Push Job Advert on FB again	MML	DONE
15	Speak to accountants: SCT Vat exemption certificate?	MML	DONE
16	Speak to accountants: what is a justifiable asset via SRL to claim VAT back	MML	DONE
17	Contact Maggie at the Historical Society to inform SCT would like to fill hole in garden & explain that it can always be dug out again	MML	DONE
18	Get in touch with Community Payback Scheme to see if they can help fill hole with soil	DMI	
19	Inform BCT about Marquee use	MML	DONE
20	Make up info sheet with guidelines for Marquee use	MML	In process
21	Advertise Hydro Funding on Facebook	MML	DONE