254th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sleat Community Trust

On: Monday 29th of June 2026

In: Board Room & via Teams

MINUTES

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

2. Items for AOB:

a) Chairs

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

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

AW was chairing the meeting.

5. Finance:

Finance Report for June was sent by Donnelly Bettis ahead of Meeting to the board and shown on screen at the meeting. Page 3 confirms the overall situation with the Trust spending more than it is earning which was noted by the board.

SRL will have the LTFP on the public register soon. Once it has been put on the register there is a 4 week wait and then felling can commence. There is no need for a separate felling licence.

The income for SRL was higher in May and will be again in June due to 2 Grants that Alan Drever has secured for Tormore.

RvR explained that the Trading board and shop managers are working on the projected loss predicted in the forecast. There is not much control over the overheads however the biggest item on the overheads is wages. There have been difficulties with the weekly NISA delivery which used to come on Tuesday mornings at a set time but has now moved to afternoon delivery which makes it more difficult.

This would be manageable if they stuck to a specific time but that has not happened so rotas are currently not matching the deliveries resulting in the managers to ask staff to go home early or get extra hours in when the delivery is there. The Shop Managers aware of those costs and are trying to bring them down.
The first few months of the season have not been as busy as expected due to various reasons, but this is affecting all of the island.
RvR also pointed out that there is still a £32,000 loan in the Forecast that SCT had given to Trading when it took over the Shop. This paid for stock from the old Shop. Officially this has not been paid back however the MOUs and Profits Trading has paid up to the Trust over the years could negate that. It needs to be checked with the accountants if it is more beneficial to keep the loan on the books or not.
Donnelly's legal situation with the Trust has not been verified yet. DMD needs to let the board know this.

6. Finance Sub-Group Report (AW):
   AW reported back on the last Finance Subgroup meeting, which was attended by AW, PM, Ade Stokes, TP, RvR, MML and Donnelly Bettis.
   During this it was discussed how Xero can be used to review reporting and data structures so they can be optimised and the board can get better reporting from Xero. Donnelly is happy to help with this as she has a background in accounting and working with Xero.
   It was flagged that the Risk Register needs to be reviewed and items added to it.
   A discussion needs to be held over future SRL contributions in form of MOU's and repaying MOUs owed which needs to involve SRL and SCT board members. Donaidh to meet with SRL about this.
   The Governance and management of Tormore was mentioned and the group needs a clear picture of roles, but this is not an immediate issue. The current set up for Tormore and SRL needs also to be clarified and the future needs to be looked at.
   It was also noted that the felling needs to be done as soon as possible.

7. Recruitment – Community Development Officer
   AW reported that there were 4 applications of which 2 have been shortlisted and their interviews will be this Wednesday. There was an overall consensus on who to interview. RvR noted that it would be useful for the candidates to meet the Shop Managers to get them involved but this will not be done at the first interview especially with one applicant being interviewed remotely. However, if a second interview is set up, this has been noted for it.
   Neither of the candidates is perfect on paper as all have gaps, but this is an opportunity for the board and them.

a.) Review potential projects

This was not reviewed during this meeting as there were not enough board members and the list of projects is very long.
There are some core projects that are linked to the government funding for the CDO post which have been put down as being deliverable.
The first quarterly report for the funding is due in the next couple of weeks. For this it is needed how much was spent on recruitment advertising. MML to inform AW. AW will then do the first report and show MML how to do this report going forward.
Once the CDO is in place a separate meeting can be set up to discuss all projects.

8. SCTCL (Trading): General Update:

SCTCL minutes were circulated prior to meeting and RvR was there to report.
There has been a discussion on how to increase turnover. The Shop managers have suggested extending the opening hours, but this needs further discussion due to the costs involved. There have been evening opening hours in the past, but these didn't increase the turnover much. The numbers will therefore need to be looked at before deciding on anything. There is also the option to open for a full day on Saturday and/or opening half a a day on Sunday or opening the shop early during the week (8am). These changes would only be applied in the peak summer months.
There has also been an important development with Visit Sleat. Both PM and Jane McDermott want to step down but will be happy to help to find successors and arrange a handover for this. This is an opportunity for all to step back and revisit and review Visit Sleat and make a plan for it.
Skyenet has things ticking over with a bigger workload due to the storm last week but there have been no major outages.
Strategically Skyenet is thinking in longer term to remove some radio links via hubs and instead move more towards fibre-based networks as these are becoming more available in Sleat. This would be quite a lot of work to do so Calum would be needing assistance for this to rebuild the network. Using less radio links would also help to reduce being affected by tidal changes. This is a longer term plan and not one for the next couple of months.

9. SRL (Renewables): General update

No one from SRL was available at the meeting but SRL minutes from the last meeting were circulated prior to the meeting.
There are some degraded logs in Tormore that are now being advertised for £1 each in the next Newsletter. For this, any delivery details need to be finalised. The Contract with Matt is still outstanding as the board is awaiting information from GN on this but have not had an update yet.
There is the opportunity to raised money via a Grant for a Tormore Ranger, but a conversation needs to be held first about the structure and governance of Tormore.

10. Strategy, governance and management:
    a.) Risk Register Review:

    This has been put on hold for this meeting. The Finance subgroup should review this and others will be invited to this as well. MML to organise meeting for this in next 6-8 weeks.

11. IT Matters (PM):
    PM is following up on getting new laptops for the CDO and MML in the office. There is a budget for this in the CDO Funding of £600.
    PM is also still in the process of putting everything on SharePoint to move away from Dropbox but is currently struggling for time. There may be allowance in the funding to employ someone who can get this all transferred and up and running.

12. Ferry Group Update (PM):
    There has been a recent meeting with Transport Scotland where the Ferry Group took part in and gave their opinion.
    PM will follow up with Calmac on Shop Advertising.

13. Tormore Community Group (DMI):

a.) Proposed projects:
    DMI informed the Board that there are various projects that can be done such as redoing the notice entry board, put up picnic benches, put a roof on the bothy, make a sculpture park or keep fit units as well as a toilet. These ideas have been gathered during various get togethers.
    The extending of the current camping van area in the proposed projects for the new CDO.
    DMI also pointed out that the gates at Tormore need replacing but wasn't sure if this is the responsibility of SRL or the Tormore Group.

b.) Midsummer Gathering:
    The midsummer event that was held went well and about 25 people came. It will be good to organise similar events in the future.

14. Community Payback Group – work at Shop Garden (DMI):

DMI has been in touch with the Community Payback Group, and they have partly filled the hole in the SCT garden. They also dug out the drain by the Polytunnel in Tormore and used that soil for the hole but they will be back to finish it of.

There was a suggestion from the shop if the team can strim the area across the road to provide access to the shop however this may be a public liability issue as the footpath is public. Another request was to clear near the road and cut back growth but this might be a road department job.

DMI continues to be the link to the team.

15. An Slèiteach (DMI):
    DMI brought copies of the Draft Newsletter to the meeting. The newsletter has 16 pages and some parts still need to be translated into Gaelic. There are still a couple of days to review and amend this.
    As the file gets bigger every time it was suggested to put the Newsletter on the SCT Website and then put the link to it in an email instead of sending the whole file. AW also advised how to compress pictures for emails.
    For this issue, DMI has suggested to use Strath Print and to get 250 copies printed. There may be a slight loss between the outlay for this and the selling of the newsletter at £1 each but there is also money coming back in for putting adverts in the Newsletter. All present agreed to go ahead with printing via Strath Print.

16. Insurance Meeting confirm Date (MML):
    The board advised picking a date for an insurance review meeting and then just circulate it.

17. AOB- from items given in 2 above

a.) Chairs:

As most of the chairs in the boardroom are sagging or cannot be shifted up anymore, the buying of new chairs was suggested.

The board feels there is no need for anything special and padded normal chairs that are stackable would be preferred. PM is visiting a second hand office furniture store in Glasgow to look for chairs. DMI is looking for basic tables for the Polytunnel and will contact Mike at SMO for this. He can also check if there are any chairs there.

Overall, 10 chairs would be required.

The meeting concluded at 18:52 pm and the next meeting is on Monday, 27th of July 2026 in the Boardroom.

ACTION ITEMS

	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOME
1	Get back in touch with Voltshare about Minibus Chargers	MML	In process
2	Speak to Calmac about Shop Advertising on Ferries	PM	
3	Speak to Accountants about keeping old loan from SCT to SCTCL on books or negate against paid MOU/Profits	RvR	
4	Clarify Donnelly’s position within Trust	DMD	
5	Meet with someone from SRL to discuss MOU’s	DMD	
6	Inform AW about how much money was spent on recruitment advertising	MML	DONE
7	Organise Finance Meeting to review Risk Register	MML	DONE
8	Make insurance Meeting Date and circulate	MML	DONE