

**211th MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of SLEAT COMMUNITY TRUST (SCT)
Monday, 12th December 2022
7.30pm, Boardroom and Zoom**

ATTENDANCE: Martin MacGillivray (MM) (Chair), Roddy Murray (RM) (Trustee), Eilidh Grant (EG) (Trustee), Polly MacInnes (PM) (Vice Chair), Flora MacLean (FM) (Trustee), Dòmhnall Angaidh MacLennan (DAM) (Trustee)

NB: 6 members in attendance =50% , therefore meeting declared quorate.

Guest: Steve Macken from Lomond Energy

1. **Apologies:** Garry Noakes (GN), Ade Stokes (AS) (EAG advisor), Mike Shucksmith (MS) (Business Development Officer), Ruairidh Morrison (RMN), John Duncan MacInnes (JDM) (Trustee), Sarah Hess (SH) Administrator, Andrea Nollent (AN) (Trustee), Ruud van Ruitenbeek (RR) (SCTCL Chair), Chris Pendlebury (CP) (SRL Chair)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** MM & RM, declared an ongoing interest in the Hydro scheme.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

PM had a number of corrections to the minutes which were covered and PM undertook to send them to SH for inclusion.

The meeting was unclear as to whether Garry Noakes had been officially co-opted as an SCT director. SH to be asked to check on this.

Subject to the above, the 210th meeting minutes were proposed by PM seconded by RM, approved by the board.

Other matters:

DAM was asked to provide his report as he may need to leave the meeting at short notice.

DAM looking to confirm the appointment of the contracts manager to enable him to pin down JMQ to a start date. Hopefully a start date will be confirmed before the end of term. Peat investigations are ongoing.

A personnel and funding issue was discussed and potential supportive actions which the Board can take. HIE and DTAS do fund other posts across the highlands and we need to be talking to them sooner rather than later. Unanimous decision: To pursue other possible funders before the New Year. MM and PM to discuss ways forward with MS.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Website meetings are progressing .

Energy billing issues are ongoing and Gordon is still chasing. PM asked why we pay 20% VAT on power. Is that a business rate? PM thought the VAT rate was 5%.

The trees for Tormore. MM asked how much extra the tree protectors would cost. Biodegradable spirals 60p, ordinary ones 20p. The most expensive eco ones are up to £1.50. The funders would like us to get costs down to 1.50 per tree, so £7500. Housing association and affordable plot progress. The HC cannot release us from the affordable restrictions and they suggest we get in touch with the local housing association. We do need to think through the current system which seems to be overly complex. DAM commented that there will be a rural housing burden on their SMO project to prevent speculation. He undertook to forward any pertinent information to MM. PM was concerned that the costs around the remaining plot were building up and we need to find a solution.

5. FINANCE

MM said that Tricia has done a very detailed report on the shop finances. This should be circulated to the board for more consideration in January. Although the turnover is slightly up on last year, but costs have risen as well and there will be a net outflow for the year. However, the balance at the bank is holding up well for the time of year. Also, awareness among the shop managers of the need to control costs and promote sales is greatly improved.

The point was made by PM that card costs were running at about £1K a month, and if more people use cash this would be beneficial.

MS had circulated his normal financial comments which were reviewed. The meaning and function of KPIs was also discussed.

EG asked about log deliveries and PM said that the situation was improving. MM reported that CP, as Chair of SRL, would like to see a more formalised system for delivery charges so that things are more transparent. He also would like to see an approved list of people making deliveries, which would also help with knowing who is entering the Tormore area. PM felt that this topic needs to be discussed in more detail at the next SRL meeting.

6. Other matters from the Chair:

1. A quote from Mann, Judd, Gordon compared costs across the past two years with a proposal for 2023. SCTCL charges were high this year, but next year they will reduce, and the money saved will be put towards helping us migrate to ZERO from SAGE. The accountants have comprehensive skills in Zero, and can give training included in the price. SH is willing to work on data re-entry to get this financial year into Zero so that our next year end figures will be accurate. It will produce management accounts on a quarterly basis. PM asked about the cost to buy the package. MM said that he didn't think it was hugely expensive but would check. **APPROVED**
2. A request from An Crùbh to use the electric minibus to support their 'Warm Space' initiative where they provide soup and rolls and somewhere warm to go. We would just have to make sure the van is ready. They provide the drivers. It will also be an opportunity to develop our positive links with An Crùbh. **APPROVED**
3. Applications for funding support; School - support for transport to Kyle for swimming - £500. Also the junior school football team have asked for support with kit. MM to confirm amount. CP has asked for £1000 to support the improvements to the Bothy area. MM said that the Hydro Board were keen for some money to support projects based in Tormore due to the Hydro location. There is also a bid for support the extra cost of bio degradable tree protectors (SRL are to receive 5000 trees from a charitable trust). The

total amount available to support these projects is £3500 from the Hydro plus about £360 left in the Robert Campbell fund, which is comfortably enough to support these causes, with a bit left to support other requests during the year. **APPROVED.**

PM commented that it would be good to publicise this good news through our newsletter. MM said that the community benefit would increase year on year as the capital is paid down.

FM made a request that Community Council dates be put in our news letters, as they already put our dates out. **AGREED**

4. Resilience planning for internet and/or power cuts; whether it's possible to use a generator, or devise an orderly way of closing systems down to avoid damage to equipment. FM suggested it could be a joint project between the CC and SCT. DAM said schools and hospitals will be prioritised. SMO have a generator and would be willing to support any projects looking at this. SSE now use the college to site generators, as the previous site is now used for storing boats.

7. Steve Macken from Lomond Energy

Steve told us about the background to the Breakish wind farm project and explained something of the constraints in terms of environmental, microwave and wildlife. There was also a discussion about the costs and community benefits. Steve suggested that community benefits could be coordinated across the island, possibly by CCs and DTs.

The new transmission line about to be installed is already fully subscribed.

For our own situation Steve felt that a PV array in Tormore would be the cheapest and less risky option if we ever looked at extending our renewables projects.

There is a map and an information sheet available in the office explaining the Breakish Project, which is scheduled to start generating in 2028 if all goes well with the planning cycle.

Date of next meeting Monday 23.01.23 at 6pm