

**212th MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of SLEAT COMMUNITY TRUST (SCT)
Monday, 23rd January 2023
6:00pm, Boardroom and Zoom**

Present: Mike Shucksmith (MS), Chris Pendlebury (CP), Roddy Murray (RM), Ruairidh Morrison (RMN), Eilidh Grant (EG), J.D. MacInnes (JDM), Garry Noakes (GN), Gordon Matheson (GM), Ade Stokes (AS), Polly MacInnes (PM), Ruud van Ruitenbeek (RR), Martin MacGillivray (MM)

Apologies: Dòmhnall Angaidh MacLennan (DAM), Andrea Nollent (AN), Sarah Hess (Co. Sec.), Flora MacLean (FM)

1. Apologies - Due to Zoom problems at the Board end DAM and AN were unable to join.
2. Declarations of interest - RM and MM for Hydro Scheme.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting - The meeting clarified that GN was willing to continue as a Board member on both the Main and Renewables Boards.

Previous minutes were proposed by EG and seconded by PM.

4. Matters arising - The meeting with Steve Macken from Lomond Energy was summarised for Board members who missed the meeting last month. His opinion was that an extension to Sleat Hydro or a separate PV array were the only viable projects at the moment. The proposed new line from the mainland was already oversubscribed with wind farm projects.

5. Finances - The Board were shown the financial projections for 2023/4 and the picture is a difficult one due to increasing power costs and the impacts on shop profitability. MS and GM were thanked for their hard work. The existing power arrears, which resulted from estimated bills and a lack of proactivity from SSE, will need to be paid off before any new contract can be entered into. Therefore **a proposal was made to take to the SRL Board meeting on the 24th; that a loan of £18,000 be made to the Trust from SRL to pay off the arrears. This was unanimously supported**, as it would have a positive effect on financial projections for the shop and the Trust.

CP made the point that commercial loans were common practice in industry and these might be looked at in the future if appropriate for capital developments.

PM confirmed a grant of £6622 for tree purchases which will allow SRL to redress the areas of poor development in a previous planting.

6. SCTCL report - RR gave a summary of the Worldpay difficulties and confirmed that the Trading Board is seeking to change our card payment system over to Dojo, which is cheaper and is used successfully by local businesses.

The managers are fully aware of the financial challenges that we will be facing - currently projections show a negative of up to £50K for 2023/4. There was a discussion of a proposed discount scheme for local people if we are forced to raise prices during the visitor season. The principle of the scheme was approved and SCTCL will look at the details over the coming months.

7. SMO/CSP update from MS - Scottish Water have now signed off on the scheme, although the black water question still needs resolving. However, the Kilbeag development can go ahead and MS is confident that the CSP will soon break ground. In terms of the wider Celtic Sports proposal there is ongoing peatland survey work and it is going to be a long project. It is now at the RIBA3 stage.

8. SRL will be meeting tomorrow - they were unable to meet last week due to weather.

9. EAG group - JS will feed back to the next meeting as to whether there is likely to a quorum in the group. He pointed out that whatever the outcome we still have a knowledgeable member of the SRL Board in Alan Drever.

AoB

- GM briefly discussed the Local Place Plan. This is a development where wishes which have been endorsed by local communities have to be considered by the HC. The HC have now established their `Local Place Planning Team (Willy MacKinnon). Information gathering to establish local priorities could be done jointly with Sleat Community Council and there may be HIE funds available for this type of survey work. GM said that priorities could be around appropriate housing developments, Play Parks and walking / cycling groups.

- The meeting was informed that Murdo MacKinnon is likely to join the SRL Board and Archie MacCalman would soon be joining the SCTCL Board
- MS presented the final plans for the MH service area at Tormore gate. The facilities proposed will hopefully stop overnight visitors bothering the holiday rental across the road with requests for water, toilet etc.
- MM updated the meeting on plans to restart the Lunch Club, which will now be called a Community Café.1