

SLEAT COMMUNITY TRUST 19TH AGM

Date; Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 19.00

Venue; Ardvasar Village Hall and Zoom

Attendees:

Martin MacGillivray	Archie MacCalman	Rob Ware
Margaret MacGillivray	Angus MacDonald	Mark de Vries
Eilidh Grant	Frances MacDonald	Catherine de Vries
Sarah Hess	Janet MacDonald	Rosy White
Andrea Nollent	Jonathan MacDonald	Mr & Mrs Swann
Andy Cumming – Mann Judd	Margaret MacDonald	Mick Robertson
Gordon	Dr John MacDonald	Alison McLaren
Janette MacLure	Morag MacDonald	
John Caley	Colleen MacKinnon	
John Duncan MacInnes	Donnie MacKinnon	by Zoom
Adrian Stokes	Chris Marsh	Alexandra Williams
Jo Stokes	Isabel Moore	Dorothy Jackson
Mike Shucksmith	Peter Roberts	Andy Cook
Duncan MacInnes	Sheana Roberts	Ron Johnstone
Polly MacInnes	Lysana Robinson	Rae Johnstone
Roddy Murray	Tim Shone	Domhnall Angaidh
Ruud van Ruitenbeek	Angus Venters	MacLennan
Tim Godfrey	Patricia Venters	Flora MacLean

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The articles need to be updated after 15 years. They need to be done in order to comply with new requirements so that we can take advantage of projects and opportunities that may arise i.e. buying of land to keep it within the community for local usage. If a piece of land is coming up for sale it allows the trust to express an interest, so that we will have a period of time to raise funds, to bring ownership of the land into the community. It may not happen but it protects the community for the future.

Summary of the changes

- Updates to postcodes areas within Sleat
- Reformatting our charitable objectives
- New terminology in the template
- 5% > 10% Quorum (to pass resolutions)
- Simple majority > 75% majority
- Delete obsolete sections
- People attending the meeting allows for proxy votes
- The new articles of association are being adopted across the country

RESOLUTION

That the members of Sleat Community Trust accept the proposed changes to the articles of association as notified to OSCR.

This does not change anything we are doing for any of the charitable objectives. This is to do with updating to the latest guidance and allowing us to buy land, if any becomes available.

Confirmed by a majority of votes including those on Zoom

Minutes of the AGM

Apologies; Pat Walsh, Mark Entwistle, Charmian Entwistle, Garry Noakes

Previous minutes were proposed by Ruud van Ruitenbeek, seconded by Polly MacInnes

Matters arising; None

Presentation arising; None

PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNT

Last time Andy Cumming from Mann Judd was here November 2019, so he was pleased to see all the initial ideas and plans are now in place, with the new shop and offices.

Overview – SCT owns SCTCL the trading side for the shop and SRL which over sees Tormore Forest.

Anything over £500,000 OSCR needs to have consolidated and audited copies of all accounts.

SCTCL total income £717,150, highest figure the past 5 years. But profit margins are tight. After paying suppliers On average we have 20 – 25p in every £1.00 sold to cover wages and overheads, as well as contribute to the running costs of the trust.

Last year it was 19.4p.

Hopefully over the next few years this will stabilise.

Skyenet is doing well and Visit Sleat is back up again after Covid.

Times are tight – net profit is £12,389, so the profit is low, but the shop is a service to the community and therefore helps fulfil the parent charity's objectives.

A £42,190 loan from SCT to Trading has been outstanding for quite a while - the loan was to pay for the initial stock for the shop – it is to be expected that this will take a long time to repay.

£50,000 Covid loan has been paid back in full.

Sleat Renewables Ltd - SRL

There has been no harvesting, but proactive on selling of stock. There is still 2500 tonnes of wood left but the issue is the quality of the stock. (March 2022)

£34,776 (woodland occupational charge) paid to SCT to help with the Social Investment Scotland repayments. This loan was taken out initially to buy Tormore Forest.

< £39,552 > showing a loss but, take into the payment to SCT and the depreciation charges with an accountancy adjustment SRL will show a profit of £12,000

The balance sheet shows total assets @ £311,357

Sleat Community Trust - SCT

Unrestricted income of £57,291

Majority of this income is (internally generated) from the subsidiary companies as Memoranda of Understanding with SRL/SCTCL/SKYENET/VISIT SLEAT

Loan charges from Social Investment Scotland £3,383. Per year the repayment to SIS is £25,546.

The loan will be paid in full by August 2023. It is costing £2,177 per month to service that loan.

Balance net assets £1,827.614m (total value of the charity).

Unrestricted general funds - £246,248. Of that £194,000 Tormore Forest.

Grants of £266,746 were received for Peatland Restoration.

Over £1m in fixed assets the shop and offices

Consolidated Balance Sheet:

Net assets £2,157,911 as March 2022

But after paying everything (remaining liquid assets) left is £170,192 is the unrestricted reserves.

On average the costs of the trust are £19,730 per month so there is enough for 8.6 months to carry on, which is a good amount in reserve.

A lot of charities have only 2 – 3 months.

The overall picture is one of fragility as we look ahead, but the charity has good reserves in place to be resilient as it makes future plans for sustainability and development.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

We do not have any new applicants. If anyone is interested, please apply to chair@sleat.org.uk or contact Sarah on 01471 844776. We have the main board and two smaller boards that cover SRL and SCTCL.

We have at present 12 trustees on the Main Board which is a healthy number.

Current trustees to be retained as is and confirmed for another year.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- New positions and members of the team – Gordon Matheson assistant Project Development Manager. Looking at the caravan service point, setting up of the Men's Shed and Mick Robertson Caretaker. The funding for these positions is until March 2023, but we are exploring other options.
- Owing to a lack of meter readings by SSE and only a basic meter being fitted, a liability has arisen. Gordon is following up on the electric bill and meter readings with SSE so that an agreed amount and payment plan can be implemented.
- The HR processes of contracts and documentation is in progress and are being updated and distributed for signatures and then filed accordingly.
- The SCT website needs to be updated as it is looking very tired with outdated information. This is ongoing and will be completed later this year.

SRL report by Polly MacInnes

• The peatland restoration has been a success in the forest. It was done by Wemyss. They have dammed back certain areas allowing the peatland to regenerate. This is in the long-term forest plan as the area was not suitable for replanting of trees. A survey of Sleat grazings was done to allow other landowners to adopt and increase the peat land in their areas. At presents it seems only SRL have done this.

- We have a log handler purchased from a grant application
- We also have a log splitter, allowing for sale of split logs – purchased after March 2022.
- A men's shed has been started every Monday, up at the forest shed.
- Planting of trees from the woodland trust has commenced.
- Despite the best efforts of our deer controller, there is an ongoing issue with deer grazing.
- With the deterioration of logs due to lack of demand during Covid, we are looking at these for the wood chipping

Sleat Community Trading Co - CTCL Report by Catherine de Vries

Past year has seen a positive increase in the footfall and trade in the shop

- We are thankful to our regular clientele
- There have been significant changes since Mhairi Cousins the manager left, and the role has now been split between Debbie Trussler, Norma MacPherson and Catherine de Vries
- New team members are Erin MacNeil, a 4th year student from Portree High. She helps out on Saturdays and during the school holidays.
- Claire Wylie and Vinca Petersen have joined on a casual basis, at the end of the summer.
- The refills have increase in popularity and help with the reduction of plastic waste
- ome deliveries on Thursday are going well using the EV
- The ongoing challenges re;
- Increase of all costs on basic groceries; we have started to incorporate some of the COOP products which are slightly cheaper
- Energy costs are consistently being kept an eye on and ways we can reduce usage

- During the summer we had some staff shortages due to COVID
- Future ideas are – Holiday Home Hampers and Veggie boxes

Skynet

This was initially set up as there was no BT signal in some areas. However, BT are now pushing their fibre broadband. BT have been given money by the government to promote it in rural areas. Skynet over the years has become a very good product with a friendly and reliable customer service. We did anticipate that in the future there will be a reduction in customers, and it will need to be reviewed at that point, but at present it is in a strong position with more customers joining.

OTHER ITEMS

- We are continually short of drivers for the Electric Bus, so if you have time to assist, please contact Sarah on sarah@sleat.org.uk
- Tormore Volunteers meet 2nd Sunday of each month to help with tree planting and extending of the foot paths and bike tracks.
- A bike trail group has been developed they are working on a trail from the top of the Hydro to the turbine house
- The question of a new play facility for children in the village has been raised, so it would be good if a group could be established to move this project forward with more families moving into the village
- The senior citizens lunch club needs new people to run it. SCT has donated funding, but we need volunteers to run it. Looking at a reorganisation to start after Christmas. Please contact the chair@sleat.org.uk or call Sarah on 844776
- Further volunteer opportunities will be listed in the next newsletter
- A thank you card from Meredith Brook Young from Portree High School was read out. SCT donated £500 to help with a Sexual Health Awareness project for 3rd years (ages 13-14), as part of her Baccalaureate award with SQA. She chose this as a focus as she felt that at this age, preventative education is key.

AGM finished at 20.00. Polly MacInnes thanked the Chair, Andy Cumming and Duncan for such a smooth running and informative meeting.

