



Kilmallie Community Company

Board Meeting – Minutes

Minutes of the KCC board which met on Monday 1st October 2007 at 7.30 pm at Kilmallie House.

1. **Present:** A MacPhie (chair), P Biggin (secretary), R Grieve, O Vietch, J Ireland, H Muir, guests: P Brian, J Willis, G Rogerson.

2. **Apologies,** L Taylor, A Mercer, A Mackenzie.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting** – after a change to the date the minutes were accepted and signed by the chair.

4. **Matters Arising**

Publicity - A press release on the AGM had resulted in a report being published in Lochaber News on September 1st.

Correspondence with Arjo from September and October 2005 was tabled by OV for the record.

Letters had been sent to S Torrance and J Govier re our interest in taking ownership. No reply has been received from JG as yet.

Ossie's comment under this heading is as follows; "It seems there was no reply from S Torrance. Also when I re-read your letter to J Govier, it reads more of a statement giving him KCC's position and hardly requires an answer. My feelings are we are going to get no where in the near future with the Lundavra chain around our neck and if you consider the gift should come without legal expenses it is only going to prolong the discussions. The AGM meeting members gave me a good indication that legal expenses including boundary problems should be up for negotiation with AW at the time of transfer considering the land is a gift. It is up to KCCo to find the money to cover these. Lets get started. I wait to hear the detail of just how the transfer from AW to KCCo is to be done in advance of it being done. Management Plan. Details of priorities and costs (fencing, tree inspection, safety felling) should be evolved as we progress.

(ST was sent an email – as per draft attached to the minutes of the last meeting, a draft of the letter to JG was also appended. ST replied by email saying the draft to JG was OK and only one amendment was received, from OV to leave out the final phrase, to the letter - which was then sent -- PB)

Directors - Paul Brian had been asked if he would volunteer to be co-opted as a director. This was accepted by all with thanks. (Secretaries Note: - I am not certain of this interpretation of our articles but this is how I see things. Under article 7.1 Linda Taylor ceases to be an ordinary member as she is no longer resident within the area and under article 37.1 ceases to be a director. But she can be a co-opted director until the next AGM. Under clause 35 the board can co-opt a director to fill any casual vacancy. So we can consider LT and PB as our two co-opted directors who will serve till the next AGM)

Treasurer - JI had asked Bob Cummings to be treasurer. He declined. Allan Mackenzie was asked in turn and was pleased to accept. The board with thanks confirmed his appointment.

The possibility of bills being paid by the Community Council was raised but as no bills were presented this was a purely academic discussion. So we start again with a clean sheet!

Membership - Three new membership applications were received.

A register of members was circulated for updates to be noted. (Secretaries Note: - Membership should be a regular item on the agenda of meetings. New applications and "retirals" should be minuted. Before the next meeting I will circulate the register by hand so that it can be updated)

5. **Update on progress with Arjo.** S Torrance continues to negotiate with Arjo but there has been no significant progress. This caused the questions of negotiating direct and having progress of the three land parcels being tied together to be raised yet again. Again the majority felt that we should carry on as we are but Sec. should write to ST to establish in as much detail as possible how the final deal would be done.



6. Gail Rogerson. – GR described the role of the Community Land Unit with reference to our project. A particular point to note is that there must be community involvement at all stages. She stressed that the board is acting on behalf of the community and that our views might not necessarily be representative. Communication is important and we discussed the use of press releases, newsheets, web sites and notice boards. When considering a management plan we need to get feed back so that all sections of the community (including motor bike scramblers) get an opportunity to input their ideas. – public meetings, “planning for real”, etc. JI volunteered to prepare a “communications strategy”.

(Secretaries Note: - For those interested we have information on the Community Council web site at <http://www.kilmallie.com/gpage5.html> . This needs to be updated and is now on my list of things to do!)

Grants were discussed. A start up grant is available from the CLU. First we must set up a bank account. It was resolved that RBS be asked to act as bankers. (Sec. will ask AM to do this and proceed unless there are snags.) We touched upon “who should be signatories” – I will email everyone with AM’s advice on this. Once we have a bank account we should be able to complete the application process and have £1000 to draw on as required. This will cover costs of running the company and initial legal fees. A further £1000 would be available thereafter. Grant to cover additional legal costs can be applied for but may not be granted.

JW and GR then answered questions about further grant aid. “Growing Community Assets” and “Awards for All” were not recommended. *GR advised that the “Growing Community Assets” programme was not aligned with our project (not big enough and not enough about community development) but could not advise anything regarding an application to “Awards for All” as she was not involved with that Lottery programme and therefore felt unable to comment on its suitability to fund our project. JW advised that a - more likely source will be Forestry Commission grants but they are at the moment between grant systems – so we will have to wait until the new version is available. JW volunteered to keep us posted on developments of any useful sources of grant aid.*

7. Management Plan. – There was insufficient time to discuss this though several points had been raised in the discussion on grants. To cope with the needs for safety obligations and the need for consultation some baseline survey work is required. Can we do this before we own the ground? A spreadsheet of the costs was tabled. This illustrated that there will be a need for further funds to be raised from grants once ownership is established. Costs of tree inspection and safety felling were queried as being an underestimate.

8 AOB.

Ownership Responsibilities - JI tabled a summary of the legislation as it affects owners of land to which the public has access – this will be circulated by email. As an example he described the way path safety needs to be managed. *Also there was brief mention of rope swings in the woodland and what should we do to manage the risks, etc. Information on the management of rope swings /dens etc is a good example of a risk based approach. Using the decision tree would be a an example of best practice that we could use in our monitoring/decision making on the use of the sites.*

JW mentioned a **CWA conference** on the 10/11th November and recommended we send one representative. – any volunteers?

9 Date of next meeting: Monday 12th November at 19:30 unless there are developments. Place to be announced.

10 The meeting closed at 10 pm with thanks to the chair and the coffee maker.



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