



# Coigach Community Development Company

## Minutes of Directors' Board Meeting

**Date: Monday 23 September 2019**

**Present:** Iain Muir (Chair IFM), Ann Macleod (AAB), Seumas Hitchings (SH), Phil Shaughnessy (PS), Ben Walton (BW), in attendance LDO Julia Campbell (JC), temp LDO Ann Marie Firth-Bernard (AMFB)

**Apologies:** Richard Williams (RW), Iain Scott (Vice Chair, IS), LDO Donald Macleod (DM)

**Declarations of interest:** with the wind turbine operational, formal interests have been declared by Ben Walton and Julia Campbell who are share-holders of Achiltibuie Common Grazings. Julia Campbell is also on the board of Highland Small Communities Housing Trust. Julia Campbell also declared an interest in Acheninver Footpath. Several directors are pier users. Richard Williams is a director of Summer Isles Enterprises. Seumas Hitchings is an employee of Scottish Sea Farms.

**1. Welcome:** AAB Welcomed all to the meeting in IFM's absence (he arrived later).

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising:** Minutes of 26 August 2019 Meeting were proposed by PS and seconded by BW.  
Matters arising will be dealt with as they appear on the agenda.

### **3. Finance:**

#### **(a) CCDC**

- Thanks to Lynda Sirel who has been shadowing IS: she has been voluntarily working with the finances.
- Email received from IS to say that he has been promised A9 accounts by Wednesday 25 September 2019. He will circulate them once he has checked them.

#### **(b) Coigach Community CIC**

- Targets to be reviewed with Locogen.
- CIC directors to schedule a meeting to discuss painting the turbine and other matters.  
**ACTION:** JC to do a doodle poll to find a date.

#### **(c) CCDC Trading Ltd**

- Income from Ben Mor Hydro has been received.
- CCDC Trading has paid the outstanding CCDC invoice.

#### 4. Work Plan Update:

##### 4.1 Housing

- (a) Site below Island View: JC had met with the planning officer, Dorothy Stott who had expressed the opinion that the site was too close to an already built-up area to be considered as an option for building affordable housing.
- (b) Achiltibuie house site : **ACTION**: JC to write to Dorothy Stott to confirm drainage arrangements.
- (c) Schoolhouse: Alan Pendred has been paid for his work.
- (d) Willy John Sinclair's house: JC to pursue Scottish Land Fund for possible funding.
- (e) Common grazing acquisition possibility: Aileen McLellan, crofting law expert, has been consulted about this. **ACTION**: PS and JC to speak to SWT to see if they would be amenable to selling a piece of land for housing.

##### 4.2 Harbours and Piers

Nothing to report.

##### 4.3 Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape Partnership

- (a) Acheninver Path: A large part has been completed to a high standard – PS asked to note his approval of the completed part. The stretch from the car park to the Youth Hostel still needs work. **ACTION**: JC to ask for quotes for improving this stretch and improving the car park. Discussion about continuation of the path to Badenscallie. **ACTION**: RW to speak to Murdo Macleod re the possibility of installing stiles.
- (b) Foxpoint Path: Keith Mackey to walk the Fox Point route. Crofting access issues to be checked.
- (c) Soil Beneath Our Feet: **ACTION**: AMFB to email Joseph Peach to discuss the project.

##### 4.4 Smokehouse

Large shed to be advertised for sale and removal.

##### 4.5 Grant Giving

- (a) Since April 2019 CCDC has had: 2 applications from groups (the hall for a gazebo and Assynt and Coigach Creatives for the Creative Trail leaflet; 12 for education and training; 2 for children and young people; 3 for the wellbeing grant.
- (b) Businesses cannot be helped other than indirectly through training grants. **ACTION**: IS to review Harper Macleod's advice on this matter.
- (c) Podiatrist enquiry from a local resident: **ACTION**: AAB to follow up.

##### 4.6 New Development Plan

We are in communication with the consultants regarding this.

##### 4.7 Renewables

See 3.2.

##### 4.8 Finance

See 3.

#### 4.9 Admin

The sick pay policy needs clarification.

#### 4.10 Information and publicity

The summer newsletter is out. **ACTION:** AMFB to produce the winter newsletter before Christmas.

#### 5 AOCB:

- (a) Stac Pollaidh car park: AAB had a phonecall from Nicky Davis re the Outdoor Access Trust's proposal to extend the Stac Pollaidh car park, for which the Davises would be happy to give the land. Suggestion that there is an initial meeting with councillor Ian Cockburn to discuss the way forward.
- (b) Absentee crofters: **ACTION:** forms to be filled in to move matters forward.
- (c) Highland Community Broadband AGM: JC and AAB attended.
- (d) DTAS conference: JC reported that she had done a presentation on what has been achieved by CCDC.
- (e) Community Energy Scotland: an expert from Chile is to come to talk to us; Karen Delaney (CES) has suggested that we confer about community energy management.
- (f) AGM 18 November 2019: the Board is to give thought to possible new directors.

#### 6 Next Meeting: Monday 28 October 7pm

