LISMORE COMMUNITY TRUST   Minutes of Board Meeting , 7.30pm Wednesday 4th November 2020 at the School House, Achnacroish

1 PRESENT: Archie MacGillivray, Sebastian Tombs (Chair and Minutes), Anita Bachuil, Anna Stewart. APOLOGIES received from: Dave Layton, Duncan MacLean and Eilidh Willis. No declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES of previous meetings:

2.1 1st June 2020: AGREED

2.2 29th June 2020: AGREED;

2.3 15th August 2020: AGREED.

2.4 Sebastian confirmed that he had now placed the confirmed minutes of Board meetings and the 2019 AGM onto the cloud filing system; had printed copies for the Folder in Lismore Stores, and had an additional set of 2019 and 2020 for holding in the School House. He observed that the Trust had been a full-time job for the last 10 days.

3 MATTERS ARISING: covered under the agenda.

4 FINANCE, MEMBERSHIP, PROTOCOLS

4.1 Finance: the Accounts, recently circulated with the directors' report for the period march 2019 to April 2020, were agreed. These would form part of the AGM pack for circulation to Members and Friends.

4.2 Membership: Anna volunteered to consider the current list, for updating. ACTION SEBASTIAN, ANNA

5 AGM PREPARATION

5.1 Sebastian had prepared the attendance sheets; proxy form; agenda; and notification letters. However, the link to the Zoom meeting had yet to be added. The invitation letters indicated retiring and nominated directors. Following a question, Sebastian clarified that the Articles did empower the Members at a General meeting, to elect a director for a further term beyond the 6 year limit, subject to the willingness of the candidate to serve. Anna noted such willingness, Sebastian not. ACTION: SEBASTIANLocation: having discussed options for meeting physically, the practicalities of doing so safely, in the open air perhaps, were considered too difficult to arrange, and thus a remote meeting was agreed. Testing the Zoom technology was recommended in advance. ACTION: SEBASTIAN & ANITA

5.2 Timing: the consideration of delay had also been mulled over by directors previously. There was little sign that a public meeting would be possible within a further 3 months, when the same situation might well apply. Pressing on with the programme was considered wise.

5.3 Proxy Forms: these could be crucial to achieving a quorum. All directors were urged to secure such Forms to ensure a satisfactory event. ACTION: ALL

6 PROJECT and WORKING GROUP REPORTS

6.1 GENERAL: Sebastian had prepared status update reports, which would form the basis of his Chair's expanded report on current work, for the AGM.

6.2 SCHOOL HOUSE: Key elements were: Planning Permission now overdue; Planning Officer being chased. Awaiting action from MacColl on the car parking area. Appointment of Robert Kelly noted for fencing work. Archie noted that a more detailed specification of materials could have been advisable; a note for future works perhaps.

6.3 ‘GIVE IT A GO’ PROJECT: Sebastian had been phoned by ‘Lambros’ of the Postcode Lottery re this project; originally planned to close in Summer 2020, extended due to the pandemic to 31 January 2021. Meanwhile a commitment of some £2,400 had been earmarked in support of the Community Council’s Emergency Response Group plans for support for the elderly and vulnerable. If any funds were to be directed in this way, Lambros confirmed that payments be made on specific items from the Trust’s own account, with no transfer of funds to another body, such as the CC. This was noted. Lambros had advised that a Plan of action was required to try and reach the same objectives, but social gathering was inhibited at present, especially for the target group. Board members did not feel that digital solutions would be appropriate, or desired; but developed an idea of ‘Social Hampers’, perhaps to celebrate Burns Night at the end of January – often one of the lowest points of the year after the Festive Season – would be wonderful way of spreading some delight, especially if it contained food, and other relevant local produce. If this proved successful, similar action could follow. It was AGREED that this idea would be developed further, with potential recipients identified; and the Postcode Team advised accordingly. An end date for the grant was suggested as 30th September, to enable some element of the original plans to be implemented once restrictions were – optimistically – lifted. ACTION: ANITA, ANNA, SEBASTIAN

6.4 BIG LOTTERY, School House based Community Led Project: This comprised refurbishment to the location, kitting out for various purposes, and activities, all with a modest Project Officer component. It was AGREED that funds for the car park works and related fencing be drawn from funds aimed at offering the Community Base and relevant activities, as these were essential to achieve the Licence. There was a small garden fund to assist in realizing that part of the improvement aims. Sebastian suggested that cleaning the roof of moss etc, and getting the House painted, could also be considered important ingredients in any schemes for refurbishment.

6.5 ROYAL MAIL: it was AGREED that Sebastian approach the Sub-Postmaster/person to discuss options for the future, including other ways of accommodating this service in the House for a longer period if appropriate.

6.6 KIOSKS: the timber donated by the Normans was ready for milling and fabrication, once construction drawings had been prepared. Sebastian had the two folders with the information to do that – a task that remained outstanding. ACTION: SEBASTIAN. Meanwhile revisiting the agreements with the two parties using the Kiosks for sales of cakes and cards, should be put in the diary before the start of the 2021 visitor season. It was noted that insurance for these assets is included within the Public Hall policies. ACTION: ALL

6.7 ENTERPRISE UNITS: With no response from SSE following the letter of 10th September, the matter had been referred to the local MSP for support. However, having revisited earlier correspondence about Flood Risk, Sebastian had checked with Iain Campbell, of CP Architects, who had confirmed that such a Risk Assessment (FRA) would be a standard Planning requirement so close to the shore. This being the case, he had alerted the landowner, and requested the letter to the MSP be placed on hold. For a professional FRA, a topographical survey would also be advisable (unless sufficient verifiable information could be provided by islanders themselves) adding another layer of cost and time. Any degree of risk would likely inhibit the conversation with SSE, so options for other less risky but nearby sites were discussed. It was AGREED that this conversation be pursued with the landowner in greater detail, before further consideration be given to commissioning a FRA. ACTION SEBASTIAN, best with one other director.

6.8 HOUSING STUDY: Sebastian updated the meeting on progress to locate a hydrogeologist to guide the borehole test, and clarify risks of any short- and long-term impact on the nearby spring-fed water supplies. This had involved substantial additional effort; and would cost the Study further significant sums, which Sebastian anticipated could be covered broadly by the last remaining LIP funds. It was AGREED to delegate final decisions on this to the Chair and Treasurer, given the testing dates of 17th and 18th were now finalised. ACTION SEBASTIAN & ANITA. Following decisions and a final plan, all parties would be written to, advising of the detailed proposals and timeframe. More generally, Archie enquired whether the de-crofted site east of Bachuil should also be investigated, and it was AGREED to seek further information, although it was now too late to do other than to note this site's identification in the Report, which would be listing all the sites that had been identified as in principle possibilities. On the question of Lettings Policies, examples of other rural policies which recognized local connections and applicants' skills etc could be used as models for consideration. ACTION: SEBASTIAN

7 CORRESPONDENCE etc:

7.1 Scottish Islands Passport: an invoice had been sent to the Passport team on Jura, for the £60 promised for the Lismore material. Once received, reimbursement of this sum should be paid to Iris Piers who had collated the submission on the Trust's behalf. ACTION: ANITA

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

9 DATE of NEXT MEETING: 8.15pm Thursday 10th December 2020.

ST 07 November 2020