Lismore Community Trust: Minutes of Board Meeting held at 8.30pm on Monday 17th June 2019 at the School House, Achnacroish

1 Present: Sebastian Tombs (Chair), Kiki MacColl, Anna Stewart and Archie MacGillivray. No apologies, nor declarations of interest.

2 Previous Minutes:

2.1 AGM, 8th November 2018: these were tabled by ST, read and acknowledged as suitable for wider distribution.

2.2 Minutes of 21st March 2019: agreed;

2.3 Notes of Business Meeting of 6th May: noted.

3 Matters arising:

3.1 Director resignation: it was noted, with regret, that Ann MacLean Fleming had tendered her resignation.

3.2 Registered Office address: it was agreed that the registered office address be amended to Baile Geamhraidh, Lismore, PA34 5UL. The long term aim would remain to relocate it to the School House, subject to achievement of the Licence.

3.3 ST advised that due to other priorities, LIP directors from Kerrera had followed those from Luing, and resigned from the Company, which now also needed to relocate its registered office. With Lismore Community Trust now being the Lead Partner, this would be at the revised address as noted at 3.2 above.

3.4 Homes and Gardens Day 1st June event: this was considered to have been a successful event, raising funds for both Trust and Hall, generating 13 housing survey responses, and enabling discussions on a range of topics. ST reported on some of the technical feedback on the Visitor Guide, which had been received favourably by residents and visitors alike. Stocks of the Guide in both kiosks was being monitored and maintained by AS.

4 Membership, Finance and Protocols:

4.1 Membership: it was noted that the membership list was in need of updating, following its use for emailing members lately re 1st June events.

4.2 Finance: ST tabled a note dated 27th May from Teenie Wilson, showing a balance of funds at £6,382.72, with £1,532.95 in general funds, £3,117.59 for Kiosks, £299.38 for Junior Photography and £1,432.80 for Health. These figures were subject to adjustment re costs for 1st June. Positive news of the Postcode Lottery grant of £5,880 had recently been received, but payment was not anticipated until July.

4.3 LIP finances: ST confirmed that continuation funding had been approved for LIP (now comprising Easdale and Lismore) in two 3 month tranches up to the end of September. He had signed off a LIP application for further funding under a revised Scottish Government Community Funding Sheme until the end of March 2020, which there was every expectation would prove successful. This was warmly welcomed, and should enable a number of strands of ongoing work to be taken forward.

4.4 Bank Account signatories: forms were completed for amendment of signatories: the removal of Marlene MacKinnon, Mary Walker and Christine Wilson; the addition of Anna Stewart and Margaret MacColl.

4.5 Treasurer: ST reported on positive prospects in this area, and would hope to have firm news by the next meeting. Any new

Treasurer would also need to be an Account signatory – which would provide for four overall.

5 Project and Working Group Reorts:

5.1 'Give it a Go' Project: activities for Health and Wellbeing, especially for the more elderly resident population. This 10 month programme of total value £6,880 (£5.880 of Lottery and £1K of private donation) of varied activities was due to commence in August. It was agreed to canvas locally for a Project Co-ordinator. ACTION ST

5.2 Sports Day / Emergency Community Trailer: a meeting was to be held with Sports Day organisers. The information supplied last year by Duncan MacLean had been forwarded; and opportunities for progress for the 2020 event were more promising, with continued Development Officer funding now likely. ACTION ST & KK

5.3 School House: following discussions with Dougie Spence (Manager for the Highlands of the Lottery Community Assets team) who had visited on 23rd May, creative ideas for funding through a 'Community-led' programme had emerged as offering potential to support activities around the School House's external environment; a portion of which could relate to capital investment. The suggestion of engaging a landscape architect to sketch up a scheme and formulate activities founded upon earlier community engagement had led ST to invite Mike Hyatt to put some initial thoughts down on paper. This was tabled. ST noted that the parking would have to be entirely on-site, to satisfy Roads Dept safety requirements in the vicinity of a School. However, the primary objective of funds, would be to encourage greater growing of fruit and vegetables i.e. an environmental and health objective – whereas to unlock the Licence, satisfying the Planning Condition for vehicle handling was the directors' main focus. It was agreed that any scheme would need to allow for ongoing management and maintenance, which given the shortage of volunteer capacity would need to have a budget of some kind. KK agreed to consider this aspect further. AMcG expressed his doubts about any schemes of this kind, favouring a simple solution of cut grass around the building. Meanwhile it was agreed to seek up to 3 quotes from local contractors for carrying out the access and parking works, as specified by the Roads Dept. ACTION KK and ST.

5.4 Kiosks: It turned out that Dougie Spence as overall manager of Lottery projects, was aware of the fire-related woes which ST had earlier reported to the Awards for All team. He had made various helpful suggestions about handling the position. Meanwhile the list of replacement timber required for refurbishment of the 2 kiosks (following losses in the fire at 2 Port Ramsay) had ben provided by Vanessa Norman. KK would arrange with David Wilson to make the selection; and consider approaching those who could assist in processing it. ACTION KK

5.5 Housing: the survey forms obtained during the Homes and Gardens event had been taken by Gill Law; to whom had also been sent those that were received in the box in the shop. Gill would compile an overall analysis, and Cameron Anson at Rural Homes Scotland would then be asked to consider them as strengthening the demonstration of need.

5.6 Work space units: funding feasibility study: Dougie Spence (see 5.3 above) had been invited to visit, as a potential funder, but had explained that HIE were the appropriate body to approach; so GL was again trying this. In checking the potential demand, she had consulted ST on the range of potential users and given the time delay since the original meetings, would be getting in touch with each party to seek a renewed expression of interest. Re potential sites, St confirmed that, subject to gaining some feasibility funding, all the components were in place to explore the Achnacroish sites, and at that stage further discussions with the landowner would be pursued. As far as Clachan Steadings were concerned, a sum of some £3K had been added to the LIP grant application as a potential Project-based factivity post March 2020, which could potentially be used as match funding for the Architectural Heritage Fund route. During the recent lime workings week, ST had briefly shown the buildings to the conservation contractor Stephen Grindrod who had expressed enthusiasm for seeing them brought back into good condition. ST had taken some measurements for a sketch plan, and had had some helpful conversations with the farmhouse tenant Stephen Green.

5.7 Seaweed farming: as a potential extension to the new round of Grant funding being sought, an allowance had been built in for some exploration of this field of work. This was welcomed.

5.8 Tourism Management Report: this was due to be received relatively soon.

6 Correspondence:

6.1 Islands Scotland Act: consultation event Wednesday 10th July – including a visit during the day by civil servants etc. This would provide an excellent opportunity for the islanders to advise on key issues affecting their lives. So far, on-island transport had been emerging as a recurrent theme. To be publicized widely.

6.2 Place Standard: ST had completed the Argyll and Bute consultation, using this Government tool, which helped assess the qualities of place. This consultation would be noted on the Notice Board. ST had requested Council administrators to consider holding an event on the Island, possibly at Point, or Achnacroish.

6.3 Letter from Clare Haworth of 31st May: ST read out a short letter which requested the directors to consider and discuss declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency, stating that it was pointless talking about housing needs without addressing the apocalyptic threat of climate breakdown, which should be top of our priorities. After discussion, it was agreed to respond in terms of aiming to ensure that all activities emerging through Community Trust activity, contributed towards solutions for these threats, rather an compounding them. Individual as well as collective actions would be relevant, for example in choices of means of transport and its frequency of use.

6.4 Public Hall: request to liaise regarding future options. ST noted that he had had a phone call from KK at the end of the previous week, advising that the Hall directors had agreed to approach the Trust to enquire whether some support could be found for exploring future options for the building. He had promptly contacted Gill Law, and she had responded with a list of potential funders for such work. Initial assessment of the building's environmental performance had been suggested as a precursor to any approaches, and earlier investigative reports were being sourced. The Trust directors welcomed this approach, and would be pleased to see how best GL could assist.

6.5 Community Council: ST had forwarded a request for reactions to the introduction of the Road equivalent Tariff on the Island, to the Community Council.

7 Date of next meeting:

7.1 Directors: August – to be confirmed;

7.2 AGM – Thursday 31st October, proposed.

ST 19th June 2019