Lismore Community Trust

Considerations of the Annual Accounts 01.05.23 – 30.04.24

Finance Report

Lismore Community Trust has in this past year has adopted different accounting standards and reporting methods. Converting from a Company Ltd by Guarantee to a Charitable Community Benefit Society, requires our accounts to be assessed by the Financial Conduct Association (FCA,) as opposed to Companies House. The conversion to a CBS was needed to be able to sell Community Shares, which in turn allowed us to purchase Lismore Community Stores and Post Office. However, as we converted part way through the year, we are producing accounts to comply with both, but this is only required for this first year.

Lismore Community Trust has now been registered for VAT, PAYE and NEST Pension contributions in line with our financial responsibilities. Lismore Stores and Post Office are a subgroup of Lismore Community Trust, they are not a separate business or charity, so cannot be registered for VAT separately. Therefore, being registered for VAT registration rules applies to the whole Trust and all transactions.

The accounts have been prepared as one account, by Ainslie Smith and Co., as required by the FCA. Lismore Community Trust Ltd, including the Lismore Community Stores and Post Office. Therefore, for ease of understanding, we have prepared two short financial reports to clarify the finances, one for the Main Trust and one for Lismore Community Stores and Post Office.

Main Trust Account

The movement on the Main Trust Account has been small over the year. The main payments have been for the Housing and Pier Projects, both which have been reimbursed but Scottish Land Fund. We were given a small grant from Community Shares Scotland – this was to cover the Share Launch, advertising, printing of share certificates etc. We are however, running at a small loss on this account, the income from the telephone boxes being our only direct form of income. The cost of meetings is no longer being met by Lismore Community Council, costing over this financial year, £548.00.

We have still experienced issues with the Royal Bank of Scotland. In February this year, they asked to have an account review, which took over 7 months to complete. Although the correct information was submitted early on, which they acknowledged, we were constantly being threatened with them placing a hold on the account, which would stop us from accessing the funds. It was agreed by the Board that we would move all the funds into the Co Op account, which is the account that only Lismore Stores uses, until a second Co Op is in place, which will then be solely used for the Main Trust's funds. This should be in place very shortly.

Opening Balance	01.05.23	£8353.26
Closing Balance	30.04.24	£6778.36

The accountants, Ainslie, Smith and Co, have been very helpful is helping with advice and support through this transition period and we propose we continue with them.