



**Minute of Meeting of Directors of Loch Melfort and Kilninver Company (LMKC) on 18 June 2025 at Kames Bay from 19.10 to 21.00.**

**Attendees: LM, SC, DW, AM, RM.**

**Apologies: AT, SCh, also Marianne Pearson.**

- 1. Attendance: as above.**
- 2. Register of Directors and of Directors' Interest. No new interests declared. At last board meeting it was agreed LM was to look at possible options for Board training, but as we are now getting training next week, she will hold off until we see what extra training is required, if any. The issue of emails for specific members was discussed and it was agreed that AT will arrange for a Chair's e-mail address for SC for his LMKC emails. The other points in AT's e-mail will be carried forward. By end of meeting all Directors have confirmed they have had their identities checked as per email from Secretary.**
- 3. The minute of the Board meeting in April had been circulated, was approved and signed by SC as a true record of the meeting. They can now go on the website and AT will do this. Highlighted action points from the April Board meeting were reviewed. It was agreed DW will hold fire re registering with the council for community purchase. Members who not paid their membership fees after several reminders had been sent an e-mail to say that their membership had lapsed because of the non payment. The email included wording to the effect that we were sorry to see them go and asked them to let us know the reasons they had for not renewing membership. Nothing further had been received from any of the 7 people. LM's report covered compliance with requirements of Companies House, and she will deal with this. SC's biography had now been done and forwarded to SCh for website. It was agreed that SC should not send a specific message to members about the prescription delivery service and comments from the surgery. Instead this will be included in next newsletter to say that this cannot be done because of practical issues although the surgery will carry on working informally with small groups. There are reasons of confidentiality and dangerous drugs having to be secured and signed for.**
- 4. Correspondence. LM reported that she had recently received a letter from the Information Commissioner's Office about paying a statutory data protection fee. RM had checked and LMKC is exempt from paying this annual fee as we are a non trading community company and not-for-profit. LM also reported on the e-mail exchange she had with Philip Coghill of Scottish Land Fund in which he had confirmed that our revised articles are fine from their eligibility point of view. He asked if we had any developments and was suggesting a catch up but LM had replied saying we have to investigate our three strands and are not yet at a stage where it would be useful to have a catch up with him.**
- 5. Finance – (a) AT's report had been circulated. The current balance is £2727.10. New account with Virgin Money is now open and AT suggests closing the Bank of Scotland account after funds transferred to new account. This was agreed and LM will advise AT to contact Virgin Money to get this started.**

- (b) Financial Director. SC has had a chat with someone but they are not interested. No other obvious candidates and we will have to continue to look for someone.
- (c) Purchase by LM of a lockable filing container for membership records was approved, to comply with terms of our draft privacy policy.
- (d) LM had previously reported to board that a bursary had been awarded which will cover almost all her accommodation costs and costs of attending the conference. She also advised what workshops which she has signed up for at the conference and gave a general outline of what was to happen. She expects to travel to the Glasgow the day before the conference, which starts in the morning and the board agreed a budget of a maximum of £50 for her evening meal on her first night.
- (e) Grant for litter pick. LM will now complete application for the grant from the GRAB trust.
6. Membership – (a) LM reported we currently have 70 members. There are two new applicants, their names had been circulated beforehand and they were both approved.
- b) Draft data protection policy. LM and RM had revised the draft but AT was still to approve their changes.
- (c) Attracting new members. After discussion, it was agreed that we will try to encourage membership applications informally by speaking to people at village events, especially Summer Festival, and also to see if new members are attracted because of priority, discounted entrance prices etc. Also we may get applications from Melfort Village for associate memberships.
- (d) RM, SCh and LM had worked on the design for new membership certificate. There are a couple of issues to iron out still.
7. Membership of other organisations. DTAS requires us to have a basic business plan, and we should have something suitable when we have worked with Accelerate. Plunkett Foundation membership was discussed and LM reported on recent Scottish community shops Zoom call and Plunkett report on rural shops. It was agreed to apply for membership of Plunkett, paying annually, and LM will deal with this.
8. Business planning. This had been discussed at a separate Board meeting in May, when we had agreed three initial strands to investigate further. DW will lead the group on looking at a possible retail unit, SC will look at leisure facilities and AM and RM will look at accommodation,
9. Newsletter update. In absence of SCh and MP, this was carried forward to next meeting, although Board noted section of report from SCh's general thoughts about newsletter twice a year.
10. Communications. SCh had submitted her report which was noted but in her absence we could not have full discussion. AT had emailed about changes to website. LM advised she had been made aware that there was no information about LMKC on the Village Hall notice board. As she was attending the community council meeting the previous week she had prepared a two page poster about the company including our events and how to apply for membership and this was now in the Hall and also in the Scammadale notice board.
11. Events. LM and RM reported on the successful results of the litter pick at Degnish road, which made a big difference to how that area looked and was well supported. Thanks to Council for uplifting the items collected and AT for hosting the volunteers.

**Tabletop sale – LM reported she had spoken to Village Hall committee, no issue about not being a joint event this time. She has booked the Hall for Sunday 7th September and an e-mail has gone out to the members to give them priority booking to the end of the month. She also had set discounted rate for members booking a table and for entrance prices. She is looking for more people to help her organise the day.**

**Summer festival, date of 17<sup>th</sup> August now confirmed, now in Glebe field. LMKC will have presence, with membership information available. SC offered to buy the strawberries which had gone down well last year. Board members will be required to mix with the festival goers to discuss the company, get ideas and try to encourage membership**

**Family Ceilidh - RM advised he now had confirmation from Ardfern ceilidh band that they could provide the music for a ceilidh at the Hall on Saturday 23rd August. The Hall has now been booked for this from 5:00 until midnight. He also had arranged a sound engineer. DW will assist him and they may also approach Drhue Forbes and possibly Rowena McAndrew who had organised the previous one. It was agreed that LMKC members would get discounted entrance prices and priority booking as an incentive for membership.**

- 12. Contact with third parties. (a) RM reported on meeting he and LM had with Linda Brown the Chief Executive of Melfort Village. It was agreed that we will prepare an electronic flyer or email specifically for their members (over 1000) as she is confident that Melfort members will be interested in applying for associate membership. Many have been coming to the area for many years and have a great interest in what happens here. RM will work with SCh to prepare something suitable. There was a discussion about the number of associate members that we could have as they cannot exceed 25% of our membership and we already have a couple. (b) The Board noted report of visit to Kilchoan estate, which was interesting and worth keeping going. (c) LM advised on update re approach to owners of Hall field. Apparently her previous e-mail had gone astray but she had sent a further e-mail and this time got a positive response. LM had indicated in her e-mail that we might be a suitable body to acquire the part of the field that they do not wish to build on. LM is waiting to hear back about possible dates for a meeting with the directors of that company in July sometime. There was a discussion regarding what we should say at that meeting and what we could do with part of the field (d) LM reported that she had heard from the village hall committee that they are applying for funding for solar panels and batteries at the Hall to help with their energy costs. TM noted there were already solar panels there. We are not being asked to contribute to the cost, but they had advised of a council fund with a fairly quick deadline if we were interested.**
- 13 Village hall field. This had been put back on the agenda as at last week's committee council meeting they had requested that we continue to support them in relation to the acquisition of the field for the whole community. After discussion it was agreed that we could find out from the meeting with the field owners what they intend to do and then have a further discussion if they are willing to do a deal in relation to part of the field. There is a need for additional car parking for the Hall which could be sited in front of the cairn without it affecting its view and perhaps some sort of all weather sports pitch, allotments and possibly accommodation pods.**
- 14 Registering Community interest in land. RM advised that it was not possible to register a community interest in the village hall field without indicating some use that the community wish to use it for.**

**15 AOB – none.**

**16 Date of next meeting - to be advised.**