

Loch Melfort and Kilniver Company Limited – LMKC

Registered Company Number TBC

Details of membership

As with almost all community companies in Scotland, LMCK Limited does not have shareholders. Instead, we are limited by guarantee and we have members. If for any reason the company stops trading, the members are only liable for any debts up to £1.

Again, as with most other community companies, we make a distinction between members who live in the Loch Melfort and Kilniver area permanently and those who are not lucky enough to do so (yet?). You have to live in the areas, including Arduaine, Clachan, Degnish, Kames, Kilchoan, Kilmelford, Kilniver and Scammadale which covered by these postcodes:

PA34 4QS, PA34 4QU, PA34 4RH, PA34 4UT, PA34 4UU, PA34 4UX, PA34 4UY, PA34 4XA, PA34 4XB, PA34 4XD, PA34 4XE, PA34 4XF, PA34 4XG, PA34 4XH and PA34 4XQ.

This area is the same as that covered by the Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council.

You should be entitled to vote at a local government election in a polling district within the above area. We realise that some people may not be entitled to vote here while still being residents in most other senses, so will look at such applications individually.

Above all, you must be prepared to support our objectives of developing the community that we are lucky to enjoy and to ensure that those most affected by such work have a say in what we do.

There are various reasons for the distinction between local residents and others, but a major one is that we have to show various funding bodies that we have sufficient community support and involvement.

Our rules say at least three quarters of our members have to live in the area specified above. If we get applications for Associate membership which would mean that we have more than a quarter of our members not living in the area, we would have to place these applications on a waiting list. If we lose enough Ordinary members to fall below the threshold, we would have to suspend accepting applications for Associate members until we have sufficient Ordinary members once more.

We want to encourage younger people to get involved with the company, to bring their perspectives and ideas and to do what we can to ensure they have job opportunities, sports facilities and a great place to live and bring up a family.

The categories of membership are

- Ordinary members - aged 16 and over, who support the company and live in the area covered by the community council
- Associate Members - aged 16 and over who support the company but live outwith the areas mentioned above, or for organisations
- Junior Members – aged 12 to 15, with no residence restriction.

If you are not sure what category you fall within, please check the separate leaflet.

We regret that at present we cannot issue joint or family memberships. We hope that as many people as possible will take out membership as individuals and have a say in what we do. Our meetings will be open to everyone, but only paid up members will be able to vote. We hope that as many of the community as possible will support us by becoming members.

To apply for membership, please complete the membership form and return it to our Treasurer as shown. All applications for membership have to be approved by the Board of Directors. If necessary, the Board may ask for proof of your qualification to be an Ordinary member. We will have a transparent process for making such decisions and will treat everyone equally and without discrimination.

We will also make sure that your personal information is kept securely and we will not share it with any third party. We will comply with data protection rules. While we would like to let you know what we are doing and invite you to our events, if you do not wish us to contact you, please let us know.

The fees for membership are due on the first application and then annually on 1 March. You will be able to set up a standing order or direct debit so you don't have to remember to pay us. The membership fees are

- Junior Membership a minimum of £1
- Ordinary/Associate Membership for ages 16 to 25 a minimum of £5
- All other Ordinary/ Associate memberships a minimum of £10.

The members may decide to change these amounts in the future. There will be no reductions for membership applications received after 1 March.

The membership fees demonstrate community support to external funders and help cover our basic costs for stationary, printing and membership of useful organisations.

The members will not get any income from the Company. Instead, any profits the Company makes will be invested back into the Company for future projects. We hope to be able to get funding from various sources. If we proceed with a big, costly project, we may wish to involve the community and others by asking them to contribute to the costs of purchasing an asset and running costs. We will give more information at that time.

We have decided not to seek charitable status at this stage.

The members will not be running the company day to day, that is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Initially the Steering Group will be the founding Directors until we are operational, when we will let you know about Company meetings. We have to have a minimum of 20 members at all times. At the meetings the Ordinary members will be able to elect Directors and have a say in what projects they wish the company to pursue. The Company will also seek to involve the whole community in what we do.

We hope to have further information on our website in due course.