

Minute of Meeting of Directors of Loch Melfort and Kilninver Company (LMKC) on 7 November 2024 at Pebble Beach View, Kilmelford 19.50 to 21.15

Attendees: LM, SC, DW, AT, DF, also Marianne Pearson.

Apologies: None

- 1. There was a full attendance.**
- 2. The Minutes of the last meeting in September 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. Re Action points not otherwise covered, LM advised Pamela Barnes of DTAS is changing roles, so we will be dealing with someone else. LM will send her a card to thank her and will minute our appreciation for her help. DTAS will help with director's insurance once we are a Provisional member. Annual fees are £90 for Full members and £50 for Provisional members. LM has not yet started drafting process for Board to approve members, DW offered to do so instead. AT advised Alex Prouty has been ill, so not able to help at present re Scottish Tech Army. LM has not contacted S-J Edwards as probably will not reply now. She is maintaining contact with Rachel Ross, and refunds re heating tokens and costs have been done. She has passed amended information sheet to AT. SC has not given postmen anything for delivering invites. LM has given Paul a bottle from the stock of Prosecco and DW will speak to him to have SC give him a fish. LM and AT both have access to membership list. The timing of Melfort Village AGM is May, so we can discuss what we can do nearer the time. SC will speak to Jamie Mellor re where exactly the boundary of the community council lies.**
- 3. Finance – AT's report had been circulated. The current balance is £1,484.99. He has not yet applied to change the A/c. The Bank are going to start charging us £4 per month, plus so much per transaction. We will have to move to a business A/c, the charge will be £8 per month. AT will try to get alternative quotes and ask Bank about an overdraft facility on new a/c. SC suggested we might need loans in future. He has not yet spoken to person who might be Finance Director and will carry on trying.**
- 4. Correspondence – None.**
- 5. Membership – We have 68 members now. The list of new applications had been circulated and was approved. LM to email them to advise this. SC raised issue of someone who is not resident in the community but wishes to be a full member. We discussed having to abide by our rules for various reasons and that we could not waive the rules for this person. This is a different issue to changing fees for someone on low income. In the future we could possibly have honorary members. We require a written policy to cover these issues. A late membership application received that day will be held over until the next meeting. Having a membership certificate is on hold pending getting a logo. LM confirmed every member has a number which will be on the certificate. AT will deal with membership applications from now on. We will have membership application forms at the Sale and other events. We will try to encourage more people to join us. AT is progressing data protection policy.**
- 6. Initial Meeting – we require to have had this before we can apply to DTAS for membership, and it is a good way to engage with members. After discussion it was proposed that we have a public meeting to start with, to probably discuss the shop and any other project, so we can hear from a broad range of people, then we will have the formal AGM and only members stay for that, with Full members voting. It was agreed that we would see if the Hall is free for Friday 14th February, DF will check availability with his wife as Hall Convenor. LM will check what we require to do at this meeting to report to next meeting.**

7. **Fundraising – Table Top Sale happening Sunday and preparations are well advanced.**
DF will check what exactly the Village Hall expect re split of proceeds, as there are various ways it could be done. DF, DW and SC will be available to handle questions and accept membership applications. We will also have a presence at Christmas Fair in December. There were no other ideas put forward.
8. **Shop and Post Office – LM had circulated responses from people on Facebook with suggestions, and letter from Post office re closure. SC reported the owner just wants the building to go on the market as soon as possible. He has not spoken to Rebecca Dalton. DW will speak to her, to check she is not interested, but perhaps she might help by giving her advice to us on the issues to consider. DW reported MacLeods not interested in gifting us a site in Glebe. In relation to the vacant land by the bus stop which the council may be looking to sell, he has put in application to Council to be accepted as community body, but not heard back apart from an acknowledgment. The community council would like something to be done about having a shop or shop/ Café, but understand that us buying the current shop building would not be viable because of the issues with getting funding for such a project. Given the useful Zoom call AT, LM and SC had taken part in before the meeting with the Plunkett Foundation about community shops, it was agreed LM will approach them to see what help they can give us to look at the issues properly.**
9. **PR and Newsletter – LM reported the Oban Times has printed an article on the launch events based on her press release and using the photo of the Hall taken by AT. Our thanks go to MP for preparing the first Newsletter, and LM confirmed this had been sent to members, new applicants and to non members on mailing list. The next Newsletter should go out after the AGM, to cover that and Table top sale. DW and DF will take photos of Sale for future PR etc.**
10. **Website and Social media – LM had given her report on Facebook page in circulated papers and that have 64 members of the Facebook group. She is to speak to Sandi Chaitram shortly to see if she is willing to help with our social media. She had also spoken to Pole Position in Oban re designing our webpages. They can design a 5 or 6 page website for £1,200 plus VAT, and will host domain name for us for £120 pa. They had commented that funders look for well designed websites. It was agreed that at the moment this is too much and AT will continue to be responsible for website.**
11. **Marketing and PR Update – DW reported Leonie Woolf was still very busy and had not been able to design the logo yet. LM said her father Colin Woolf also designs logos and she will contact him to see if he can help. LM is still to visit the school, delayed because of her operation. She has emailed Linda Brown of Melfort Village to maintain connection, she is busy at the moment but we will keep in touch. LM advising no timeshare owner had applied for membership so far. We had asked them to mention us in their newsletter. Their AGM will be a good time to speak to them directly. DF and LM had visited Knipoch Hotel and met Andreas the General Manager. He was very helpful, offering to give us business advice and seemed to have got to know the community already. The hotel had been made over beautifully. They had given a generous voucher for the raffle and offered us some presence at their Winter stalls next month.**
12. **Any other projects – DW advised that he had confirmation from the Council that they had noted our interest in the village hall field on behalf of the community. We had heard nothing from the owners of the field. We did not have time to discuss other potential projects.**

- 13. Registering a Community Interest in Land – LM had sent out some information about this to the Directors. The first step is to get confirmation from the Scottish Government that our Articles comply with their requirements and she is dealing with this. We will look at this again once we hear back from them.**
- 14. New members for the Board – we will carry on asking people who are suitable to join the Board, it was in the Newsletter too. LM advising it was hard both to take notes and speak at meetings, and MP volunteered to be the Minutes Secretary. She will start at next meeting.**
- 15. AOB – we had no time to discuss anything else.**
- 16. Date of next meeting. DW is away mid January onwards so it was agreed we would meet at SC's house on Wednesday 8 January at 7.30 pm.**