

MINARD COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of AGM Meeting held in Minard Hall

Monday 3 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present	Brian Barker, Alison Hay, Margaret Moncur, Fred Bruce (management committee members) Abbie Barcelona, Ailsa Crawford, Jen Deane, Paul Lomas, Colin Moncur, Anne Paterson, John Paterson, Keith Potter, Kirsten Rennie
Apologies	Becs Barker, Liz Taylor-Feeney, John Hay
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Minutes of last AGM were proposed by Margaret Moncur and seconded by Alison Hay.
Matters Arising	None
Chair's report	<p>COVID impact and response</p> <p>Covid has impacted on the village and Community Trust in many ways. Whilst a time of concern and uncertainty the response has brought people closer together and enabled them to make new connections in the village.</p> <p>The Community Trust has been able to help facilitate this with financial support for different activities, for example book tokens for all the children when the 2020 panto was cancelled, chocolates and mince pies for the elderly and vulnerable residents and support for costs of people travelling to collect shopping for people who were isolating or shielding.</p> <p>This has also allowed everyone to keep in touch with neighbours and keep an eye on more vulnerable people in a low key way that is mainly about being part of the community.</p> <p>Activities organised by the Management Committee</p> <p>As in previous years, the Management Committee organises a limited number of activities and has focussed attention on providing facilities so that others can organise activities.</p> <p>During the 2020/21 year all activities had to be cancelled. The 2021 beach clean, barbecue and fireworks were the best attended ever and the 2021 panto was also very popular. All are good indicators for the future.</p> <p>Other activities</p> <p>Groups hiring the hall for their regular activities and occasional events had to cancel all activities during the various lockdowns and activities were limited as the lockdowns were eased. Most of these are now back up and running and there are new users of the hall.</p> <p>Village walks</p>

	<p>Thank you to the efforts of some volunteers in the community the ownership of the bridge over Auchgoyle Burn on the circuit walk has been identified.</p> <p>This has allowed the Community Trust to submit an application for funding to the A'Cruach replace the bridge. The call for contractors to bid for the work generated a lot of interest, but only one submission. Travis Perkins in Lochgilphead have offered favourable terms if the contractor uses them to supply materials.</p> <p>Village Shop</p> <p>The plans reported at the last AGM to convert the shop back into a flat have not progressed because of the lockdown. There has been some limited income that has helped to cover costs.</p> <p>Foreshore</p> <p>The plans to improve the foreshore have progressed with the input from various volunteers around the village and materials paid for by the Community Trust. The bench, planters and fencing have created a more attractive area that is now used more often.</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>The Trust web site has minutes of all meetings at www.minard.org.uk also e-mail info@minard.org.uk</p> <p>The Trust also acts as admin for the Minard Community Noticeboard on Facebook.</p> <p>The Facebook noticeboard and web site have been important for communications within the village during the various lockdowns. Activity on the Facebook Community Noticeboard has increased significantly.</p> <p>The noticeboard for printed posters etc is also available on Brian & Becs's house.</p>
<p>Treasurers Report</p>	<p>Margaret Moncur presented the accounts for the 2020/21 financial year:</p> <p>For the financial year up to the end of March 2020 the Community Trust made a surplus of £25,372. This is largely because of specific covid grants available to community groups to help with community resilience and a bequest of £7,955 from the estate of Teresa Foggin.</p> <p>The Trust will find a suitable way to mark the bequest – a suggestion was made of a bench, perhaps at the foreshore.</p> <p>Margaret also highlighted the success the Trust has had accessing funds from the windfarm fund and fundraising activities in the village.</p> <p>Approx two-thirds of the Trust's available funds are held in restricted funds and the Trust also maintains contingency funds for insurance and building repairs.</p> <p>As a note of caution the underlying spending of the Trust still slightly exceeds day to day income. This has been the case since the shop closed</p>

	<p>and rental income ceased. This continues to be a focus for the management committee.</p> <p>Accounts were adopted by the meeting.</p> <p>Agreed that Morag Cupples would again be invited to audit the accounts. (Sandra Coles did this for 2020/21 as Morag was unavailable.)</p> <p>Alison offered thanks for all that Margaret does managing the accounts and more for the Community Trust. This was echoed by everyone present.</p>
<p>Nomination & Election of Committee / Trustees</p>	<p>Alison indicated that she will be standing down. Brian thanked her for her long service to the Community Trust and wished her well for the future.</p> <p>Ailsa, Colin and Paul volunteered to join the management committee.</p> <p>The remaining members of the committee will continue for another year.</p> <p>Fred indicated that he may be replaced by another member of West Loch Fyne Community Council as their representative on the committee. This will be decided at the next meeting of WLFCC.</p>
<p>Discussion on points raised during the meeting</p>	<p>Village Walks</p> <p>Discussion clarified that the Trust has no liabilities associated with the bridge over Auchgoyle Burn. These lie with the landowner. The Trust is working to replace the bridge as an important part of a walk that is used by most residents of the village.</p> <p>Colin has been approached by someone who would like to erect a memorial bench to a family member who had close links to the discovery of the solar alignment on the Brainport Trail. A suggested location is 'Jack's bench' on the Brainport Trail as this is close to the solar alignment and is in serious disrepair.</p> <p>Village Shop</p> <p>Discussion on this touched on the fact that there has been little interest from potential tenants for the shop over the last 4 years. When the small number of potential tenants explored the viability in more detail, the conversation tended to peter out. Village shops have been in decline for a long time and the pandemic does not appear to have changed this.</p> <p>The high cost of converting the shop was highlighted by some attending the meeting and others questioned whether it is now time to sell the shop and use the funds to support the community in other ways.</p> <p>The question of testing the letting market again with an agent was also raised as a possibility.</p> <p>The Trust will explore this in more detail in the coming year.</p> <p>Village Hall</p> <p>Many of the activities are now back up and running in the hall and there are bookings from new groups and individuals.</p>

Alison would like to pass on the job of taking hall bookings. Paul and Ailsa both indicated that they will be happy to do this. A handover will be arranged between Alison, Ailsa and Paul.

A suggestion was made to add bookings to the web site. This has been on the 'to do list' for awhile, but does need some work in the background as it is not necessarily a simple task.

Community activities

Margaret indicated that activities that are in planning for the management committee are first aid training (linked to the funding for the defibrillator) and the beach clean and barbecue (likely to be May bank holiday weekend).

Some other examples of activities were suggested including, a curry night and event for the Queen's Jubilee (more detail below).

The volunteers on the management committee are only able to take forward a limited number of activities – the more people in the community that help organise events and activities the better. "Many hands make light work".

The Trust's public liability insurance covers all events organised by the Community Trust – whether organised by the management committee or members of the community. (The management committee does need to agree that it is a Community Trust event.)

Queen's Jubilee

Colin presented proposals for an event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on the foreshore on the first weekend of June. There are some preparatory works needed to extend the seating area to accommodate more seating, a barbecue and fencing to separate parking areas from seating (similar to the work that has been completed already).

Materials costs would be approx. £750 and some work would be needed to prepare the ground for the extended social area. This includes the area of community owned land that is currently occupied by the vehicle and boat belonging to the owner of the larger shed on the shore.

The proposal was welcomed by everyone at the meeting.

The Community Trust is able to apply for wind farm funding to support the costs (probably via the community council small grants fund) and several people volunteered skills or support to help prepare the area and organise the event.

The Community Trust will contact the owner of the car and boat to ask for them to be removed so that preparations can begin.

Parent and toddler group

Kirsten provided an update on the new parent and toddler group that alternatives meetings between Minard and Furnace. Interest has been good and includes families from further afield.

The group has still to establish a committee and formally constitute itself so that it can open a bank account. In the meantime the Community Trust is

	<p>happy to hold funds for the group as a restricted fund and transfer these to a bank account once that is set up.</p> <p>The group would also be able suggest uses for the restricted fund the Trust has for children’s activities.</p> <p>Minard school</p> <p>The Council is due to make a decision on the future of the school in June 2022 with an expectation that the school will formally close (having been mothballed for several years). This is a likely to be a big change and presents possible opportunities for the village.</p> <p>The Community Trust owns the land to the front and north of the school building and there is a condition in the title deeds for the school and remaining grounds that could limit options for future owners.</p> <p>The Trust has the start of a community garden at the front of the school that could be expanded. The school house has potential to provide regular income for the Trust and the school building itself could be a flexible space for short or long term hire.</p> <p>The Minard community needs to decide whether it wants to take on ownership of the school as an asset transfer from the Council. Taking on an asset and long term management after that is not something to be taken lightly.</p> <p>The immediate need is to think about how the school buildings and grounds could benefit the community and then to gauge whether there is broad community support to be actively involved in making that happen. With this, there will be clarity when the choice comes to proceed or not.</p>
A.O.C.B	<p>Thanks</p> <p>In his closing remarks Brian commented that the Trust relies on the work of volunteers. Volunteers who are essential for making things happen and he thanked everyone who has contributed their time and skills throughout the year.</p> <p>If you are keen to get more involved either as a volunteer on a particular activity or as a member of the Management Committee please get in touch.</p> <p>The meeting closed with thanks to everyone for making the effort to attend.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	No date set for next AGM. A Saturday may help increase attendance