Minard Community Trust

Meeting Note 28 October 2026

Attendees: Brian Barker, Jan Brown, Jinnie Davis, Silvia Jost, Margaret Moncur, Becs Barker

Apologies: Anne Paterson

SSEN Micro Grants

The meeting had four micro grant applications to consider. Anne had given comments ahead of the meeting for Brian to include in the discussion. Jan and Margaret were present for the discussions but did not contribute to the decisions on the grants because of their connections to the Council. Silvia did not contribute to the decision on application 4 because of a conflict of interest.

Application 1 – community bonfire and fireworks. Amounted requested £460. Approved

Application 2 – community pantomime in Minard Hall. Amounted requested £500. Approved

Application 3 – an honesty box. Amounted requested £1,000. Declined. Whilst the idea is supported in principle there was insufficient detail on likely costs and concerns about how this would be managed to ensure proper food safety. The application was also above the normal limit of £500.

Application 4 – erection of a sauna at the shore line in Minard. Amount requested £1,000. Declined. Whilst there is support for the sauna and the Trust will benefit from its operation as landowner the application was declined because the focus is establishing a private business. A future application for activities showing a clear community benefit could be considered. The application was also above the normal limit of £500.

Funds remaining to be allocated: £4,440

Disappointed to see no applications from Lochgair even though identical information was shared with contacts in Lochgair and on the Lochgair village Facebook page. We need to ensure there is local awareness in Lochgair.

SSEN Argyll fund – potential for larger bids from the Trust

Main focus of discussion was on potential improvements to the hall including heating, replacing panelling that is showing signs of rot, lighting, kitchen upgrade and potentially lowering the ceiling.

Invitations to apply to the fund are likely to be open in approx. 6 months, so time available to get detailed costings and form a more detailed plan.

Barrel sauna lease

Silvia has planning permission to locate a sauna on the shore next to the remaining shed. The Community Trust will be the landlord and details of the lease need to be finalised. Discussion focused on key points to include as specific conditions. These include:

- For the operation to comply with planning permission reference 26/01030/PP
- To avoid noises/disturbance to neighbours
- For the notice period to be 3 months on either side
- If toilets/parking at the hall are to be used then the hall needs to be booked at the same time to avoid clashes with other bookings
- That any changes to the landscaping in the foreshore area need to be agreed before any work takes place

Silvia confirmed that the income to the Trust will be 10% of gross earnings from the sauna.

Margaret is seeking advice on the format of a lease and will share details with Silvia. Details need to be finalised and lease signed soon as the sauna is scheduled for delivery in January.

Storm damage on the foreshore

Storm Boelo caused some significant damage on the foreshore including:

- The older planters being moved (one is embedded in the bed of the burn). The planters from Glasgow Wood have survived intact.
- Gravel washed form the seating area and seaweed washed up on to that area
- Some damage to the stone retaining wall by the seating area
- Loss of one bench and the boat planter for children
- Loss of tree branches/scrub that were stored for the bonfire night
- More significant damage around the base of the memorial where movement of the trees and wave action have dislodged much of the retaining wall

Some volunteers have already started some of the clearance work.

Reinstating the gravel could also include the area where the sauna is due to be located because that was affected too. Margaret has contacted the quarry for quotes for gravel for surfacing.

The work at the memorial is more significant. Jan mentioned that Balfour Beatty have undertaken small scale works like this as part of their efforts to build links with eh local community. Jane to pass on contact details so enquiries can be made.

Other work at the foreshore

A suggestion has been made to have a shed at the shore to store equipment like the BBQ. (Current storage is in the poly tunnel at eth school.) This would need to go through planning and a temporary set up like a horse box may be easier to progress. At present recovery from the storm and preparations for bonfire night are the priority.

School grounds

The public meeting on 22 July confirmed that the best option was to sell the community land with the school. The Council have been informed of this decision. At the public meeting Jan had confirmed that the local plan would not support housing on the site. The suggestion of a community market garden would not be sustainable based on the lack of capacity to develop and run what is in effect a community business. An alternative idea to support people to grow vegetables in their gardens could be progressed once the land is sold.

There have been no recent updates on progress from the Council. Brian to chase.

Any other business

The coffee morning has built up a surplus of funds and had offered these to the Community Trust. Agreed to use this to support the Christmas village walk rounds delivering gifts to children and older residents.

Thanks given also for the donation of the clock by the Women's Guild.