

Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 12th September 2017 , 7.30pm

1. Welcome, Attendance & Apologies

Attendance

Tom Ireland (TI) Phil Startin (PS), Colin Adam (CA),
Melanie Tonks (MT). Mhairi Cadie (MC) , Duncan MacLachlan (DM),
Lewis Kennedy (LK), Ronnie MacDonald (RM) , Maria Pollard (MP)

Apologies

Lily McKay (LM) , Gordon Paice (GP)

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate.

Proposed: Mhairi Cadie Seconded: Phil Startin

There were no amendments or matters arising.

3. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest

4. Reports

• **Treasurers Report**

The treasurer is still awaiting some paperwork and is in the process of getting the bank account updated. DM needs to sign updated paperwork to allow PS access to the accounts. MP requested to have an updated list of who the signatories are for the hall and trust bank accounts. DM and PS will arrange a meeting with Gill, the hall treasurer to arrange getting signatories sorted and gain information requested by MP.

- **Café**

No Update on Income and Expenditure.

The café has had a revamp; being painted and getting new tables and chairs in place. Quotes have been received for a new ventilation system which came in at £5400. A few other companies were mentioned and it was also suggested that we ask GP if he knows of any.

- **Hydro**

Things are progressing with the changeover from the trust to the new community hydro scheme. All contracts have been changed and all repayments now come from the hydro society. All invoices in this financial year will be re-issued in the hydro scheme name as opposed to the trust.

An application for a grant has also been submitted to the NP/Scottish Hydro to look at enhancing the project but creating an enhancement to the power house, adding information boards and a viewing platform. All the grant applications submitted do not require match funding. These grant applications also have no implications for the trust.

DM attended the energy for all AGM and voted as a member. There have been articles in hydro and energy for all newsletters detailing the Arrochar scheme and energy for all have stated that they are pleased to have a hydro scheme in Scotland on board. There are a few other projects within the village that may also be possible and this will be looked into further.

The project itself has reached the intake on the river and construction can now begin. It has been noted that the track has become soft, wet and muddy and the group express apologies for this, there will be surface material brought in to try and improve this.

The hydro scheme has been introduced to the school during their annual sponsored walk.

- **Projects**

Footprints in the Landscape Project

This community-led project aims to raise awareness of and engagement with local heritage by creating a stunning aerial film of Loch Lomond and its islands, encompassing digital reconstructions of local archaeological sites, accompanied by an evocative soundtrack. A professional musician/composer in residence will familiarise themselves with the landscape and engage with local adults and young people to introduce them to different musical forms and sounds, explore how historical sites/events have been conveyed musically in the past, and gather their feelings, memories and perceptions of the landscape and of particular heritage sites. The musician will compose and record a film soundtrack reflecting the landscape and its heritage, and people's feelings about

them. The wider project will also produce a photography book documenting the project; a 'behind-the-scenes' film; and a map-based online heritage resource to allow people to access more information about the heritage depicted in the film. The film and soundtrack will be launched at an event attended by the composer and film-makers, and will be made available to individuals, local businesses and others and via the internet to raise awareness and increase enjoyment of the Loch Lomond landscape through improved interpretation, and to promote the area as a heritage-tourism destination. MP stated that this project is in the application stage and details will be passed to GP as our Project Lead.

Area Map

The trust had received funding to produce a map collating all the local walks within the area and this is being coordinated by Sue Furness and Fiona Jackson along with the trust. It is hoped that this will be made available in the next few months. Further discussions will need to take place around the funding of the next batch of maps.

• **3 Villages Hall**

No update was given by the hall on way of finances or any other business. It was advised by RM that there was an issue with hall bank statements but reported that this has been resolved.

6. AOCB

MP was involved in a meeting with Councillor Patterson and the new chief inspector, who seems keen to help with the community and a number of issues were covered such as speeding and rural crime. He was shown around the area.

Rm has stepped down from the community partnership. RM also advised that it has been noted that there is a lot of money going into Balloch and that the CC are not getting the same co-operation from the council as is the case in other areas. The CC also decided that we are part of Cowal community partnership and our local rep is David McKenzie. There was a dispute as to what area we come under and this would need to be clarified by the NP. DM stated that we had always been obliged to attend Lomond and Cowal as we are in the middle.

7. Trust Update

Maria delivered the following statement to the trust directors:

I have a genuine concern to share with the Directors at this point. As some of you are aware I have just come back and the best thing about being away, when you come back home you can see things with a fresh pair of eyes.

Despite our best efforts it seems that various groups within the auspices of the Trust are acting as individual organisations. The Hall is now managed by a comparatively large number of unelected members and that the PS seems to be running as an individual business. It was previously agreed that a new structure would operate in

which there would be a steering group for both the Hall and the PS . New TOR's to be completed and I will address these later. At present it seems that the Trust has lost direct control of some of its key functions. If we do not act at this point as Directors we leave ourselves open to accusations of neglect. I personally do not think it is fair to expect Directors to be responsible for actions of others over which they have no control.

So where do we go forward from here? I suggest that there are two viable options . If you think that everything works at present we can act by legalising the evolved two independent group structure and dissolve the Trust? See articles of association section 100-102. If we have two independently functioning groups we have no need for a Trust. For example its not ethical nor good governance to expect Directors to be responsible for groups over which they have no direct control.

Or if you feel that things don't work at present we can act by the implementation of the previously approved structure to facilitate cohesion and working together and applying the code of conduct rigorously to control both ventures in order for benefits of one organization under the Trust?

If you choose the latter, the problem we have as a Trust, is as follows:-

Implementation of Code of Conduct – there is no point in having a code of conduct if it is not policed effectively. So how do we police it –its sensitive and difficult particularly in a small community like ours? We cannot implement appropriate policy or ensure the Trust's best interests are adhered to without it . We have had the situation in the recent past where actions have been advocated but not actually maintained For example the Hall Steering group.

So I 've created sample TOR's for the different groups in accordance with the previously agreed structure and a new Social Media Policy. Any of these documents can be amended to suit the Trusts plans for going forward–should we decide to keep the Trust option .

One solution could be in the interim to ask an outside agency such as the NP or a independent another to police our Code of Conduct for us whilst training Directors in the Trust to police it in the future . I believe transparency is important? We need to think about this... because it will mean washing our dirty laundry in public. I believe we have to be seen as treating each area and individuals equally. So for example If the Hall is to have a steering group so does the Pit Stop and any other venture going forward.

So over to you- I feel a vote is necessary to decide whether we are all together as one Trust with Directors in control of key areas or we dissolve the Trust and therefore I want to propose a vote on this matter.

As there is no point in agreeing to the new policy documents if we are going to continue to operate as individual groups rather than as a cohesive Trust as a whole.

Discussion was had surrounding the above statement, MC stated that the steering group had been replaced by a process in which each group would review the ToR and then hold a joint meeting, this was postponed at the request of the HMG and never re-scheduled.

CA advised the directors of his position in that he was planning on resigning due to the amount of negativity brought to the trust by other groups within the village, he stated that it is a lovely community and he is also involved with the scouts and youth group and saw the trust as a chance to make a difference and this has not happened.

It was noted that members of the HMG should be elected and that all directors of the trust as well as HMG and Pit Stop group should meet the fit and proper guidelines and adhere to the code of conduct. Rm stated that he was an elected member as was Gill.

As the trust has the legal responsibility of the hall it was noted that a director should be the person responsible for staff and not a member of the HMG.

Some members stated that things will not move forwards until the removal of the HMG, however it was noted that we should be working together and the trust should state what it wants from the hall and continue the process to update ToR, of which there should be compliance.

DM will e-mail the social media policy to be distributed to all. It was noted that a director of communications should be appointed and they should have access to all accounts.

All policies are located in the trust dropbox.

MP brought up the vote that the CC representative was not able to sit on the trust as a director and instead the representative had been removed. RM stated that this occurred due to the CC rep being astounded at the way he was treated.

An allegation was also made that the NP has no confidence in the trust and the the CC had been asked to form a new trust. This was discussed further but there were no more details forthcoming.

At this point MP and PS left the meeting.

DM made a statement regarding how the trust was started and that it would be in the best interests of the community for it to continue and the ongoing negativity to be resolved and all work together.

The meeting ended at this point and the date of the next meeting decided.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm.