

## **2016 DRAFT AGM MINUTES**

### **Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company AGM**

**Held 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 2.30p.m. in Easdale Island Community Hall**

Directors present: Duncan Smallman, Jan Fraser, Iain McDougall, Michelle Macfadyen, & Jess Hill.

Members present: Ruth Barratt, May McGillivray, Tony Hill, Don Gillies, Steven Brown, Voirrey Quillin, Frank & Frances McPherson, Jackie Inch, & Sam Cohn.

Also present: Dughall MacLeod, David Barratt

**Apologies for absence:** Alan MacFadyen, Neil Fraser, Ina Coombs, Robert MacDougall.

Duncan welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the apologies.

**Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising:** The draft minutes from 2015 were proposed by Don Gillies and seconded by Tony Hill. No matters arising.

#### **Chairman's Report:**

2016 has certainly been a year of ups and downs around the world and even here on Easdale, where we have welcomed new additions to the island and had to say a sad farewell to Peter who passed away at the beginning of December. The turbulent year has been reflected by Eilean Eisdeal. It has been a busy year in managing, maintaining and fundraising for our existing community assets, the hall, the museum and the harbour. Eilean Eisdeal continues to look for sources of funding for existing and new projects.

Over the last year Eilean Eisdeal became involved with the Lorn Island Partnership, formed along with Kerrera, Lismore and Luing to try and pool resources where appropriate, share experiences and knowledge to overcome issues common to all of the islands. Funding from DTAS allowed each island board to visit each island and with the support from DTAS, LIP were successful in securing funding for a development officer to work across the islands in helping identify priorities, opportunities that may have been missed and to help in securing funding. We have been fortunate to have secured the services of Gill Law and Jane Churchill. Though a small step, next year will see the launch of a leaflet promoting all four islands to highlight the community owned attractions. LIP will feature throughout the rest of this.

Our application to Creative Scotland was sadly unsuccessful this, mainly due to over subscription of this competitive grant scheme. I would like to thank Wee, Michelle and Keren who helped put together and submit the application. Wee has also stepped down from the Arts Programme though continues with providing his expertise in sound tech support as well as helping to keep the website updated. I would like to thank Wee for all his help over the years in running a very successful

Arts Programme. Des and Laura agreed to take on the Arts Programme and with some of Wee's guidance this year we have continued to host bands and theatre performances in the hall, in what was a successful arts year. Keren has now agreed to help Des continue the Arts Programme work as Laura has her time taken up with their new born son Finlay.

The hall also played host to two weddings this year, one off-islander and the wonderful nuptials of Beth and Joe. I would like to thank, Jess, Michelle, Annabel, Keren, Laura and Lynn all of whom helped make these and all events run smoothly this year.

A big thank you to Dughall for repairing the heating and in continuing to provide repairs to the hall. His time and the work he has done have proved invaluable and has discovered that there is still work to do to get the heating and solar PV back to fully working. His efforts are very much appreciated.

The hall also acquired a new table tennis table, with thanks to Michelle and her boys in helping to put it together and Jan in helping get the right table. It is a great addition and has been frequently used. Des kindly sourced and fitted a replacement screen for the rowing machine, one of the most used pieces of equipment, so thank you very much Des for doing this.

With Gill's help we are seeking appropriate funding to help with supporting the hall, in purchasing new equipment such as spot heaters and possibly a new sound desk amongst other items. Through LIP the hall now has a laptop and a multi-purpose printer with the plan of this being available for all to use.

The play-park received some TLC this year, thanks to Dave, Linzi and Calum for seeing to the repairs and paint job of the grand play ship Titanic.

I would like to thank Tony for his continued work on the harbour and in looking to source new pontoons and facilities for the harbour. A thank you to Alex, Ghalia, Jess and Tony for helping to put through the planning application for the re-instating of the boatshed next to the bins. The materials have started to be purchased and we will look to completion in the coming year. The first use will be to provide some shelter for the tractor and to help to get this running again, with thanks to Pete Hanger in agreeing to take the wee furgie away for an overhaul.

I would like to thank the ferrymen for continuing to provide help when it's needed on the island, in their support when there are medical emergencies. Thank you to all of them, Alan and Calum in particular in getting the new buggy shed approved and built. I know many hands went into building the shed and thank you to everyone who lent a hand, a hammer or nail gun. I think we can all agree that it is a better set up for the buggy that is there for all of us to use. Thank you to Calum and Dughall in sourcing new batteries for the buggy.

The museum has had a successful year, with footfall up from last year and this is reflected in an increase in income of £300. The museum took on a new weekend member of staff in Fiona who lives and we thank her and all the volunteers who have helped keep the museum open. The directors would like to say a very big thank you to May, without whom the museum just wouldn't be as successful as it has been. Thank you also to Simon for his work on repairs to the museum. Gill, working with Iain and May has been looking into funding to help with securing funding for

refurbishing the museum and making the most of the vast collection of Easdale memorabilia that there is.

Atlantic Adventure Day proved to be popular and successful this year, with a big thank you to all who helped make it happen, in providing stalls, with Anne and Voirrey running the cake and coffee stall, Stewart running the pet show and for all who came along and supported the day.

Many thanks to SeaFari for running round island tours on AA Day but also for carrying much needed island path clearing and resurfacing and of course Carolyn and the team in setting off the Fireworks on a wonderful evening that helped raise a much needed funds for the hall, but brought people out and together. Thanks also to Don for running the BBQ on the evening.

The World Stone Skimming proved to be a big success and raising much needed funds to help keep everything running. The directors wish to give a big thank you to the WSSC committee, especially Keren and Donald in making it such a success, as well as to all the volunteers who helped on the day. A special thank you to Donald, who is stepping down as chair of the WSSC, without whom the Stone Skimming wouldn't be the global big hitter it is. We are very grateful to Graeme McCormick and Conveyancing Direct for their continued sponsorship of the Stone Skimming as we continue to be asked for £1000 for use of the quarry by Jonathan Feigenbaum. On investigation by our DO Gill in to possible suitable funding, she has started to look into whether it would be possible to purchase the Stone Skimming quarry. Highlands and Islands Enterprise have agreed provisionally to fund the valuation of the quarry to then take to funders. The reasoning in looking to purchase the quarry is two-fold: we may not always be fortunate enough to secure sponsorship for using the quarry and secondly it would then be possible to incorporate the quarry as a direct exhibit with the museum and so would truly become a community asset that helps tell the story of our island.

A final word about the World Stone Skimming Championship, we were all very sad to hear about the passing of Bert Baker without whom this wonderful competition wouldn't exist and from whom the Bertie is named.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for all the work they have put in this year. I would like to thank Laura and Don who came aboard and Linzi for her time as a director.

Finally the directors are grateful for the continued positive support and encouragement that they continue to receive. They would like to extend a big thank you to all the members, sub-committees and all the many volunteers who have helped throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to keep the museum, the hall and the harbour going. We are open to anyone who feels they can give something to help us to continue to build on all the previous year's hard work.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Simmers & Co have prepared the accounts for Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company Ltd for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Unfortunately, there was no funding received from Creative Scotland this year, for the Arts Programme, this was due to higher number of funding applications. With

the exception of a £975 received this year that actually belonged to last year. The funding therefore decreased by some £4,251, however, the Arts Programme entry income increased by £ 981 and with costs reduced by £2,233. Overall, there was a £1,414 deficit of this year compared to £377 Surplus last year.

The main areas of improvement have arisen as follows:

Apart from a slight confusion on Gift Aid, which was undertaken by a previous director, that is to be dealt with by the current directors and our book keeper. Membership income has increased from £1,168 to £1,667.

Stone Skimming income has increased from £7,350 to £10,341

Hall & Bar income has increased from £4,621 to £7,125, with no real increase in Bar purchases.

Harbour Income has increased from £5,389 to £8,016. Unfortunately, this has been offset by the £1,745 of bad debts and are shown separately on the spread sheet (SOFA) ) page 7.

There is an overall Deficit this year of £15,687 compared to £19,875 in the previous year. It must be remembered that £19,190 of depreciation costs are absorbed by Restricted Reserves received many years ago! However, on a very positive note, the results show an "Operating Profit" of £3,503 compared to an "Operating Deficit" of £190 in 2015. This is a marked improvement.

We feel, all in all, the results for the year are successful and will continue to improve over the coming year.

**Appoint Accountant:**

The members agreed to re-appoint Simmers.

**Director nominations:**

There were no nominations for new directors.

**Questions from the floor:**

Tony Hill raised the bad debt issue of the boats at the top of the harbour. Duncan replied that this could not be taken forward to the small claims court on account that EE is a charity based organisation. Advice is being sort to try and tidy up the area, in the hope of increased use of the harbour.

**Any other business:**

Nothing was raised.

Jan thanked everyone for attending

The meeting closed at 14.45