

2017 DRAFT AGM MINUTES

Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company AGM

Held 29th December 2017 at 2.30pm in Easdale Island Community Hall

Directors present: Duncan Smallman, Jan Fraser & Jess Hill.

Members present: May McGillivray, Tony Hill, Don Gillies, Steve Brown, Voirrey Quillin, Frank McPherson, Colin McPherson, Ruth Barratt, Alan Hunter, Keren Cafferty, Georgia Wolfson, Alan & Michelle MaFadyen, David Donnison, Gus Wallace, Dave Munro, Tony & Britt Doughty-Godchaux, Laura Ballentyne, & Alex McRae.

Apologies for absence: Iain McDougall, Ina Coombs, Robert McDougall & Nigel Chippendale.

Duncan welcomed everyone to the meeting and Jess announced the apologies.

Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising: The draft minutes from 2016 were proposed by Jan and seconded by Tony Hill.

Don asked about the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds, Duncan explained that restricted funds were grants and assets and could only be used for their specific purpose. Unrestricted funds such as harbour fees, membership & Stoneskimming income can be spent as required.

Chairman's Report:

A year really does pass quickly and I find myself already giving my report for the year. Looking back at previous chair reports, it seems each year has its ups and downs or is a challenging one. 2017 has been no exception and I feel has been a particularly challenging year for Eilean Eisdeal.

The beginning of the year saw Eilean Eisdeal work with the development trusts of Kerrera, Lismore and Luing as part of the Lorn Islands Partnership to work with Keep Scotland Beautiful and apply for the Climate Challenge Fund under the project name 4 Greener Lorn Islands. The aim was to try and improve recycling facilities (which had been highlighted on Easdale in previous consultations as an issue) across islands, including the possible installation of glass imploders and work towards upcycling and repair workshops across islands. The meant the Lorn Islands Partnership had to be formally incorporated though clearly stipulating that each island partner priorities took precedent over that of LIP. Easdale along with the other islands were successful in securing CCF funding and a very capable project officer was appointed. Sadly it turned out we were over ambitious and the glass imploders were not suitable for the islands and we were unable to secure any recycling facilities for the islands. However, this did lead to work towards improving the office space in the hall (along

with a laptop and a multi purpose printer and photocopier) and work towards internet connection for the hall.

The Lorn Islands Partnership has continued to help benefit all the islands involved. Having secured funding for a cross island development officer in 2016, something Eilean Eisdeal had been working towards and was successful in helping secure as part of LIP, in 2017 we were successful in again getting 2nd year funding from the Strengthening Communities Programme.

The Scottish Government appear very supportive of the Strengthening Communities Programme and the Development Trust Association Scotland have relayed to us that such cross island partnerships are looked upon very favourably. Through Gill Law, who has been the development officer we've worked very closely with we have been busy submitting applications for funding to:

- help with refurbishment to the museum, to help protect the exhibits;
- funding to have an HES approved marine conservation architect and surveyor to come and work on the repairing the collapsed harbour wall;
- submit applications for funding for the small improvements to the hall, including a lockable bar shutter to aid in improved storage for alcohol, coin operated heaters to help provide a quick heating solution in the hall and for support in providing internet in the hall;
- an application to the LEADER programme for a paid position to help with the hall and harbour admin
- successful application to HIE to have the Stone Skimming Quarry valued.

Gill supported us when undertaking the consultation regarding whether we should pursue the potential purchase of the Stone Skimming quarry through the Scottish Land Fund. SLF and HIE did come back with a suggested amendment, which is on the agenda.

Talking of Stone Skimming, it was once again a huge success, and I thank Keren and the organising committee for putting together a great weekend. We would like to thank all who volunteered on the day. This year we did receive an invoice and pay £1000 for the use of the quarry. With that and a reduction in the amount of sponsorship, we still raised a net of around £5000.

Our other big success this year was the Arts Programme, for which we were successful in securing funding from Creative Scotland. It was a diverse programme including a full circus weekend, theatre productions including the ever popular Mike Maran and the purchase of a new sound desk. Out with the Creative Scotland money, Keren and Des managed to secure Tide Lines and the Peatbog Faeries for sell out concerts in the hall. We would like to thank them both for their hard work in putting together what was a wonderful Arts Programme. Thank you to Lynn for the work on the bar and thank you to Jess and Ghalia for working on the door this year and thank you for all who volunteered at the events especially on the Bar. The Peatbog Faeries was Wee's last as our brilliant sound engineer. I would like to thank him very much for all the gigs and performances he has overseen, setting up bands and overseeing performances from behind the mixing desk.

I would like to thank May and Lynn and all who have worked in the museum over the last year. May and Lynn worked hard to give the museum a slightly new look and it does look wonderful. It was agreed before the start of the season to go back to charging for entry rather than donation. This year, footfall was down and so to was the income, though all who went into the museum enjoyed it and found it fascinating and interesting, as well as they should. We are always looking for help with the museum, so if you feel you could give even a few hours a week, please do let one of us, Iain or May or Lynn know. The museum is really a wee treasure.

So 2017 was a busy year without the matter which dominated it: the harbour. The harbour report is on the agenda and can be addressed fully there. Trying to work towards a solution that was workable and as agreeable to all involved took a lot of time, effort and was at times emotionally draining. The public meeting held in May did become fractious at times and the draft plan for the harbour was set out. This did not please the original complainant, and though we had started on implementing our proposed plan, with chain and shackle replacement and work on the Easdale Sound mooring, any work on the harbour was stopped whilst various regulatory bodies who were contacted came to discuss the harbour. However, with the issue now resolved from the perspective of the organisations contacted, we will look towards working on trying to improve the harbour. We will look again at the harbour fees structure and have agreed an arrangement with SeaFari concerning their harbour fees, which will see an increase in what is paid.

The whole issue with the harbour did contribute to Michelle stepping down in May and it seems to have put people off from coming forward to stand as directors. From myself and on behalf of the other directors I would like to thank Michelle for all her hard work, time and help she gave. I would like to thank Jan for agreeing to being co-opted for the year and helping us through a difficult time, she is now deservedly stepping down (finally). With that I would like to give her a wee token of our thanks, a tree, but one that likes a lot of water.

I would like to thank Iain, though he isn't here, for all his work and passion for the museum as well as handling the membership side of things and I thank Jess for all the hard work she has put in over what has been a trying year at times. Really thank you for your support especially over the last year. I would also like to thank all the past directors that I have worked with, it has been humbling at times and a learning curve for myself. I am lucky to call you friends.

All these big thanks lead to why I am giving them. I am stepping down, having originally been co-opted in February 2012 and elected in December 2012. It has been an honour and well very interesting to have been a part of the board of something so important to the island. It was a big step for me and I appreciate I have not always been the most efficient or timely of directors, but it has been a big learning curve. I have also felt it has been my duty to step up and try and help the place I call home. There is always something on the to do list, but I think we have had our successes. I

am really grateful to have worked along side such a dedicated group, it's been pretty humbling at times. What does sadden me is the long long standing view and a distrustful one at that, and the term, of The Trust. This view, along with the past year I think has put it all in a precarious position, as folk are put off from coming on board because of the potential flak and criticism. Being part of the board doesn't stop you being human, doesn't stop you being part of this community. It is a way of just trying to keep those things that were considered key to Easdale Island: the hall, what should be a social hub of the island; the harbour, without it there is no island and the museum, the cultural soul of the island. Everyone seems to want what is best for the island. I love this island, I will be sad to leaving.

Treasurer's Report:

Simmers & Co have prepared the accounts for Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company Ltd for the year ending 30thSeptember 2017.

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May asked why employment costs had doubled compared to last year. Duncan explained that Eilean Eisdeal had been asked to hold & payout the Climate Challenge funds for Rachel Stockton's wages for the first two months she was in position, so they showed in our accounts.

Keren asked why the feed-in tariff was so low. Jess explained that the PV cells were not functioning and it had proved very difficult to find someone to repair them.

Keren said she may have an email contact for the installers – SSE.

Keren also said that Stone Skimming revenue was down on previous years due to increased costs because there is no main sponsor.

Appoint Accountant:

The members agreed to re-appoint Simmers & Co.

Director nominations:

There were no nominations for new directors prior to AGM or from the floor.

Jess said that she & Iain McDougall (who is in his 80s) would find it difficult to shoulder all the responsibilities on their own. Duncan did give a plea for anyone to be co-opted for a year.

DTAS (Development Trust Association Scotland) can be consulted if EE has difficulties with insufficient numbers of Directors.

Duncan thanked Jan for all her dedication and hard work as she was standing down after being co-opted for a further year.

Harbour Report:

A community meeting was held in May – chaired by Gill Law (Development Officer) following allegations that the harbour was being miss-managed and a proposed harbour report was presented. Various agencies were contacted, Marine Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council, Health & Safety Executive & Marine Coastguard Agency – none of which could find not any problems.

Colin expressed his thanks and appreciation for the time and effort it must have taken the directors in dealing with the complaint. Duncan did say that the whole

affair had cost us the valuable services of a director and possibly been off-putting to anyone considering standing.

Addition of the following definition of the boundaries of Easdale Island community to Memorandum and Articles based on advice from Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Development Trust Association Scotland:

The company has been formed to benefit the community of Easdale Island, Easdale is a small island in Argyll on the west coast of Scotland, 16 miles south of Oban. 'Eilean Eisdeal', the Easdale Island Community Development Group, is a charitable organisation run by residents and friends of the island to carry out projects on Easdale Island of benefit to the community and with the long term aim of regeneration and sustainability for the island. The area of benefit comprises the postcode unit PA34 4TB ("the Community"), in Argyll and Bute with the following objects:

The above change is to progress the proposal of purchasing the Stone Skimming Quarry through the Scottish Land Fund. The amendment was agreed by the majority of those present.

Any other business:

The Chair raised the matter of the proposed A&BC Conservation Appraisal. Many holiday home owners were unaware there was to be an appraisal. It was pointed out that notices had been placed under stones by front doors. This was deemed an unacceptable method of communication particularly to holiday home owners.

It was suggested that a community approach would be helpful however as there was no longer an Easdale Island Residents and Property Owners Association an approach should be made to Seil and Easdale Community Council to assist facilitate a co-ordinated response.

The short consultation period was noted and the meeting instructed Eilean Eisdeal to express this concern to both Seil CC and Argyll and Bute Council. It was also suggested that individuals express this concern via the online consultation response. Many concerns were raised over the content of A&BC's draft conservation document. There appeared many conflicting statements in the document, Alex raised building control requirements verses conservation issues as one. The meeting also wished to note that the imposition of overburdening and impractical restrictions to development could have a detrimental effect on the viability of the permanent residential community of the island.

The meeting closed at 15.25