

Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company AGM

held 29th December 2015 at 2p.m. in Easdale Island Community Hall

Directors present: Keren Cafferty, Duncan Smallman, Jan Fraser, Iain McDougall, Michelle Macfadyen, Jess Hill and Linzi Ferguson

Members present: Donald Melville, David Donnison, May McGillivray, Tony Hill, Mike Cafferty, Don Gillies, Steven Brown, Colin McPherson, Ghalia Asiad, Alex MacRae.

Also present: Jill Hunter, Keith Jackson

Apologies for absence: Annabel Gregory, Dave Rockley, Rosie Collinge, Alan MacFadyen, Jamie Melville, Neil Fraser, Voirrey Quillin, Stuart Fisher, Suzanne Darroch.

Keren welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the apologies.

Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising: Keren answered the questions raised at last year's AGM. Donald Melville had asked if EE could suffer financially if there was an incident involving EEs assets which might result in us losing the Hall. Keren has raised this with Simmers and been assured that this is not the case. Stuart Fisher had asked if there was any advantage in changing the date of the end of the financial year. She has raised this with Simmons and there appears to be no advantage. Tony queried the bad debt for the harbour; Keren said she had raised it repeatedly but no action had been taken. The minutes were proposed by Colin and seconded by Alex.

Chairman's Report:

2015 has been another very busy year for the directors of Eilean Eisdeal with fundraising events and managing the existing community assets. We continue to investigate sources of funding for new and existing projects however there are less funding streams available and those that are, are becoming more and more competitive.

A successful application to Creative Scotland secured funding of £6915 towards the 2015 arts programme and included funds to create a new online calendar of events on the website. I would like to thank Wee for all his help not only with the funding application but for all his work on the hall website which has created an eye catching, up to date and mobile device friendly website. The Creative Scotland funding continues to be competitive and the application requires a huge amount of work. The hall subcommittee has ensured each and every event has run seamlessly and offered another fantastic programme of events. Our thanks go once again to Annabel, Lynn, Jess and Wee. Thanks to David Knox for all his help cleaning the hall.

A loft clear out in April generated not only much needed attic space but £400 from selling an unused piece of catering equipment.

Harbour management continues to be a challenge due to bad debtors however donations have increased following the installation of signage at the pontoon and a donation box at the ferry shed to encourage day visitors with boats to contribute to the harbour facility. The holding mooring in the sound continues to generate a small income from visiting boats and Nigel Chippindale very kindly donated use of his mooring to EE this year. Our thanks to Tony Hill for overseeing the management of the harbour throughout the year and for taking on the invoicing of harbour dues. Members of the community secured some unwanted pontoons and negotiated their transport and installation at minimal cost to Eilean Eisdeal. Our thanks to Alan MacFadyen, Tony Hill and Calum MacDonald. The area of land known locally as 'the bull' continues to be a concern. Vast quantities of slate moved by the tide and waves threaten to close the harbour entrance and disrupt the lifeline ferry service. Annual dredging by the council has yet to be undertaken. The community are still seeking a long term solution. Attempts to install a small trial tyre defence system were thwarted by SEPA. The directors are still in talks with them to try and resolve the matter. A community clean up in the Rush and Gush area of land owned by EE in January satisfied the council's demands for the area to be cleared. Our thanks to all who helped. A special mention to Rose Sampson for creating and tending the flower beds throughout the summer at the ferry shed and surrounding area.

The museum has been open all season supported by a combination of paid and volunteer staff. The museum continues to operate on entry by suggested donation rather than an entry fee. Our aim to increase footfall has been challenged this year most likely due to bad weather throughout the summer months however the season was extended by a good spell of weather in September and October which helped offset the downturn. A Museum festival organised by the staff and volunteers in the summer was a great success and raised much needed funds. Essential repairs finally got underway. We are very grateful to Simon Wodley Orton for his help with this matter. Appropriate funding for major repairs and development are still being investigated. The directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment and help with the running of the museum.

The islands' major fundraiser The World Stone Skimming Championships was once again very successful raising vital funds and gaining positive PR for the charity. We raised just under £8000. Jonathan Feigenbaum continues to demand the £1000 for the use of the quarry however we were able to negotiate with him to waive the fee for 2014 in light of us receiving a very generous offer from Conveyancing Direct to pay this years. Forteiths very generous donation of stock was welcomed once again. Our thanks to John Forteith for negotiating this. The organisers are aware of the change of ownership at Forteiths. They now fall under the umbrella of Bidvest who are a global company. We are unable to say whether this will have an effect on our sponsorship but it is possible and we will be addressing this as soon as possible in the New Year. Thanks to

A&B council for their help with the extra ferries and to our trusty ferrymen for working tirelessly during the event. A special thank you to Donald Melville for his overwhelming commitment to promoting, organizing and hosting the event.

The weather was slightly kinder this year for Atlantic Adventure Day with a challenging swim in high swells and a one way raft race as it was impossible to paddle back up the harbour. We raised just over £1000. These events require a huge amount of effort and time to organise and to ensure they run smoothly on the day. We would like to thank all our volunteers and sponsors who are too numerous to mention but without them we would never achieve anything.

Despite opposition from Eilean Eisdeal and other members of the community Historic Scotland ignored concerns and implemented the scheduling of Easdale Island Slate Quarries. The directors are currently in talks with Historic Environment Scotland to see if they can offer assistance with grant funding.

Discussions with Highlands and Islands Enterprise regarding Easdale benefitting from a Development Manager to assist with future projects on the community plan are ongoing. An application to Just Enterprise secured funding to provide a consultant from InspireAlba to help create a business plan for projects that could generate income.

Development Trust Association Scotland contacted us in August with a proposal to meet with other Trusts in the area. Unfortunately we missed the initial meeting in September but have since met up on Luìng with representatives from Kerrera, Luìng and Lismore and formed the Lorn Islands Trust. It is hoped we can work together and create a bigger voice on many common issues.

The directors are grateful for the positive and encouraging support that they continue to receive. They would like to extend their thanks to members, the sub-committees and the many volunteers who have assisted throughout the year. The directors look forward, with this continuing support, to furthering the projects that are on the Community Plan.

As I stand down from Eilean Eisdeal both as chair and director I would just like to say what a privilege it has been to work with so many amazing people and play my small part in helping this community. It has been an eight year rollercoaster. There have been so many highlights but also disappointment, frustration and I won't lie...a fair bit of stress! I wouldn't change it for the world and thank the members for allowing me the opportunity and supporting me along the way.

Iain thanked Keren for her invaluable efforts on behalf of the community in the last eight years. He presented her with a gift from all the directors. Jan gave her a bouquet also from all of the directors.

Treasurer's Report: This year's Accounts were prepared by our accountants, Simmers and Co in Oban, before being approved by the Directors. We continue to find Simmers and Co very pleasant and helpful to

deal with. Once approved, the accounts are filed with Companies House and also with the Charity Regulator OSCR. If you have any questions about the accounts we would be delighted to take them to the Accountants if we can't answer them ourselves. We now ask you to consider the accounts.

Simmers made the amendment as requested to include the special resolution of 2010 when the maximum number of Directors was increased to 7.

The accounts presented are just for Eilean Eisdeal as it was decided to make the EITC account dormant and run everything through just the one account to save administration costs.

Some of this operating deficit is accounted for the writing off of bad debt, in the form of unpaid mooring fees, carried over from the last accounting year. Otherwise income for the year was up when compared to 2014, 3£8623 in 2015 compared to £29472 in 2014. Our income from charitable activities was a main contributor up by £11,500.

Voluntary income, which includes donations was down this year, mainly due to a decrease in the number of donations received (£7547 in 2014 compared to £1779 this year). However thanks to the efforts of Wee and Keren putting together a solid application to Creative Scotland the Arts Programme saw an increase of £1235. We were also successful in obtaining a grant from DTA to visit Isle of Coll Bunkhouse for a knowledge exchange on possible appropriate accommodation on the island.

Our governance costs are up on 2014, with legal fees taking an increase, this is from....

Our Accountancy fees and book keeping have increased as well but this is hopefully a one off as we change to operating from just one account.

The harbour is starting to get on track through the efforts of Tony Hill, whom we are very grateful to for his time and work, and means the harbour made £5389 including a steady stream of fees from the honesty box. This is down from last years £6634.

The museum made £4860 this year, and based on figures reported last year is down by £1140 which mirrors the fall in footfall attributed to the bad weather we had over the main holiday period.

Back to the good news. The income from Activities generating funds increased to £15595 from £9903. Both Stone Skimming and Atlantic Adventure day were successful and made more money than last year! Atlantic Adventure day made £1074 compared to £450 last year and Stone Skimming, probably attributed to the good weather made £9940 up from £7614 last year, making it one of our record years. The income from the Feed In Tariff (the PV Feed Income) increased slightly this year up to £1059 compared to £819. The Children of the Island is therefore up this year to £736 with £212 coming from this years feed in tariff.

And as it is upcoming, the Panto raised £427 up from £226.

Each year the deficit is reported, but this year we have an "operating deficit". This all derives from the original purchase of the land and buildings, the funding of these were included as Income in the year received, showing a large surplus in that year. The costs relating to this

purchase are gradually released on a yearly basis, as depreciation, and absorbed by the reserves as recognised years earlier. It is because of Charity Legislation that it has to be reported this way. Our main focus should be on the Unrestricted Funds and whether they are improving each year. Or put it another way, whether we are asset rich and cash poor.

Questions from the floor: Donald asked how the Stone Skimming funds were restricted. Keren answered that the amount for stock donation is classed as donation. Donald asked how much the bad debt came to. ????

Keren thanked our book keeper, Annabel for the huge contribution she made to EE.

Appoint Accountant: The members agreed to re-appoint Simmers.

Any Other Business: Colin McPherson raised the issue of the septic tanks at the entrance to the harbour which had been uncovered for a third time following storms. This seems to be a consequence of the extended gabions intended to protect the harbour entrance. He was assured that the community is tackling the problem of slate waste movement; the 'Save our Seawall' Facebook page reflects community concern, and this issue has also been raised with HES.

The meeting closed at 14.38