

## **2020 AGM MINUTES**

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

**Held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 2.15pm in Easdale Island Community Hall. DELAYED DUE TO COVID**

Directors present: Jess Hill, Iain MacDougall & Joe Smith

Members present: Britt & Tony Doughty-Godchaux, Voirrey Quillin, Stephen Brown, Robert Grigg, Samantha Payn, Steven Sharp, Jane & John MacDonald, May McGillivray, Colin & Jackie Inch, Tony Hill.

**Apologies for absence:** Helen McDougall, Robert McDougall, Nigel Chippendale, Ina Coombs, Geneieve Warwick, Sam Cohn, Colin McPherson & Graham Anderson.

Jess welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the apologies.

**Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising:** The draft minutes from 2019 were proposed by Jess Hill and seconded by Voirrey Quillin.

There were no matter arising from the minutes.

### **Chairman's Report 2020**

This is a difficult report to write because of the cancelled AGM in December 2020 to which a number of these comments relate, and it seems such a long time ago and much water has gone under the Covid bridge. So, please bear with me.

The directors had hoped to continue to organise and co-ordinate fundraising events, investigate sources of funding, and manage the current assets on behalf of the community, but 2020 has not been a normal year because of Covid 19. Eilean Eisdeal has continued as a partner within the Lorn Islands Partnership, but the directors of LIP felt that the collaboration had served its purpose and Partnership is being wound up, this was concluded early in 2021. Lismore and Easdale will endeavour to continue under an understanding of M & A. Through this collaboration there is cross island funding for a Housing Feasibility Study and Seaweed farming feasibility report.

Eilean Eisdeal has received Corona Virus Business Support Grants for the two 'rated' properties in community ownership, plus support from the government Job Retention Scheme, for which the Directors are very grateful as all other avenues of fund-raising had ceased.

The Panto was performed to a full-house, and thanks must go to all involved. There was an excellent DIY ceilidh at New Year to welcome in 2020 – these were the last events to be held in the Hall. The 5<sup>th</sup> November celebrations last year, was the first the islanders had gathered together, socially distanced, and it was appreciated by all who attended.

Keren Cafferty had put together a very varied Arts programme and funding from Creative Scotland was applied for, but the application was withdrawn when it became apparent that due to the restrictions put in place because of the Corona Virus pandemic, the 2020 events planned could not go ahead. The funding for the programme was very likely to have been approved and part of it was to install radiant heaters in the Hall but the funds for that could not be perused on its own. The Hall has remained closed since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and all events cancelled including an island wedding.

The decision was made not to open the Museum for the 2020 season because of the implications of making it Covid compliant for staff and visitors. Plus in all likelihood the visitor numbers were going to be severely reduced, because of the pandemic, but also as a consequence, the restrictions on the ferry service, which were entirely understandable. Thanks must go to Lynn and May for keeping a watchful eye on the museum and its contents.

Harbour management did not involve any challenges this year. We are very grateful to Tony Hill and the ferrymen who help keep a watchful eye over the boats and pontoons in the harbour. There were very few yachts using the community visitor mooring because of the pandemic. There have been some new boats on the community pontoon this year, as well as returning ones, and some decided not to launch their boats at all. The ongoing erosion of the Bull is a concern, and we are grateful to Argyll and Bute Council for the continued dredging of the harbour channel and repair of the gabion baskets this year.

The World Stone Skimming Championships were another causality of Covid 19. The purchase of the quarry had been delayed by complaints received by the Scottish Land Fund in August 2018 and again in January 2019 following changes to the membership criteria, at the AGM.

Eilean Eisdeal held an EGM in February 2020 and the format of the M&A concerning membership criteria, when the original quarry funding application was made, was voted on, passed by members and reverted too. This change has made it possible for the Scottish Land Fund to allow the funding to go forward, and the purchase of the Stone Skimming quarry pursued and completed in July 2020.

There were a number of occasions where Sam and Dave's musical renditions brought many out around the square and thanks must go to them for bringing us all together.

There are numerous examples of community kindnesses which came to the fore over the lockdown and we should be proud of these achievements how-ever small.

The directors are grateful for the positive and encouraging support that they have received. They would like to extend their thanks to members, the sub-committees and the many volunteers who have assisted throughout this difficult time.

That concludes the report to December 2020

### **Treasurer's Report 2020.**

I apologise but accounts are an anathema to me and I leave it to the professionals to advise, but I will try and answer any questions.

We are solvent as a company.

Fortunately, we are in a very healthy financial position, due to the generous Government grants made available to support so many businesses, in spite of the pandemic curtailing so many of our fundraising events.

**JMCD** - asked what the current balance was.

**JH** - £31,337.00 – balance was such because of the supportive Government grants.

**SP** - asked if there was any likelihood of these grants needing to be re-paid

**JH** – not as far as I'm aware.

**Jl** – Asked about previous bad debts

**JH** – These were from passed boat owners not current ones. Harbour income as of end Dec was £6477 down from 2019 as a number of owners had not launched their boats due to Covid restrictions.

**TH** – some of the harbour pontoon chains may need replacing next year once % wear assessed – to make people aware and a work party will be needed.

**Appoint Accountant:**

The members agreed to re-appoint Simmers & Co.

Simmers will be asked if the draft accounts could be with directors two weeks prior to the AGM.

**Director nominations:**

No director had been submitted by the deadline date.

Current directors are Joe Lynn Jess and Iain.

**SP** – said she didn't get the AGM notification

**TDG** – asked about nominations

**IMcD** – explained the process, and that directors can be nominated at any point not just at the AGM. As per the M&A it is a maximum of 7 directors and if nominations exceed that then a vote is required.

**TDG** – asked the number of directors at present

**IMcD** – 4 Jess Joe Lynn and myself so more nominations would be encouraged.

**SP** – said she would put herself forward for nomination and this was gratefully received

**Any other business:** **JH** had a few additions to add to make the community aware of things current.

It is with regret that Alan MacFadyen stepped down as a director in April this year, his contribution is sorely missed and we extend our thanks to him for all he has done. I would like to thank the current directors Iain, Joe and Lynn for their support and we would welcome anyone who would consider becoming a director.

The Stone Skimming committee made the decision earlier this year that the 2021 Championships should be cancelled. Due to uncertainty of how things were going to unfold with CV19.

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Mellon has decided to step down from the Stone-skimming committee with immediate effect. It leaves such a huge whole. But we have to thank him for the enormous contribution he has made in making the event what it has become, and the not insignificant funds raised for Eilean Eisdeal in the process.

Mike and Keren have move to Scammerdale now and so Keren has relinquished responsibility for the Arts Programme – but is willing to support a successor. She has also resigned from the WSS committee. I would like to express thanks to Keren for all her hard work on both the Arts Programme and the WSS committee. Mike too contributed a lot of time and energy to the Arts programme doing the 'sound tech' for the all events. We wish them both well.

There have been a number of changes on the island over this year – lots of new faces – and they are all very welcome. It may be that now is the time for Eilean Eisdeal to re-examine its role and focus in the light of this.

**BTG** – asked if the Hall could be used again.

**JH** – yes, as per previous arrangements - key with the ferrymen, and now self-sanitising after use.

**MMcG** – had some concerns about people wanting to use the toilets when she was in the hall recently, some signage may be needed.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about the use of the Hall as a gathering place, in the light of the 'Puffer' possibly not re-opening in the near future, and the implications of the current entertainment licence the Hall holds, staffing etc.

Further to this, those present felt that, a well publicised, open island meeting about how EE's role should evolve was needed, so folk could get behind things, volunteer etc. especially in the light of the enormous changes on the island over the years, and EE needs to move on, be overhauled if necessary. The date for this open discussion was set for 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**TDG** - asked who's single responsibility was the condition of the 'Bull'

**JH** – believes the area of land is on EE's deeds for the harbour and if it is breached, the island harbour is at risk and as a consequence the ferry service. It is all down to funding and is a concern. A breakwater could be a permanent solution.

**JH** – thanked everyone for coming

The meeting closed at 15.20