

Eilean Eisdeal and Easdale Island Trading Company AGM

Held 17th April 2022 at 2.30pm in Easdale Island Community Hall. DELAYED FORM Dec 2021 DUE TO COVID

Directors present: Jess Hill, Iain MacDougall, Samantha Payn, & Robert Grigg

Members present: Tony Doughty-Godchaux, Stephen Brown, Steven Sharp, May McGillivray, Tony Hill, Steve Sharp, Rob, Sue & Alex Hadfield, Stuart Fisher, Adele Knox, Amanda & Neil McCrerrick, Ruth Barratt, Colin McPherson. Also non-members Lee Carson & Jane Johnston.

Apologies for absence: Helen McDougall, Robert McDougall, Nigel Chippendale, Ina Coombs, Alice Clayton, Mary Withall & Dugall McLeod.

Jess welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the apologies.

Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising: The draft minutes from the 2020 AGM (held in July 2021) were proposed by Tony Doughty-Godchaux and seconded by May McGillivray.

There were no matter arising from the minutes.

Chairmans report for AGM Dec 21 postponed to April 22

This report covers the period December 2020 to December 2021, when we everyone thought things would be settling down but, the AGM planned for the end of December last year fell foul of an escalation in Covid 19 and was postponed until now. This report may seem a little disjoint, out of sequence and probably old news!

The 4 directors (as Alan McFadyen stepped down at the beginning of 2021) 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 to this end, the on-going restrictions with Covid 19, meant all regular events and hence fundraising during the early part of the year were curtailed and decisions on the rest of 2021 had to be made. At the postponed 2020 AGM held in July last year Samantha Payn volunteered to put herself forward to be co-opted as a Director and subsequently Rob Grigg and Jackie Inch also put themselves forward to be co-opted Directors. A wider spread of directors has been welcomed.

Eilean Eisdeal received a temporary closure grant from The Strategic Framework Business Fund, plus support from the government Job Retention Scheme, for which the Directors are very grateful as all other avenues of fund-raising could not be taken forward.

With the Hall not being able to be open as a community space, the New Year celebrations for 20/21 were an outside affair and the Panto and DIY ceilidh did not take place. The Hall had to remain closed for events until the end of May, when we were able to celebrate with Catherine and Michelle and their respective families on the occasion of their wedding. Just prior to this there was a great community effort to spring-clean the Hall for the event. As restrictions eased, two other events were able to take place, by popular demand a Wee quiz in September & in October a concert by the toe tapping Wicked Hamptons ably supported by Fools' Gold. Both bands had island members, and I think it is fair to say that both events were a great success especially after such a long absence of all things social. The annual Fireworks were well supported and the evening was relatively dry too. The

Resol String Quartet gave a concert at the end of November as part of the Netherlorn Music scheme. A carol concert by Fools' Gold took place in mid - December with hearty audience participation. Thanks to all who helped in the Hall for all the events. Sadly it was decided in light of the change in restrictions and understandable concerns of folk, the AGM was postponed and again New Year was not as per usual.

The decision not to open the Museum until June 2021 was in-line with Covid restrictions, and all efforts were made to make the premises compliant for staff and visitors. The number of visitors for the, albeit shortened season, were disappointingly low. Thanks must go to staff and volunteers.

Harbour management has not had any problems this year. We are very grateful to the ferrymen and Tony Hill who help keep a watchful eye over the boats and pontoons in the harbour. There were more boats using the community mooring in the sound this season. There have been some new boats on the community pontoon and running moorings in the harbour this year, as well as returning ones. The ongoing erosion of the Bull remains a concern, and we are extremely grateful to Argyll and Bute Council for the continued dredging of the harbour channel and repair of the gabion baskets. Contact has been with the council and Historic and Environmental Scotland with the expressed wish of working in partnership to try and form a workable solution.

The World Stone Skimming Championships were cancelled for the second year as it was felt that there were too many "Covid 19 unknowns" and planning the event takes many months. The funding for the quarry purchase, through the Scottish Land Fund was finally concluded in October 2020.

The directors are grateful for the ongoing 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. There are a number of new residents on the island and it is hoped this will bring an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm.

The directors look forward, with this continuing support, to taking forward projects that are the wishes of the community and in the interest of this island we all belong to.

That concludes the report to December 2021

Treasurer's Report 2021 - year end Sept 2021

The figures this year are showing a Surplus of £3,679 compared to a Deficit the previous year of £8,959.

The main variance being the £14k funding received to enable us to purchase the Quarry. Although, the income has been recognised through the statement of financial activity, the related expense has not, which can be misleading. The purchase of the quarry is showing on the balance sheet, under Tangible Assets. Hence, a mismatch of income versus expenditure.

The cost of fixed assets are written off, via the statement of financial activity, as depreciation over the useful life to the asset, where, as like the quarry, the income would have been recognised in previous years. A large cost each year is the depreciation of the assets, approx. £20,000.

If we adjust for deprecation and the funding for the Quarry, the figures show an Operating Surplus of £11,248 compared to £10,231 the previous year. As you know, both this year and last, we have been

severely affected by the COVID restrictions, with the Museum and Hall activities been curtailed, and no Stone Skimming championships being held in either year. As with many other organisations we have been fortunate enough to have received Government Funding to assist us during these times. This year we have received £18.5k of funding in addition to the £20k received in the previous year. This has enabled us to cover our staff costs and the running costs of both the Hall & Museum.

Easdale Island Trading Company bank account is now closed – it had been dormant for a number of years.

May MacGillivray sought confirmation that the funding received enabled payment of wages throughout Covid and Jess confirmed this was so. May had felt criticised by some island residents about the museum being closed but it had been very a difficult time for Lynn and she, May, had continued to put in her many hours of voluntary work. May further commented that visitor numbers were down in part due to good weather as well as Covid closures.

Britt Doughty-Godchaux asked what are the bad debts? Jess explained that these are harbour dues that never got paid and have been written off.

Tony Doughty-Godchaux asked about the trading company. Iain MacDougall explained it was set up a number of year ago on the advice of the accountants to service the past business aspirations of EE, and be a commercial arm of the company. For the past few years it's been a non-trading company so we asked accountants if we could close it. Apparently tax legislation has changed so we no longer need a trading a company.

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:

As co-opted directors, Sam, Rob and Jackie need to apply for election as directors and have each submitted a nomination form to that effect. Also, as per the Articles of EE, one director steps down each year, generally based on time served. This year it is me, but I have decided to put myself forward for re-election until the next AGM when I will be standing down from Eilean Eisdeal. Joe stepped down in Feb 22 and we would like to thank him for all he has done. Rob Hadfield has put himself forward to be co-opted as a director, to fill this vacancy and this means we have the maximum of 7 directors. The number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies.

Harbour

Some aspects have already been covered in Chairman's report. Colin MacPherson commented that he is willing to be involved in a group involving EE, non-members and any other bodies to address the concerns about the erosion threat to the harbour. Jess commented that Zim Knight from the Seil and Easdale Community Council was also in discussions with A&BC about this. Sam offered to try to find academic input into the problem as well. A&BC's next financial strategy plan launches in 2026 so we need to bear that in mind. Tony Hill commented that there will be another STAG [Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance] appraisal before anything happens and for those of us who recall the last STAG appraisal it costs £60,000 and came to the conclusion that there were only 2 ways to get to

Easdale island, 1 was to build a causeway and the other to improve the ferry. The cost of the appraisal was the same as the cost of replacing the ferry. Rob H agrees to co-ordinate the relevant sub-committee.

Any other business:

Lynn Noble has been the Bar manager for the island Hall for the past 20 years and it is with regret that she is stepping down from the position and it goes without saying that her contribution has been substantial. Events would not have taken place without the face behind the bar and the island and Eilean Eisdeal are very grateful. I hope she will come to future events and be out in the main Hall with the masses.

JH – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

Colin McPherson offered a vote of thanks to committee for their efforts during an especially difficult two years and for their continuing hard work.

The meeting closed at 15.05