

Minutes of EE directors meeting 14th October 2022.

Present: Jess Hill, Rob Hadfield, Rob Grigg, Iain McDougall, Samantha Payn and Jackie Inch via Skype.

Apologies: Lynn Noble.

At this point in the meeting Iain asked for the publicised agenda to be suspended with Rob H, Sam and Jess protesting against this.

Jackie joined the meeting via Skype and when it became clear that the agenda had been set aside asked why and also raised an objection about this.

Iain proceeded with accusations of misconduct by Samantha (who holds the Hall's PLH) and breaches of the hall's licencing agreement with Argyll and Bute Council by the selling of two mini kegs of beer, which were going out of date, advertising them on the private local islander messenger group.

Iain proceeded to inform us that EE could all be liable for £20,000 fine and 6 months in jail as directors and would receive a criminal record as we had broken the law in respect of the conditions of our licence.

He threatened to 'go public' with this information unless Samantha resigned as a director – with immediate effect, and gave her a letter to sign, which only he was party to its contents.

Various directors said that this was completely out of order and why were such accusations being brought.

Rob G comments that the outrage at the accusations being made by Iain by some directors and defence of Sam, smacks of double standards and hypocrisy and references the concerns that Sam had raised about a breach of licence conditions by the previous PLH when alcohol was found unsecured in the Kitchen and Bar area. *(As background for these minutes, Iain, Rob and Lynn had raised strong objections over the way Sam had raised these concerns and she subsequently made a formal apology for this. No follow-up was made in regard to the alcohol that had been found).*

When asked whether his actions were related to past events, Iain confirmed it was a witch-hunt against that particular director.

Amongst the few questions which were put forward during the somewhat heated discussion, Iain was asked if his intent was to threaten and blackmail the directors and Iain confirmed that he was indeed blackmailing everyone.

Samantha, visibly upset, signed the letter and left the meeting. Iain put the letter in his folder along with his other paperwork. The discussions continued and Iain would not back down.

Having achieved his objective, Iain said there was no need to make any formal report to the authorities, however the majority of the other directors present disagreed and an approach will be made to Argyll and Bute Council to gain clarification on EE's licence, in the first instance.

Addendums:

- 1) Jackie, Rob H and Jess each sent out individual email statements to all directors strongly objecting to what had happened during the meeting.
- 2) Rob H contacted Argyll & Bute licencing Board on Monday 17th Oct and received the following feedback in response to his disclosures on the sale of the two mini beer kegs:
 - a. Off-sales of alcohol is not an allowable activity and the cans of beer should not have been advertised and subsequently sold.

- b. Given that no independent complaint has been made in relation to this I am happy to note your admission and take no further action.
 - c. Going forward, I recommend The Hall applies for off sales of alcohol to be included in the terms of the premises licence.
- 3) Sam sends an email to all directors on 20th Oct withdrawing her “resignation” as she was forced to sign it under duress and adds that she does not believe that it is in the best interests of Eilean Eisdeal to manage its affairs through bullying and intimidation