

Minutes Eilean Eisdeal Directors Meeting - May 6, 2025

- **Attendees:** Samantha Payn (SP), Jackie Inch (JI), Kyle Mathews (KM), and Hannah Bailey-Thomas (HBT).
- **Chair:** KM
- **Apologies:** Jhennia Leipter
- **Transcription and Minutes:** The meeting was recorded with transcription to support minute-taking. SP suggested instituting a policy of deleting recordings and transcriptions after minutes have been approved, and this was agreed.

Action: SP to implement this for meetings to date and as a policy for the future.

- **Conflicts of Interest:** None were declared. SP requested directors to sign a declaration of interests.

Action: all

- **Minutes of previous meetings:** Minutes from February 25th were approved, proposed by KM and seconded by JI. KM noted an incorrect link for the minutes of April 15th.

Action: SP to provide correct link, so these minutes can be proposed/seconded at the next meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report:** JI reported that she is 3 months behind with financial reports, largely because she's much less worried about EE finances than previously. The current bank balance is the healthiest it has been for a number of years. Major points to note right now, are that the stone skimming entrance fees have just been received, and there are as-yet unclarified upcoming costs for electricians. Also a lot of stone skimming merchandise has been bought, but we will need to order more as it is selling well.
JI requested suggestions from the asset committees for a maintenance budget sum, to start to use the funds we have to improve the condition of the assets.

Action: HBT - liaise with hall committee to come up with a figure

- **Museum:** Grants for repairs: Antonia N has found a viable option for capital expenditure (new windows, doors, insulation). She asked for a director to be responsible for chasing builders' quotes so that we can apply for funding. SP volunteered to chase, once a brief has been prepared and sent to builders.

Action: JI/AN to prepare brief for builders. SP to chase builders once they've been contacted.

- **Employee Contract:** Meeting between JI and Lynn to flesh out the contract details yet to take place. JI will send an email to all directors explaining pay and working hours arrangements.

Action: JI to circulate employment summary

- **Harbour:** Discussion about harbour fees for the 2025 season. Rob Hadfield (RH) had circulated a proposal for harbour fees at a rate of £86 per metre, incorporating a 4% increase on the previous year, and to be on a pro rata basis from now on for approval. The directors approved this proposal.
The Harbour Committee has requested 10% of harbour income (excluding the contract with Argyll & Bute Council) be allocated for maintenance. Directors agreed this seemed a reasonable starting point. JI to identify the actual sum for this year.

Action: JI to look at harbour income and allocate 10% for harbour maintenance. SP to tell the Harbour Committee once this has been done.

- Tony Hill's request for a ladder was discussed. RH has responded to him asking for more details, but it was agreed the directors should also respond.

Action: SP to write to Tony Hill for more details of what he's proposing.

- Signage for visitor moorings was discussed, including the problem of fixing signs to the harbour wall. Directors agreed signage would be useful.
- The question of coastal erosion near the path south of the harbour mouth was also discussed. We need to clarify who exactly owns the land.

Action: JI to identify the land boundaries.

- **Hall:** Hot water system seems not to be functioning - JI to check whether this was accidentally switched off when the electricians were last in doing work.

Action: JI to check with electricians

- Low value consumables: historically these have been bought as required, either by JI on request, or refunds made to whoever paid, and that system seems to work fine.
- Can we set a budget for slightly more expensive items, or should these suggestions, along with a kitchen upgrade, be rolled into the larger grant application KM is discussing with the Lottery Fund? KM hopeful he will hear more about this within a week or so.
- Slightly more expensive items: light bulbs, JI to clarify with Amanda which exactly, as we have some spares in the loft; window coverings for the bar being researched by HBT; ambient lighting and better heating for the bar would also be good.
- Cleaner - it would be good to employ a cleaner on an ad hoc basis. EE needs to ensure this is on a self-employed basis. SP to provide sample wording for invoices that would clarify this. Pay scale to be in line with holiday changeover rates.

Action: SP to provide sample wording. JI to find our previous ad for a cleaner.

- **Community matters:** HBT suggested asking the island children for suggestions of what to spend the Children of the Island Fund money on. This is separate to the Play Park funds.

Action: JI to circulate details of the funds available.

Any other business: KM has written to Mr Feigenbaum, introducing himself and inviting his involvement in the upcoming royal visit, and to stone skimming in September. He also mentioned improvements to make access to the stone skimming quarry safer. This has been done in the form of removable steps shored up with timber.

- Royal visit by Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh on 22nd May: details are unclear at present, but the Museum and Hall should be open and available, in case there is time to show them in, as well as a walk to the Skimming Quarry.

Date of next meeting: There was a discussion of the benefits of short, frequent meetings vs. longer, less frequent ones. SP requested that the regular night be changed to Thursday, and this was agreed. However, to fit in a visit before the royal visit, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th May, 8pm.