

## Eilean Eisdeal Directors' meeting

### MINUTES for meeting dated 5/06/2025, 8pm, via video link.

<b>Present</b>	Hannah Bailey-Thomas (HBT, Chair), Jackie Inch (JI), Kyle Mathews (KM), Samantha Payn (SP, minutes editor)	Action
<b>Transcription and minutes</b>	The meeting was recorded with transcription to support minute-taking.	
<b>Apologies</b>	Jhennia Leipert (JL)	
<b>Conflicts of interest</b>	None declared	
<b>Minutes of meeting dated 20/05/2025</b>	<a href="#">minutes directors meeting 20250520.docx</a> proposed KM with date corrected to 20/05/2025, seconded HBT.	
<b>Minutes of meeting dated 06/05/2025</b>	Proposed by KM, seconded by HBT.	
<b>Minutes of meeting dated 15/04/2025</b>	To be proposed and seconded by email.	
<b>Matters arising</b>	<p>SP has deleted transcriptions and AI summaries of earlier meeting minutes that have been proposed and seconded.</p> <p>SP wrote back to JL regarding her availability.</p> <p>SP has chased everyone with a boat in the harbour for membership payments.</p> <p>JI will provide an updated list on other members to chase.</p>	
	SP has not yet started the newsletter.	SP
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	JI reported that EE has a higher-than-usual amount of money, primarily due to grants and the resumption of activities from the previous year. There is also the cash from harbour fees to be deposited.	
	It was agreed that payroll will be moved to an external provider for £13/person/month, and JI will progress this via the accountants.	JI
	After discussion it was agreed to move the bookkeeping over to Xero accounting software, and to write to the current bookkeeper explaining this is what we're doing and expressing our gratitude for the work she has done.	
	JI to draft letter and KM to fine-tune it. JI to sign send from Finance email address.	JI KM
	<p>Finding and applying for funding. There was a discussion on how this is currently handled by EE.</p> <p>It was agreed that the asset committees have a strong role to play in finding sources of funding and the relevant directors should encourage this while keeping updated on any applications, especially regarding what they might commit EE to. Suggestions regarding funding sources from members are also very welcome, with the same proviso. KM has started to gather previous applications into a folder in the shared drive.</p> <p>It was agreed that it is worthwhile applying even for small amounts of funding for specific projects as that increases EE's experience of successfully managing funds.</p> <p>JI noted that large grants, like the grant of £12,000 we have just received from the Lottery Fund to be spent over two years, require meticulous reporting, so it's best to have a mix of large and small grants as funding.</p>	

	It was agreed it would be good to have a “wish list” from the hall and harbour committees which could be used to orient funding searches. Each director to suggest this to their asset committee.	SP HBT
	It was noted that AI can have a very positive role in both sourcing funding and writing applications. HBT has experience of using AI and it was suggested that we get AI to look for sources of funding for a new website for EE.SP has previous experience of writing funding applications (from 10 years ago).	HBT and SP
	Argyll & Bute Council (ABC) ferry fee renegotiation. JI explained as background that EE charge ABC for use of the slip and for the ferry shed. This rent is subject to review every five years (though the 2020 review was missed), and the next review date is November 2025. JI to work up the numbers reflecting an RPI linked increase since the last increase. It was agreed that directors have to protect EE income, though the rent increase timing is unfortunate, with the review of ferry service and access infrastructure that ABC is currently undertaking. The annual rent amount is considerably less than the sum ABC spend on reinstating the Bull. Rent increase to include and refer to an element for use/cleaning of Hall toilets (made available to ferrymen).	JI
<b>Secretary’s Report</b>	Correspondence:	
	Jonathan Feigenbaum (JF): after meeting him at the Royal Visit SP confirmed by email our positive discussion regarding picnic benches. JF asked to be kept in touch with developments	
	SSE: SP met representatives of SSE regarding the replacement sub-station work. SSE have agreed to start this work immediately after Stone Skimming. Route of equipment to be, probably, land by the bin store, up to the path, then turn towards the site of the existing substation.	
	Filming permission: SP to write to JF asking who we should send these requests to. KM commented that, as far as he was aware, JF had been contacted for approval of all of the WSSC filming.	SP
	We have been sent a copy of a Master’s thesis which included the Ferry Shed design. After some discussion of how best to use the results of the design competition, it was agreed to see if it could be incorporated in the Art Show, perhaps as a slide show, or run as a separate evening event in the winter, with a bar. This may help to clear up some mistaken expectations that have arisen about rebuilding the ferry shed.	SP
	Crown Estate Scotland’s 2026-31 Corporate Plan consultation: SP to forward this to Harbour Committee. Also forward to Neil McCrirrick in his role with the Community Council.	SP
<b>Governance</b>	Register of directors’ interests: KM to file his form in the Directors Shared Folder please	KM
<b>Museum</b>	Spending on the upgrade has now tailed off. Visitor numbers are up, and the museum income is looking good. Next expenditure to be on the exterior.	
	JI to update tracking of visitor numbers and income.	JI
<b>Harbour</b>	£800 maintenance budget approved for the Harbour for this financial year. This has been rounded up from 10% of Harbour income. Some has been spent already. SP to share the news, and the Harbour Budget spreadsheet page with the Harbour Committee.	SP

<b>Hall</b>	£1,000 maintenance budget approved for the Hall for this year. This does not represent 10% of Hall income because, especially with the insurance cost of the Hall building, the Hall makes no profit. The £1,000 is additional to the funding for the kitchen upgrade from the Lottery Fund grant. HBT to share the news and the Hall Budget spreadsheet page with the Hall Committee.	HBT
	JI to rework the figures to include the sum donated via Dale Langley from his employers.	JI
	Report from last Hall Committee meeting: HBT reported a united request from the Hall Committee for funds to be spent on the structure of the building. JI reiterated that the Hall Committee absolutely can spend their maintenance budget on maintenance. EE has made efforts in the past to find people to carry out work (re-varnishing the window frames, for example) without success. Commissioning this work is for the Hall Committee to do, please.	
	The Hall Committee also discussed whether the Hall was a venue for events aiming to draw an audience from off-island, or a community centre for islanders to use more. HBT to produce a questionnaire to find out what the community want of the Hall	HBT
	Arts funding report: recent events in the Hall have been less profitable. HBT in touch with the Touring Network regarding potential future funding.	
	Regarding the kitchen upgrade with the Lottery Funding - a sub-committee will be set up to plan this. JI to keep HBT informed of any catering related equipment being bought with WSSC budget, to ensure no duplication of plans.	
	The Hall Committee also discussed the idea of public access to toilets on the island without a satisfactory resolution.	
<b>Stone Skimming</b>	KM agreed to get future meetings minuted and the minutes posted in the shared folder, for future reference.	
<b>Community Matters</b>	SP discussed with a donor from the island population the potential budget for a replacement bench on High Hill - £500. Sources were suggested to SP who will investigate further.	SP
<b>AOB</b>	Accounts to be posted on the EE website	SP
	Minutes to be brought up to date on EE website	SP
	Mooring invoices - to be sent out	SP
	With Wee retiring at the end of 2026 as webmaster, is there a need to upgrade the website? It was agreed to get AI to seek out funding sources for a basic website for EE. Ticket sales to be outsourced and and WSSC has its own dedicated website anyway.	HBT SP
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	19th June, 8pm via Teams	