

Minutes of AGM held on 8th June 2023 at Talla an Iochdair

Present	Position	Status
Peter Bird	Chairman	Individual member
Ronnie MacPhee	Trustee	Individual member
Robert Currie		Individual member
Kate Dawson	Secretary	Individual member
Joan MacDonald		In attendance, Head Teacher
Emily Durie		In attendance, presenter
Ann Bird		In attendance, Community Council
Andrew Shaw		In attendance, lochdar Saints
Harry Luney		In attendance, lochdar Saint

Apologies were received from Joe MacNeil, Neil Johnstone (trustee), Morag Ann MacAulay (treasurer)

1. Presentations:

a. Adventure and activity trails. The meeting heard a presentation from Emily Durie, who has introduced several initiatives to nursery, preschool and primary school education. This started off as a funded project with UU, to see if early years provision could be delivered outdoors. This was the Wild Things project, which has come to an end.

Emily now runs Otter Mountain Uist, delivering multigenerational outdoor play. https://www.facebook.com/WildThingsUist/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CS-ORP3AVE femily https://www.instagram.com/p/CS-ORP3AVE femily <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CS-ORP3AVE https://www.instagram.com/p/CS-ORP3AVE <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CS-ORP

We agreed to look at costing out some of the capital items that would be needed for a discovery trail. It would be up to individual groups and teachers to modify the trails.

There is still scope to install fitness and play equipment as a trail, which would be a lot more expensive. An art trail would need to start with an engagement project, as advised by Scottish Arts Council.

b. **Annual report & Treasurer's report:** The approved annual report and accounts were presented. Unfortunately, Morag Ann was unable to attend. There were no specific fund-raising events in the accounting period from 2021 to 2022. There was a donation of £2,000, and a grant of £1,496 for cycle racks.

The main expenses related to cycle rack installation, public seating, maintenance, and insurance. At the end of June 2022, we had £22,437 at the bank, comprising unrestricted funds of £1,268, and restricted funds of £21,169, split between maintenance at lochdar School, the football pitch and general maintenance.

We are currently expecting some funding to be available for a further round of cycle rack installation, focussing on lochdar Hall, Hebridean Jewellery and Griminish Surgery. There are already

cycle racks at lochdar School and Liniclate School. £10,000 has been allocated to the upgrade of the play area at lochdar School.

- c. **Appointment of Accountants:** All voting members present agreed to appoint Campbell Stewart MacLennan and Co, Portree as our accountants. In particular we noted their helpfulness and good advice for the lodging of charitable accounts
- d. **Membership report and review of subscriptions**: all agreed proposal for subscriptions to remain at £1 for individuals and £5 for organisations per year. We have a total of 8 members, and two member organisations. Membership forms will be sent out to those in attendance.

2. Nominations and election of new trustees:

a. **Nomination of new Trustees:** No new trustees stood for election. We agreed we would address this at our next meeting.

Peter Bird, chairman Community Council
Morag-Ann MacAulay, treasurer
Ronie MacPhee, Personal member

4. **Neil Johnstone** Standing down following an anticipated move.

We have vacancies for two trustees representing a community organisation, one trustee as a personal member, and one co-opted trustee.

b. Nomination of new officers:

We have a vacancy for vice-chairperson.

3. Update for Projects for 2023

- a. Playgrounds
 - i. **lochdar School:** using funding from SAIAAC to help upgrade their play areas.
 - **ii. CNG:** Requires significant work including repair, removal of broken equipment and replacement, work to fencing etcetera.
 - iii. Ford Terrace: Requires cleaning, repair and repainting.

The play parks at CNG and Ford Terrace were transferred to HHP with the council retaining responsibility for maintenance. HHP have indicated that they would be able to lease the playparks to us for the purposes of maintenance. The council would then cease to be responsible for any maintenance. They add that any maintenance would need to meet ROSPA/EU standards EN1176.

- **b. Fundraising.** To be discussed during the year by the trustees. Funding coming in soon from Co-op fund.
- **c. Football pitch:** Harry and Andrew are both interested in progressing anything that will create a useable pitch. The football club have no membership of SAIAAC, and no club members are members of SAIAAC, so membership forms will be sent on.
 - i. Talla Pitch: The pitch at the hall has improved but remains uneven. Some sand has appeared ready to spread on the surface. Suggestion to use geotextile base and topsoil this is the original construction. It is being used for casual games.
 - **ii. MOD pitch:** There is a potential to reinstate the MOD pitch in West Gerinish. Approaches to the MOD in 2019 were not successful.
 - **iii. Land between Hall and Shed:** The majority of this belongs to the show committee and is crossed by a crofting access track. It is stony and uneven. SAIAAC have a lease on the land that is currently being used by the hall committee for a container. This was to be the site for changing facilities.
 - iv. Loch Carnan Shed: Not big enough and no longer an option.
- **d. Trees:** We are working with the community council with their tree planting project. We have some restricted funds for amenity fencing. We agreed we would use this to fence of the tree planting area once screefing has been completed. This will be on land next to Angler's Retreat.
- **e. Cycle racks:** The co-op fund will pay for racks to be installed at Talla an lochdair. Next funding application will be for racks at Hebridean Jewellery and Griminish Surgery.
- f. Activity trails: After the presentation, we agreed to cost out installing activity boxes.