



## Minutes for meeting via Zoom

19.30 hrs, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Amendments made in red 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Attendees:

Harry Andrews (HA), Paul Bulmer (PB), Charles Dixon-Spain (CDS), Gary Kirby (GK), Ros McGhee (RM), Calum Maclean (CM), John McNaughton (JM), Cathleen Russell (CR), Amber Llovet (AL), Charlie Collins (CC), John Allan (JA), Graham Curran (GC)

### Apologies:

### Previous minutes:

11th February 2021 Proposed: JA

HA raised the matter of two sets of payment to Stakis in regard of the coup shielding the wind farm. CDS stated that the CGDT's intent was always to pay this coup fee to the tenant, not to the CGDT. HA stated that the original legal advice was to pay the coup fee to the tenant because the value of the coup was not included in the original valuation. However, the value of the coup was deducted from the total value in the original valuation. CM distributed a file called "Stronafian plantation sales obligations note.pdf" dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 via email to all members of the board

JA, HA, CDS, CR **CM** to form a sub-committee to meet, formulate an approach to Stakis, come back to the board, vote, and then approach Stakis with a proposal.

GK raised the problem of co-opted not having a vote. However, co-opted board members do have a vote.

GK wanted further clarification on the situation with Reg MacDonald. JA has met with Reg and will discuss later in the meeting. HA is preparing a single page report from 15Kg of existing files.

Seconded: CDS

### Declarations of interest:

CR is a director of the SRA.

CDS Vice-chair of Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council. Vice-chair Kyles and Bute Planning.

PB Convenor of Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council.

### Administration Report:

CGDT have applied for and received further funding of £21,788 in respect of wider distribution of food boxes until the end of May, the newsletter and including a second £10,000 for outdoor structures.

Kickstart funding is now more flexible so it makes it easier to get up to 30 jobs over a wider period of time.

An application to Paths for All was successful and a ~~further~~ **final** payment of £350 will be received shortly.

AL continues to search for further funding towards further Stronafian forest paths, etc.

CR brought up an application to Wander Ways but Amber noted that the application was in respect of 4WD tours, which we couldn't do.

CGDT could apply to carbon reduction schemes to apply for funding. This could fund walking/cycling pathways between the ferry at Colintrave and Stronafian forest. This would be a maximum two-year project. CR suggested that electric charging points for bikes could be included. JA pointed out that this funding could make an unviable hydro scheme on the west side of the Stronafian forest. This scheme would also provide funding to employ an expert to assess and advise on improvements to the old housing stock in Glendaruel. The scheme is a hell of an opportunity for CGDT to build an income scheme. CGDT needs to get local expertise involved to the benefit of all. CR proposed

setting up a sub-committee. JA will lead CM, RM and CDS will work with AL. JM proposed that Fraser Brown be brought in to help and advise.

CR suggested that local statistics would be vital to any application. CDS responded that CGDT already had the information and an excellent track record.

GK brought up the problem of disruption to the water supply and was invited onto the sub-committee.

AL: Income: £250. Expenditure: £4,709.13 Current balance: £49,140.39. Each projects line manager and CM will sign off the monthly financial statements.

PB asked what the lease land in Glendaruel consisted of. The triangle of land between the Clachan and the A866. AL explained that originally CGDT wanted to buy the land, but the council refused. Eventually they offered a two-year peppercorn rate and a licence to build a path across the edge of the land. AL agreed that this was not an ideal solution. GK – how long is the path? CC – about 180 meters. CR shall we hold a vote? CDS pointed out that there was no firm offer from the council yet, so nothing to vote on. JM volunteered to talk to the member of the community most affected by any development of the path. JA suggested that this path was the most important on the CGDT to do list because of its benefit to the school.

#### **Membership:**

None.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

CM has agreed the vacation of the office at the Colintrave village hall and we need to empty the office of furniture and files.

CM: the financial files are a bit of a mess and need to be regulated properly before the end of the month. This should clarify any past financial questions that may be outstanding.

CM: we need to change our banking as our current account is only suitable for companies earning up to £50,000 a year and they are not very helpful. It was agreed that CM and AL should start exploring a new banking arrangement.

CR talked about her draft financial policy for agreement with the GGA. JA wanted to set a threshold reserve and asked whether we paid VAT or not. CDS said no as all our income is grant funding at present. CM should look at this in the future as new income streams come on tap. GC suggested seeking professional advice and JA agreed. CC thought that charities can not reclaim VAT. CM will investigate with the accountants.

#### **Rangers Report:**

##### **Board Report March 2021**

Update of where we are and, what needs to happen so that we can make more progress. It is great to see a lot of enthusiasm going about, especially with the number of emails. I have laid out 5 Projects in order, these 5 Projects are only my suggestions on the way forward on the Forests developments, that I see needs to happen.

(1) Outdoor Structures – We need a decision on this as soon as possible, regarding Locations,

and how many structures are required. Please see attachment 1, these in my opinion are the best 2 locations for what I have in mind for the structures. Please note that the structures on the attachment are for a visual effect only, what I am looking to build will obviously depend on where it will be situated, and how many. My vision for these structures is that once they are up, everyone will want one. With the budget that we have, we either have 1 large, or 2 mediums. I plan to have these built before the next Board Meeting all going well.

(2) The link between the Village and the Gun Club – I see this as a very straight forward simple link and would vastly improve the access to the Forest from the Village. There are 2 ways we can approach this, 1 would be as the attachment proposes regarding costs if we were putting it out to tender and applying for funding to someone like Paths for All. The 2nd suggestion would be, I will get a local digger in for half a day to re shape the Path and get Bonnar Sand & Gravel to deliver approx. 80 Tons of Hardcore which would be a lot cheaper approx. about half the price.

(3) The link between the Cairn and the Forest Road, this is the same as above, apart from the involvement of Stakis and the Haulage Company, who may or may not be available to do the work we require for the Path link up. I am hoping to hear something soon and will update the Board on any progress.

(4) Link between the Village and the Forest via the Lay by Route, as proposed by A&B Council. Please view Map, Pictures etc.

(5) New Signs- Again see attachment. My thoughts on the signs are once the Board have decided and nominate a Board Member to come up with suitable signage, etc., to then go ahead and order them, and I will erect them if required. At the present time we require

6 Information Boards, 1 to be erected in the Village, 1 at the Cairn, 1 at Modan's Well, 1 at Cup Ring Mark, 1 at the entrance to the Forest at the Lay By on the main road, and 1 at Neolithic Village.

CDS said that decisions on the outdoor structures were urgent – deadlines 31<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> May. These deadlines are for obtaining full receipts for all expenditure. RM said that the preferred site would be on the Kilmodan Acre Trust and that everyone wanted a wooden shelter. Questions included insurance and ongoing maintenance. GC wanted to know if the community had been told that there was an alternative position for the outdoor structure in the forest. JA didn't want a structure in the forest as it would not be useful to the community. GK brought up the problem of applying for planning permission within the timescale. JM proposed retrospective permission. AL thought that there may be flexibility on the deadlines due to coronavirus restrictions. AL will check. JA proposed putting together a simple time schedule for each structure. JM suggested that both structures be identical. GK thought the whole process to be too rushed. RM thought that the council would be helpful with planning, if indeed planning was necessary. CC suggested that several of the proposed outdoor shelter projects came complete as a kit and should be quick to commission. JM suggested that CM, RM, GC, AL and CC get together and make the required choices. GK suggested that delivery might not be for 12 months. CC said that the structures would have to be put up by ourselves. JA pointed out that we had already discussed this several times and come to no conclusions. We now needed to start making decisions.

JA suggested that we need to make decisions on link 4 from the cairn to the gun club and link 2 from the Clachan to the layby immediately. CC thought that the council would not grant permission for a path alongside the A886 to the gun club. There was some confusion here as some thought that link went to the gun club and some that the link went to the layby on the A866. This was not resolved. JA proposed meeting and walking the various link routes. GC asked how we were paying for the links. CDS said that we had some funding already and a meeting should be held next week.

RM talked about oak saplings that she has been given from Wales. RM will liaise with CC and the school over the planting in the forest area.

#### **Broadband:**

CGDT Board Update re Broadband rollout:

Aim This initiative is to help Colglen residents and visitors who are not satisfied with their current internet access obtain the best available cellular internet network access using locally available help and resources on a willing self-help volunteer basis. There will be no charge for this from the trust.

Status – for detail see attached plan

Phase 1 – Self help. Help those with good mobile coverage to get reasonable service. This is quick, cheap and in our control and demonstrates value from CGDT. This won't address the poor or no mobile signal locations. JA Comment – anticipate this phase will address the majority of community needs

- Ready to launch
- o Contact details for requests and volunteers equipment sorted and due publication on 1st March – see text below
- o Requests being collated by Amber
- o Requests will be addressed by JA and others coopted as necessary, depending on volumes

o Initial offering NOW where coverage is confirmed by testing, is the user to buy a standard package with help offered on installation if required. An alternative is to wait until the potential upgraded service by an external supplier (below) is available and proved

- External supplier –

o in early discussion with an external registered supplier to look at a bespoke service for Colglen offering similar but dedicated service to the main network providers –(est 6-12months before available).

o A hybrid package where the user buys an unlocked router and a data package from the registered supplier and will shift onto the bespoke service when ready. (Est 1-3months) if achieved

Phase 2 – Professional installation. Status as for external supplier above. We identify a suitable supplier and recommend them to the community to help those in the very hard to reach areas with either LTE or Satellite. If we go through a transparent process to select the suppliers, we are helping the community not only navigate the voucher process but also save them engaging inappropriate organisations. This also demonstrates value and potentially boosts service for those who have been helped in phase 1

Phase 3 – long term solution. Engage with BT and any other providers to ensure we get fibre as soon as possible and also evaluate alternatives such as Starlink or other high speed satellite solutions. Again, value to the community by advocating on their behalf

Costs – There are no costs involved for the trust, as individuals have purchased the necessary test kit already and volunteers would do this free with no recompense for work or expenses. Users responsible for purchasing their own equipment and contracts with suppliers.

JA proposed that we press ahead with the broadband initiative. There were no objections to this. JA and GC felt that BT's promises of up to 10Mbps per second were useless. First, 10Mb per second is not enough, and second, actual speeds are often only a fraction of the promised maximum.

CR proposed putting out the broadband leaflet immediately.

#### **Newsletter:**

Proposed Newsletter:

Welcome to our first Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust (CGDT)newsletter. We aim to produce one each quarter to keep everyone informed on our activities, proposed projects, progress of projects and how you the community can help. This is your community trust and it's for you to decide what you want and how we can work together to improve, develop and create possibilities and opportunities to make the community better. The volunteer directors are part of our community and are keen to progress things for the benefit of all.

Directors:

Cathleen Russell (Chair)

Harry Andrews (Vice Chair)

Paul Bulmer (Secretary)

Calum Maclean (Treasurer)

Ros McGhee

Gary Kirby

Charles Dixon-Spain

John McNaughton

John Allan (Co-opted)

Graham Curran (Co-opted)

Office Manager: Amber Llovet

Forest Range: Charlie Collins

#### **Projects Update**

Stronafian Forest.

Charlie Collins has been working hard on improving the forest and the paths. Noticeably more

people are now making use of the forest and its a useful asset for the school too. The next stage is to develop signage for the different historical monuments etc. If you are a keen historian and would be keen to help with the wording and development of the signs please contact us via Amber Llovat.

#### COVID-19

The Development Trust as an anchor organisation and able to access funding to support the Community's response to the pandemic. The Trust has been working closely with the Community Council and the Resilience group to try and meet the needs by delivering prescriptions, food boxes etc. We have managed to obtain a small grant as part of the Recovery phase to enable us to build 2 covered outdoor spaces. One in Glendaruel and one in Colintrave. These open sheltered spaces will be very important as we begin to move out of lock down as places where people safely can meet outdoors, children can play, we can have stalls to sell goods. If you have some ideas about where these could be placed please contact Calum Maclean or Ros McGhee.

#### Kickstart

The trust is exploring this initiative as a means of supporting businesses in the area to employ and train a young person for 6 months. The placements are fully funded, but they need to be new jobs, so if you know of any businesses in the area that would be keen please ask them to contact Amber Llovat

#### Broadband

If you want help to improve your broadband access now please see the attached sheet.

#### International Dark Skies Places (a global organisation)

We have been working on this project for some time. There are different levels we can apply for and we have identified an area in the forest which would be suitable. All we need now are some nice dark nights to take some readings. For more information on this project please contact Andy White or Chris Leigh. This project, could, encourage tourism a no economic activity.

#### Projects: For public consultation

Projects that have been suggested by the community will be investigated by the Trust and if they are feasible they will be written up in more detail. These projects will then be listed as short, medium or long term and the community will be consulted. These opinions will be taken into

consideration and respected by the board Board in considering the projects to fully develop. The projects will be fully costed, including financial sustainability and form the basis of our plan that will be shared with the community.

To date these are the projects that have been suggested:

- Farmers Market
- Water safety
- Transport
- Electric charging points
- Food security
- Affordable Housing
- Forest Crofts
- Hutting
- Hydro
- Child care

If you have other suggestions please contact us so we can add them to the list. Once we have a list we will write a short description of the projects and then consult on which we should take forward.

If you have any questions about this or anything pertaining to the work of the Trust please don't hesitate to contact us.

We have also decided to undertake a full governance review of the Trust and how it's managed. For that we are participating in the Good Governance Awards Scotland. The program as developed to support small charities strengthen their core governance and carries out an independent assessment to SCVO standards. This will take several months to complete and at the end ensures we will have taken the appropriate measures and have good robust systems in place.

Cathleen  
E: cathleen.russell@mac.com

Amber Llovat (Office Manager)  
T:01369510015

HA suggested that the Colintrave pontoon and the Clachan Hub at Glendaruel were marked as being live, but not mentioned elsewhere. CR will mark both projects as not being live at the moment.

CR suggested that the difficulty of filling covid injection places for people born 1962. A notice will be added to the newsletter.

JA suggested that we add a piece on the energy project to the newsletter too.

CR suggested that the Modan's Well notice should go out on the back of the newsletter.

### **Governance:**

#### **Protocol for holding meetings.**

CR questioned whether meetings should be open or not. CDS said the membership asked for this. Both CR and CDS were not keen on videoing the meetings as proposed. CR called for a vote on the Protocol. HA thought that our meetings were not properly worked out and proposed an agenda committee. JM agreed. GC proposed that members specifically applied to attend meetings, but without having any input to the meeting. GK suggested that any questions would have to be put up in advance. CR proposed continuing as we are for the moment and allowing greater public involvement when we start meeting in the village halls again. GK didn't want to water down the roles of the directors of the board by having full public interaction. HA proposed informing the membership via the newsletter that changes were being considered. CR's counter that changes in governance were already in the newsletter was criticised as being too vague by JM and GC. CR agreed to amend the newsletter.

#### **Proposals for keeping members involved.**

No discussion

### **CGDT Media Presence:**

CR suggested co-opting Struan Walker to help with 'media'. HS thought that this was premature until the board worked properly. CDS agreed that a coherent media strategy was needed. GC agreed. CR thought that Struan should be co-opted so that he would have a voice on the board. RM agreed that it was important to have young people on the board. The vote was 9 for and 1 against.

There then followed a discussion over whether or not co-opted directors actually have a vote, some accusations of lying, and whether or not Reg should be allowed onto board. They do. CR admitted her mistake over the vote situation.

### **AOB:**

Contact with Reg:

JA finally contacted Reg MacDonald on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. And following a two hour discussion, JA forwarded his discussion notes to Reg who has delayed his response until after this board meeting.

There followed discussion on Reg MacDonald's attitude to the board. JA acknowledged this worry but told us to await Reg's decision.

The meeting started to break up at this point and the recording of the meeting runs out as the battery died.

It was proposed that RM, JA and PB approach Struan Walker and work out a job specification with him. JA did approach Struan, who decided that he could not join the Board at this time.

**DONM:**

8th April 2021