



Minutes for meeting via Zoom

19.30 hrs, 4th May 2021.

Attendees:

Paul Bulmer (PB), Gary Kirby (GK), Reg Macdonald (RD), Ros McGhee (RM), Calum Maclean (CM), John McNaughton (JM), Cathleen Russell (CR), Charlie Collins (CC), John Allan (JA), Graham Curran (GC)

Apologies:

Amber Llovet (AL)

Previous minutes:

19th April 2021 Passed as amended, RD abstained as not present at the meeting.

Matters Arising:

GK wanted an insertion into the minutes of 19th April 2021 of a conflict of interest that he alleged against several members of the board.

Declarations of interest:

CR is a director of the SRA.

PB Convenor of Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council and on the board of the Kilmodan Acre Trust.

Administration Report:

CGDT will give serious consideration to an application to Adapt and thrive to further support AL's work.

Paths for All – match funding required up to a maximum of £3,000, can be match funded by work-in-kind. AL to put in a notice of interest.

RM found a group called Crosscut Corps with the objective of up-skilling local people. RM and CR will follow this up.

Access to the food boxes has increased so should we approach HIE and ask for an extension from the end of May to the end of June out of an underspend from PPE money and few volunteers re-claiming mileage. 27 food boxes were distributed by CC last week.

Calor Rural Community Fund requires match-funding which we are unable to raise.

Updates:

Outdoor Shelters. Colintrave: £8,900, builder Gus McKenzie. Glendaruel: £10,500 builder Andy McNaughton.

Motion: Does the Board agree to appoint the above builders to complete the construction work?

Proposed RD. Seconded JA. No votes against and JM abstained through a conflict of interest. Motion passed.

The lease of land from Argyll and Bute Council is not acceptable, it is too vague and for a very short lease. RD will look and give an opinion.

Broadband report

In the 6 weeks since launch there have been some 20 requests, 18 having been sorted and 3 remain outstanding. There are many variable solutions and it's not one size fits all. Amber has developed a sheet that I provide data to as a record and some additions have been helpful

Results:

1. So far we have only failed one challenge by mobile broadband and that has reverted to a new satellite service.
2. 2 have completely switched to an all-mobile solution, combining mobile phone and mobile broadband and ditching landline (not recommended for rural areas). Another is underway.
3. Many have "discovered" the power of the hotspot on their smartphones and use that to connect their computers and televisions to good effect, avoiding any significant investment. Teaching the use of the hotspot and instruction on proper siting for best reception has helped maximise that. The additional data cost issue is solved by a £5/month

unlimited data add-on to smartphone contracts. This is very useful where contracts with suppliers are longer term and where there are several users in the house such as grown-up children being heavy users. With their own hotspot [effectively a dedicated router] at a minimum extra monthly cost doesn't frustrate the parents.

4. The alternative of a longer-term contract at circa £40/month or greater is mainly unpalatable and that can also be further complicated by the unhelpfulness of existing landline contracts.

5. Some, having tried the option of the faster (ranging from 10 - 50Mbps) downloads, found it didn't actually make any difference to their use so remain unchanged: the benefit of "try before you buy"!

6. A few heavy users have opted for a specialist antenna that can give up to 90Mbps or get a workable signal where other receivers simply don't work. These are often at locations where the online maps show you won't get a signal. In those cases, an approach to the supplier EE has elicited some helpful mast direction and frequency information, but that's not their policy.

7. Others have found their equipment such as old laptops or tablets simply won't work so it's not the broadband that's the only problem.

Overall, the outcome has been different from what was anticipated, but still beneficial. It is to be expected that this will change and develop as word spreads and the networks continue to improve. As a community service it is worthwhile and continues to offer improve connectivity, reducing isolation at little investment and commitment. I think we just keep it going and keep a brief reminder in the newsletter for folk to know it's there. Comments?

Governance:

CR will circulate a check list and documents for all directors to sign and return. CGDT will start an induction package for new directors.

Motion: Does the Board agree that it should set up, in principle, a bundle of induction documents for new directors?
Motion interrupted.

Motion: Does the Board agree the adoption of the induction pack as recommended by Good Governance Award Scotland.

Proposed RD. Seconded JA. No votes against. Motion passed.

JA pointed out that we need to confirm each project against the CGDT Mission Statement. His speaking notes also include:

Separation of strategy (direction) and management (operational)

- We have heard from the reports of Amber and Charlie that the operational is working well, particularly where there is clear direction.
- The working groups are also underway but, to my mind need to ensure that they are guiding to doers (operations) clearly.

Sustainability i.e. being a long term sustainable business

- Projects table
 - My aim was to provide a clear idea to the community of what projects were underway – it does that
 - If however we then test it against our mission statement how many of our projects meet the criteria?
 - If we then further test our future projects against sustainability. We fail because we don't have sustainable income.
 - I think therefore we have to initially look at those projects that will generate income to become self-sustaining and profitable to support the trust other activities.

Partnering

- Another area to look at is partnering with other charities, businesses or encouraging/ developing projects as standalone businesses within our area.

JA also suggested that the Board select a straightforward project, break it down and use it as a learning exercise. These lessons should then be a guide as to how all CGDT projects should be carried out.

AOCB:

Newsletter:

CR: The CGDT Newsletter should contain: Advances on governance, Broadband, Outdoor shelters, Signage in the forest. These are all positive, good-news stories for Colintrave and Glendaruel. Also include JA's project graph.

Motion: Does the Board agree on the wording of the three historic site sings as detailed in AL's email of 5th May 2021?

Proposed RD. Seconded JA. No votes against. Motion passed.

CGDT now have access to Microsoft 365. Groups and group email to be set up by GC.

DONM:

2nd June 2021