



Minutes for meeting at

Glendaruel Village Hall

20.15 hrs, 7th October 2021.

Attendees:

Paul Bulmer (PB), Reg Macdonald (RD), Ros McGhee (RM) via Zoom, Cathleen Russell (CR), Gary Kirby (GK), John McNaughton (JM), Amber Llovet (AL) via Zoom

Apologies:

Graham Curran (GC), Charlie Collins (CC)

Declarations of interest:

CR is a director of the Scottish Rural Action and the Bute Ferry Group, the advisory group for Argyll and Bute Climate Challenge and Treasurer of the Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council.

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

Administrators report:

As a previous recipient of the Communities Recovery Fund, and an organization operating in the identified as impoverished county of Argyllshire, CGDT was invited to submit an expression of interest for the Phase 2 Communities Fund program.

CGDT submitted interest detailing a plan for a Sustainable Food Ecosystem Project, where we require funds for the development and delivery of sustainable alternatives to emergency response activities that were supported by the government during the Community Response and Recovery phase of funding - specifically the food box provisions in response to food scarcity.

We plan on a number of activities working in collaboration with local organisations and businesses. We want to increase the number of poly tunnels available and campaign for residents to become involved in growing their own produce – this will help not only with food security, but work to increase health and wellbeing within ColGlen. Additionally, we plan on utilising an area of sloped south-facing land within the Community Forest as a commercial growing plot which will enable the Trust to sell fresh produce to the community at reasonable prices and also generate enterprise revenue with sales to local restaurants. To increase access to the locally grown fresh produce and enable other local producers such as Farmers, artisans, and makers, we will introduce regular farmers markets and pop-up shops within our newly constructed outdoor meeting shelters (built with the support of the Recovery Program funds), and the local Village Halls. To further increase access to produce we plan on coordinating vending machine markets: as our area is chronically under-served with the very small local shop being opened for a few hours in the morning, the vending machine markets will allow for produce to be open and available potentially 24/7 and have the ability to store a mixture of fresh produce and other produce items.

Forest Rangers report:

CGDT are still waiting for confirmation paperwork from the Forestry Commission regarding the Larch disease *Phytophthora ramorum*. We expect Stakis' extraction agents to remove all their affected larch as well as our own, all at Stakis' expense. When felling does start, we will have to close some of our forest paths to the public.

RD wanted to know if we shouldn't get this commitment in writing from Stakis. CM pointed out that we had not yet received any confirmation about the disease yet.

PB asked about the ownership of the trees within CGDT managed areas. RD said that Stakis had the right to fell on all the forest, including those areas managed by us.

GK wanted written guarantees that the forest paths would not be damaged during any felling operations.

RM said that the larch needles come out in February and the trees would be felled by then.

GK told us that John Allen had milled some post so that signs could be put up to identify paths through the forest.

AL and CC leave the meeting.

Staffing hours:

CR: Amber's hours cannot be cut right now as she is working on the Communities Recovery Fund paperwork. CC is prepared to cut his hours from 24 hours to 10 hours per week for a short time. GK agreed. RD said that the director's paramount responsibility was the solvency of the trust.

Safeguarding the CGDT finances:

CR asked if the directors wanted to set a reserve of £10,000 to safeguard CGDT finances. Some directors were happy with this, some directors wanted a higher reserve in case heavy plant was needed to undertake forestry work or felling in those areas of Stronafian Forest controlled by CGDT.

Motion 1 proposed: The CGDT proposes to establish a reserve fund of £10,000. Proposed CR, seconded JM. Three votes for and three votes against the motion. CR as chair gets a deciding vote, so motion passed.

JM expressed the need for a review in three months' time, this was agreed. Further discussion ensued around how the reserve could be over-ruled. RD wanted a unanimous agreement, then decided that a two thirds majority would be all right. CM, PB and JM all wanted a simple majority as per CGDT M&A requirements. This was agreed.

Governance:

AGM to be set for 5th December 2021. All members should receive notification of the AGM and an invite to renew their membership. RD asked how many members we had. GK answered 15. CR replied about 80 members (82 actually for 2020-21).

CR: CGDT needs a fundraising policy and action plan. PB is this not in the M&A's? CR told us that Argyll and Bute council had been criticised for not connecting funding with local community needs.

CR told us that AL and CR were applying to Connecting Scotland for financial support to set up the village halls with wifi and Chromebooks to teach computer skills in the community.

RD put in a plea for the new Board of directors to be more communicative and more low-key in dealing with the community. This is actually how the current Board started out at the beginning of the year working with different groups in the community on projects including the outdoor structures.

CR told us that CGDT membership of DTAS, Development Trust Association Scotland, had been renewed.

Broadband:

Both CR and PB have been contacted regarding the installation of broadband in the area. This promises to connect almost all household in the community to the very latest high-speed system.

Fundraising:

RD asked if CGDT held fundraising picnics or other events. JM said that previous charity events in Glendaruel Village Hall had indeed been very popular and profitable, but that was dependent on the cause. CGDT would not be a popular cause. CR suggested running farmers markets in each hall, JM pointed out that we would have to be careful of other fundraising events already held in the halls. CR suggested foraging expeditions, both forest foraging and seashore foraging. RM suggested possibly clearing views through the forest and selling the trees cut down as Christmas trees or dig them out and pot them up for sale.

DONM:

4th November 2021.

2nd December 2021 to prepare for the AGM.

5th December 2021 – AGM.