

## 1. Welcome

**Present:** John Findlay (Chair), Pat McGrann (Vice-Chair), Gordon Currie, Ian Faggetter, Jamie McFarlane, Alex Gillespie, Jackie Thomson, Alyson MacGillivray (DM), Rosie MacLellan (PM), Rosy Mota Dos Reis (AFO).

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, John Findlay.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jim Porteous, Jordan Paisley, Grant Addison, Diana Buller and Dionne Johnson.

## 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – 11/11/2021

GC proposed the previous 11/11/21 meeting minutes. Seconded by PMG – Motion Passed.

## 4. Monthly Financial Update

- Monthly financial report updated up to 30<sup>th</sup> of November. \*Attached to the Agenda
- Weekly Staff Meetings - Reviewing financial reports and project, board invited to attend
- Covid 19 finance update provided by PMG and DM
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Neil Reid, William & Duncan visited the office to start the audit for 2020/2021

## 5. Sonas Childcare & Ramsay Hall Update

DM provided an update on the status of communication with the AMP architects. They have sent through upgraded principal plans with amended adjustments highlighted completed regarding the sleeping area and the changing area to keep contamination of the main room to a minimum. Another point they were going to consider was free flow access from the main toddler area to the outside.

Regarding the upstairs layout, several options for showers have been analysed. One option is to include an accessible shower, which will provide an additional room or retain the original option of two showers but enlarge them significantly. DM is working alongside local groups to ask their preference or suggestions.

Parking was also discussed with the architects. Since the Ramsay Hall lacks designated parking, concerns were expressed as to whether the playing fields parking would be sufficient to meet the demand of estimated childcare staff, children, and an office within the premise and however structural changes would affect council planning permission.

DM provided an update on the ongoing trend of the management of the Ramsay Hall, which had been previously recorded. Currently, Sonas Childcare is reviewing the potentiality of running it as a source of income to sustain the childcare.

**ACTION:** DM and Sonas Childcare Project Manager have meetings scheduled for early January to discuss finalised principle plans with the boards, groups and relevant professionals.

## 6. PEPF-

### a) Motorhome Project

PM updated that HIE has indicated that they may be able to increase the original amount of funding offered. This will be confirmed in early 2022. The Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund (RCIA) funding application has been approved. The current budgetary shortfall was given based on the confirmed funds and the recoverable VAT, and alternative funding options were discussed.

#### b) VAT Matters

PM provided an update on the status of the decision made at the previous meeting to register SID for VAT. Significant progress has been made by Eric at VAT Matters, with all the required information gathered. The next stage is to submit the information to HMRC.

If registration is successful, SID will be able to reclaim a significant amount of the community hub costs. However, due to the VAT registration, the Visit Scotland RTIF award (for use in the motorhome project) would be reduced.

#### c) Design Team Update

PM updated that the design team is progressing well with the tender documents, and a revised QS costing should be available early in 2022. The subgroup has also been making good progress with decisions regarding the building's interior.

#### d) Timescales/Budget

An update was given on the community hub budget. Some funding applications were unsuccessful as the Bank of Scotland, the Clothworkers Foundation and the National Lottery; however, the PM is awaiting official confirmation of funding from another funder.

The tender is on schedule to be uploaded to PCS in January, with an expected return by mid-February and possible contracts in March.

### 7. AOCB

#### a) Tennis Court Netting

PMG expressed concerns regarding damage in the metal chain fencing surrounding the tennis court. It has been reported to have been climbed by teenagers, which could explain the evident damage.

**ACTION:** SID directors will address the issue.

#### b) Correspondence

DM read an email from E Morrison to enquire for further information regarding the removal of the rock at Port Ellen Playing Fields. The matter was extensively discussed as SID has documented communication between the staff and E Morrison, where detailed information was previously provided. The board assessed the staff responses and concluded that all the questions raised were covered in the various communications.

At the time in question, some of the SID board directors conducted a dynamic risk assessment where hazards were identified, and a decision needed to be made in compliance with the Health and Safety Act. The instability of the rock in the football pitch posed a risk to the football team and the general public; as a result, after assessing the risk of failure, the decision to remove it was performed to prevent any accidents.

### 8. Date of next meeting

**13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> February for AGM**

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. by the Chair, John Findlay.

**Minutes submitted by:** Rosy Reis

**Minutes approved by:**