

South Islay Development

Board Meeting

On Thursday 21st September 2023 at The Ramsay Hall

1. Welcome

Present: Pat McGrann (Chair), Jamie McFarlane (Vice-Chair), Ian Faggetter (IF), John Findley (JF), Jackie Thomson (JT), Dionne Johnston (DJ), Danielle McKerrill (CEO), Alyson MacGillivray (DM), Rosie MacLellan (PM), Kirsty Izat (ADM)

The meeting was called to order by Pat McGrann (Chair) at 19:15

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Gordon Currie (GC) Jim Porteous (JMP), Jordan Paisley (JP), Rosie Gordon (RG), Alex Gillespie (AG)

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – 24th August 2023

Minutes Proposed by IF and second by Vice-Chair.

- **Name Registration:** "The Pavilion" name has now been registered by PM.
- **Community Bus:** There is an ongoing question over who might take over the running of the community bus from the Baptist Church. SID are in favour of supporting the bus in principle. An earlier suggestion from Councillor Dougie MacFadzean that SID, IDI and IJCE work together on this had been rejected at a previous SID board meeting. Funding for an electric bus from Scottish Power may be an option. **Chair will revert to Islay Connections group for further discussion.**

4. PEPF

Construction Progress

- **Community building:** PM updated on progress. Foundations are poured, blocks onsite, steel due to arrive soon. Delays onsite due to a variety of drainage issues, relating to existing field drains. SID's civil engineer has now redesigned a section of the drainage to re connect into the existing field drains which should remove the surface water. The main drainage has also had to be altered due to an issue with the previous levels, and the positioning of the septic tank.
- **Motorhomes:** PM confirmed digging and levelling of the site is ongoing. Procast poured the foundations for gabion baskets at the start of w/c 18th Sept. Delays here due to positioning of electrical cables. SSE are going to divert these asap.
- The CoW is onsite every week and seems content with progress despite delays.
- **Programme:** A further update will be given at the next site meeting on Tues 3rd Oct.

Budget

- PM confirmed the second valuation had been received and the invoice paid. The QS is keeping a close track of spend, and although there have been tweaks to design here and there, at the moment these are 'cost neutral'. No contingency has been used as yet. Expect a further update at the next meeting re drainage issues.
- VAT: Still looking for clarification from HMRC about zero rating a percentage of the access, parking, and footpaths etc. Due to a retirement within HMRC all information has had to be re submitted.

Expressions of Interest

- Four expressions of interest in the rooms have been received.
- Three expressions of interest have been received for the café.
- There is also interest in the fourth container.
- All are aware of the rent as the Board agreed at the last meeting, and still interested.
- Next step is a face-to-face meeting with Board representatives. JT, DJ, IF, JF and PMG all showed interest in being involved in these meetings. **PM will arrange face to face meetings and send the relevant information to the interested Board members.**

5. Community Engagement

Feedback from Community Events

- A very successful Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society concert was held on Saturday 16th September. A great atmosphere was enjoyed by all. A special thanks will be sent to the society for making this a fundraising event for SID.
- **Chair to write to thank Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society.**
- Our first 100 club draw took place this week with three lucky winners taking home £600 split between them. A Small Lottery Licence has been arranged by CEO.
- Fireworks have now been ordered for the 4th November, still negotiating delivery to Islay.
- Planning of Casino night on Saturday 23rd September was discussed.
- Meeting felt Young SID need to give more input.

SID's Upcoming Events - 2023

Month	Date	Event	Time	Helpers	Venue Booked	Moved into account
September	Saturday 23 rd September	Casino and disco night	9pm-1am	Danielle, Lizzie, Jackie, John and Iain	The Ramsay Hall	Young SID/ £500 SID U/R
	Friday 29 th September	Macmillan Coffee morning	11am-2pm	Danielle	Little Charlottes cafe	Charity
October						
	Friday 6 th October	Family Ceilidh and raffle, tea/coffee and home baking	7pm- 10pm	Danielle, Jackie and Dionne	The Columba Hall	Lunch Club
	Saturday 7 th October	Autumn Fair	12pm-3pm	Danielle and Rosie	The Columba Hall	SID U/R
	Saturday 14 th October	Autumn Hunt	12pm	Young SID	Little Charlottes cafe	Young SID
	Wednesday 25 th October	Lunch Club back to Sea Salt for the winter	12pm	Iain	Sea Salt	Lunch Club
	Saturday 28 th October	Junior Halloween Disco	6pm-8pm	Jamie and ?	The Ramsay Hall	Young SID
	Saturday 28 th October	Halloween Disco	10pm-1am	Danielle, Rosie, Lizzie, Gow, Jordan?	The Ramsay Hall	Young SID
Community Event						
SID U/R Fundraiser						
Both						

6. Monthly Financial Update

Monthly Financial Report – Any Questions NO

- CEO is keeping on top of Community Engagement budgets.

- PEPF budget shows some minuses – this is a just timing issue with the first big invoices having been paid out and claims not having been paid in as yet.
- A memorial bench was purchased - National Lottery funds will be paid in to cover this expenditure.
- Play equipment to be purchased this year (from National Lottery funds.)

7. Sonas Childcare

Principle Plans

- DM gave feedback on the community consultation re: renovation of the Ramsay Hall.
 - In person numbers were low however 50 – 60 survey responses were received online.
 - Feedback was mainly positive - one person suggested the balcony should be reinstalled in the hall.

HIE

- A curve ball has come from HIE in the form of a proposal to provide childcare facilities on Islay, Tiree and Mull using modular buildings. This follows on from a national announcement from the Scottish Government re: improving childcare.
- SID'S architect has confirmed that plans for a modular building on the PEPF site are workable and has provided initial drawings. (Similar to the plans previously made for the schoolhouse). The proposed modular building would have capacity for more children than the Ramsay Hall childcare room.
- Plans for the modular building are in the early stages and have still to be costed. HIE are offering a "high intervention rate" but have not specified any figures as yet.
- Procast can continue with the groundwork on the proposed new site (towards the back of the current playpark.) Not a huge amount of extra cable would be needed. The biggest job would be adding plumbing/toilet facilities.
- Landscaping was discussed – this would be important in order to help the new building blend in to the surroundings.
- DM advised that other sites for a nursery building had also been considered/checked – Kilarrow is not an option according to A&B Council.
- SID would also continue aiming to upgrade the Ramsay Hall access, kitchen, office spaces etc. One particular benefit would be that a space in the hall could be made available quickly for the footballers to use as a changing room.
- The meeting felt it was important to make sure all affected groups are happy/on board with the idea before going back out to the community. **DM to meet with footballers to discuss.**
- DM has repeatedly requested structural surveys for the hall from A&B council.
- If the Ramsay Hall is to be managed by SID rather than Live Argyll the terms of a lease from the council would need to be carefully negotiated.

Sonas Group

- The Chair, DM and ADM met with the Sonas group (Dionne Johnston and Joanne Beckett (JB)) on 21st September.
- Sonas were in favour of the new modular building and felt that only this option should be presented to the community.
- JB will take the idea back to the toddlers group to gauge opinions.

Community Consultation

- **DM** asked the meeting for a decision on whether to present the community with a choice of the two options (i.e. childcare space included within the Ramsay Hall **OR** a new modular building plus improvements to Ramsay Hall) or only to go back out with the new proposed plan.
Decision – Present only the new plan of a modular nursery building along with improvements to the Ramsay Hall.
- It was noted that a quick but thorough consultation is needed. Delivery to the public must be good – well communicated and supported by directors, staff, Sonas and footballers.

8.AOCB

SITCo

- One of the pumps has broken down (possibly following a broken electrical cable). Industrial Services advised an engineer will attend next month. In the meantime, fuel deliveries from Gleaner are needed more often.
- One staff member would like cleaning duties to be shared more equally amongst staff.
- Fire Risk Assessment was completed on 18th September 2023 by DPD. **Recommendations/training to be taken forward.**
- Jet Wash was serviced on 20th September 2023.
- DM and JF have ordered a sign re: liability for the jet wash.

All Islay Fund

- There will be a catch up/feedback meeting with panel members on 28th September at Ardbeg distillery.
- SID are preparing for the next round. Suggestion of SID holding Autumn workshops to help potential applicants prepare for the fund opening again in January 2024.

Ann Vastano – Artist

- Ann Vastano, artist, has kindly offered to donate a painting (worth £1,200) to be auctioned for the benefit of an Islay charity. Ann's husband suffered a heart attack while on holiday on Islay and was saved by locals and the ambulance crew. DM suggested that the proceeds go to the Football Club to help with the cost of running the defibrillator. **DM to speak to Jacqueline and Alan Campbell.**

Helipad

- Stuart MacLellan is awaiting an update from Islay Estates.

The meeting was brought to a close by Chair at 21:05.

9. Dates of the next two meetings: **26th October and 29th November – AGM.**