

THE CLAN MACQUARRIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th December 2011 at 8.00pm

Present: Mr Donald Macdonald (Chair Person)
Mrs Marion Maclean (Treasurer)
Mrs Morag Nicolson (Secretary)
Mr Norman Smith
Mr Peter Macdonald
Mr D A Macleay
Mr Murdo Nicholson
Mrs Margaret I Macleod

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Elenor Macleay (Vice Chair), Mr Donald Vann, Mr Iain Murray, Mr Calum Macdonald, Mrs Sally Reynolds, Mr John Mackay, Mrs Agnes Rennie, Mr Calum I Maciver and Mr Iain Morrison.

Mr Donald Macdonald (Chair), extended a warm welcome to all present.

2 Appointment of new members

Ms Donna Morrison became a member.

3 Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the AGM 8th December 2010 were approved by Mrs Marion Maclean and seconded by Mr Peter Macdonald.

4 Chairperson's Report

Mr Donald Macdonald (Chair) presented the Chair Person's Report:

Clan Macquarrie Community Centre

Chair's Report 2011

Here we are at another AGM, they seem to come around faster every year – a reflection perhaps of the busy lives we all lead. That of course includes being busy with the varied activities involved with being close to CMCC and the demands that places on us all. For that reason, I would like to start by re-

ording my sincere thanks to all on the committee for the continued hard work and commitment shown to CMCC and to our community during the last 12 months. This year, I do not intend to single out any individuals however I well know many of you contribute vital time, energy and effort that is not always readily apparent to the rest of us. That commitment is acknowledged and genuinely appreciated.

In addition, it is important to acknowledge the ongoing support the Committee has received from what I've previously referred to as our "army" of local volunteers, support also from all local user groups and from the local and island-wide community as a whole. Without the support they give to CMCC events and to events run by our user groups, the viability of the various groups (and therefore the viability of and contribution made to the community by CMCC) would be significantly and seriously diluted. It was pleasing to be able to acknowledge in a more tangible way the support of our volunteers in February when we were able to lay on a meal event by way of thanks.

I need to also recognise the links established or enhanced with and the support we have received and continue to receive from various agencies and groups based throughout the island and beyond including (in no particular order):

CES; CnES Councillors; Fios; Theatre Hebrides; Isles FM and BBC; Hebridean Celtic Festival; Ness Funeral Society; CIB Services; Anderson Macarthur & Co.

My apologies now to any groups or individuals that I may have missed there.

Some of CMCC's achievements, improvements and contribution to the community in the last year were:

Achieving registration with Feed in Tariff subsidy scheme for renewables;

Generating circa £7,500 income annually from the above;

Plant room door ventilation system improved;

Assuming responsibility for management of community skips;

Shelving fitted in loft area;

Exterior lighting has been improved;

Landscaping improvement plans commenced;

Benches for garden area contributed/purchased (albeit not yet installed);

Handymen appointed and commenced maintenance of Centre;

Website and Facebook site consolidated and delivering benefits;

Renewables system has delivered a warmer and more welcoming venue, with reduced energy

costs;

Financial viability further improved with good build-up of cash reserves during the year;

Enhanced reputation as a performance venue;

Further investment in assets – e.g. chairs, kitchen equipment etc.

It was pleasing to have had several wedding receptions and wedding celebrations in the Centre during 2011 – and particularly pleasing that we were able to help with the marriage celebrations of Committee members or their close family – Angela and Craig (MI's daughter); Janice and Owen (Norman's sister) and Sally and Toby (Sally!) all allowed us to share their Big Days.

Last year, I suggested we had perhaps over-burdened the Committee with wedding events that fell too close together on occasion. I am pleased to say that matters eased off somewhat in 2011, with a more even distribution of major events throughout the year. I feel it is important that we continue to be cautious in this respect, balancing the need and desire for income generation against the risks of exhausting the committee and our volunteers. One solution may be to consider "outsourcing" of catering for major events at any time where we feel acceptance of these may be too much for our volunteers to take on. In that respect, it is pleasing to report that a good initial relationship has already been established with a proven commercial caterer. Any events to be outsourced will of course be decided on a case by case basis and via negotiation of an agreeable financial return for CMCC.

I also highlighted last year that I felt we should have held more events for the community rather than being overly focused on “commercial” bookings. I remain of the view that there may be scope to improve our offering slightly in respect of community meal/ceilidh type events. Of course, in considering dates and events of that type, care must be taken not to clash with fundraisers arranged by our user groups. Much will depend in the future again, I expect, on the popularity of CMCC as a venue for wedding celebrations etc and our ability to keep making added demands on the Committee and on our volunteers.

Looking ahead to 2012, I hope it will not come as a surprise that we have plans to further enhance the facilities at CMCC. Specifically by way of (but not restricted to) the following:

- Landscaping improvements (currently progressing grant applications);
- Main Door replacement;
- Installation of benches in “garden” area;
- Improvements to loft access;
- Additional storage via loft and cupboard shelving;
- Ongoing maintenance to interior and exterior of the entre

Of course, we as a committee will aim to continue to provide our traditional events such as New Year Ceilidh, Burns Supper, Summer BBQ; Halloween party etc. And maybe even some new ones as the year progresses! User groups will also no doubt contribute their own mix of ceilidhs, plays, soup lunches, fundraisers etc – all these activities in the Centre help cement its place at the heart of the community.

In summing up, I’d like to thank everyone who has helped us to deliver another successful year. Thanks again to all on the committee for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work and for the unstinting support you give to CMCC. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been Chair of CMCC – the role is made easy as a direct result of the wholehearted support given by the Committee and by the wider community.

Donald Macdonald
14th December 2011

5 Financial Report

Mr Donald Macdonald circulated Draft Financial Accounts for the year 2010/11, prepared by the Auditors, and gave a brief rundown of the figures for the benefit of those present. The accounts were approved in their draft form by the Directors of the Board who were present. It was agreed that the Board would be happy to approve the final version subject to no material changes; if any material changes, Financial Report will be presented at a future Board Meeting for further approval.

Mr Donald Macdonald sought the agreement of the Directors to sign approval of financial documents for the Auditor. This was granted.

Mr Donald Macdonald discussed the benefits and revenue generated from the wind turbines and also highlighted new water charges and their likely impact on financial status for the forthcoming year.

6 Retirement of Directors

Mr Iain Murray, Mr Calum Iain Maciver, Mrs Morag Nicolson, Mr John Mackay, Mrs Agnes Rennie and Mr D A Macleay tendered their resignation from the Board of Directors, as longest serving members on the Board and in line with the requirements of the Memorandum & Articles of Association. All of the afore-mentioned Directors were willing to stand for re-election.

7 Election of Directors

Retiring Directors were all re-appointed, all proposed by Mrs Margaret I Macleod and seconded by Mr Norman Smith. Ms Donna Morrison, proposed by Mr Donald Macdonald and seconded by Mrs Marion Maclean, agreed to become a Director

8 Appointment of Chairperson

In the absence of the Vice Chair, Mrs Morag Nicolson (Secretary) presided.

Mr Donald Macdonald, proposed by Mrs Marion Maclean and seconded by Mr Norman Smith, was re-elected as Chairperson.

Mr Donald Macdonald resumed as Chair Person for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr Donald Macdonald proposed that Board members remain in Office for a further term, seconded by Mrs Margaret I Macleod and agreed by all members present.

Mr Donald Macdonald intimated that he intends to retire from the post of Chair Person at the next AGM (2012).

9 Appointment of Auditors

All Directors present agreed to the re-appointment of Mr Calum Macdonald of CIB Audit until the next AGM.

10 Big Lottery Fund

CMCC is required to seek BLF approval before undertaking any significant alterations to the building, transferring ownership, using the building as security against any loans, or changing the legal status of CMCC. It is also important that future CMCC committees inform BLF of changes of the main contact so that future correspondence will be sent to the correct person. BLF have suggested these matters are added as a standing item to the agenda of each CMCC AGM as a reminder for future committee members.

11 Any other competent business

No other business was raised.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.50pm.