January 11th 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: John Parker-Jones, Karyn Hill, Nick Burgess, Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson and Eric Milton

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Previous minutes from November 30th proposed by Jill and	
	seconded by Karyn	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from November 30th	10
	Gift aid tax relief. Still in process.	JG
	Golf Course Road drainage update: works have been done to	
	remove blockage in drain under road. This seems to have worked	
	 Murray Boal work list should therefore now include advice on the bottom of Field 	NB/JW
3.	Finance and Grants	,
٥.	Balance is currently c.£9K plus credit we have with Cladach	JW
	for bird hide build and related works.	311
	 We have ordered an 'Apache' mower against a recently won grant but have not yet received it. Rob to investigate 	RC
	Nick is working on a 'Vegware' grant to cover off ongoing costs	
	(consumables, seeds, tools etc) associated with the community	
	garden; deadline is end Jan. Karyn to advise on any required	
	items not already included.	NB/KW
4.	Land Management Tasks and Volunteer Organisation	
	We require to draw up a list of 'land management tasks' to	
	include bird hide construction, manual hedge cut back (eg	
	middle track), relocation of some saplings in area below	
	fenced field above middle track and water supply for	
	animals in fenced fields	
	These can be covered off during our monthly land volunteer	
	days which Nick has asked Martin to coordinate (perhaps	
	with John's support)	NB
5.	Community Garden and Allotments	טאו
٦.	-	
	Once Jill has access to online banking facility we will need to cross check with our allotment database.	JW/RC
-	cross check with our allotment database.	, -
6.	Communication to Wider Community	RC
	Check progress on signage with Gavin M	NC .
	Agreed need and benefit of communicating with wider	
	community by use of Website/FB/Insta and Rob has	RC
	volunteered to take lead on this.	-

7.	AOCB		
	•	In light of the significant damage done by deer to our community garden, allotments and fruit trees, we agreed to start planning the installation of a deer fence around the main 'hub' field. First step is draw a map with proposed perimeter and dimensions.	RC

Next meeting Wednesday February 8th 2023

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

February 8th 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: John Parker-Jones, Karyn Wilson, Nick Burgess, Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson and Eric Milton

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Previous minutes from January 11 th proposed by Karyn and	
	seconded by John	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from January 11th	
	 Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. Paperwork has been 	
	transferred to our new treasurer Jill.	JW
	 Dimensions of hub field for construction of a deer proof fence-c. 	
	500metres; acreage 1.35ha	
	Murray Boal work list (to include evaluation at bottom of field 1/Colf Course Boly weights are recognized from Murray)	NB/JW
	1/Golf Course Rd); waiting on response from Murray	110/311
	 Apache mower has now arrived and waiting on dry vegetation to test it. 	RC
3.	Finance and Grants	
	Balance is currently £10,857. This includes recent monies	
	received: Calmac £1369; Arran Trust £1865; Rural Payment	
	£800	RC
	 We need to establish outstanding credit with Cladach for 	
	completed bird hide build and sign.	
	Rural Payments-see below	
	 Nick has submitted a 'Vegware' grant to cover off ongoing costs 	
	(consumables, seeds, tools etc) associated with the community	
	garden; deadline is end Jan. Karyn to advise on any required	
	items not already included.	NB/KW

		standing invoices passed to Nick for payment (Apache and new tractor battery)	
	•	surance direct debit schedule	RC
4.	Rural Payment	s	
	designa burn an tract im 'Species to be fe 'Sarah's	s received paperwork/maps which delineate areas ted for a) 'Scrub Management' (area between top of western edge of ACLI land plus large overgrown amediately north of Glenashdale Track) and b) is Rich Management' which will comprise the two still enced fields immediately in front of and behind is Bench'. However we do need to check the cion and hence acreage of these fields.	RC
5.	Volunteer Acti	vities	
	land ma • Jobs sho track), r	e designated the second Saturday of each month as anagement task day ould include manual hedge cut back (eg middle relocation of some saplings in area below fenced ove middle track and water supply for animals in fields	
		require to check the state of the boardwalks	RC
6.	Community Ga	•	NC .
	 Karyn h 	as requested that a few new wheel barrows should ed to our required inventory	
7.	Allotments		
		two holders have made their intentions known and lid fees; Rob to check on two outstanding	RC
8.	AOCB		
	this sho walking	hat we are about to erect a new sign board (agreed ould be in Car Park) which will include maps with routes we should double check our legal sibilities and insurance	RC
	 A quest grazing 	ion has been raised about water provision to the fields. Check with Gavin re original layout and also al approach to the hub field	RC

Next meeting Wednesday March 8th 2023

March 8th 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Karyn Wilson, Nick Burgess, Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson and Eric Milton

Apologies: John Parker-Jones

Previous Minutes	
1. Previous minutes from `February 8 th proposed by	Nick and
seconded by Jill	
2. Outstanding actions/Matters arising from Februa	ry 8th
 Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. 	JW
 Murray Boal work should be available in April; 	work list to
include: drainage at bottom of Field 1, improve	• • •
section of middle track approaching field 11, re	100
eroded/steep sections of new track (eg approa	ching and above
quarry), drainage pipe installations	and tested RC
 New Apache mower has now been assembled Finance and Grants 	and tested.
	c 62 000 from
 Balance is currently £13,421. This includes SAC 	C.E3,900 HOIII
 Bird hide balance paid; waiting on installati 	ion of car park
signage	RC RC
Rural Payments-see below	
Check insurance direct debit schedule with new	w NEI Jannointee
	RC RC
4. Land Planning	
Rob presented (see attached) a Google Ear The first president disconnicional action (see attached).	-
with key features including original path (fr	
Glenashdale) and New Track (from car park	· ·
as well as designated 'Scrub Management' 12,13 & 15), proposed 'Species Rich Manag	•
(fields 8 & 10) as well as currently grazed h	
1 & 2) and fields recently grazed by sheep a	•
17).	and cattle (11 &
 We discussed questions relating to the pro 	nosal to fence
fields under 'Species Rich Management' de	- ·
In particular field 8 which would str	_
path from the hub; of concern in pr	
option would be the need to reloca	
doing the proximity of dogs and gra	• •
relatively small size of the field, 1/3	-
currently covered in bracken.	
 A potential alternative is the significant 	cantly larger field
in the NW corner of our site (field 9	
3 times larger than 8, has good gras	•
	os cover and sits

	 Field 10 is currently unfenced and the new track 	
	passes immediately beside it on two sides.	
	 Field 17 and field 11 are both currently fenced and 	
	have been recently grazed by sheep and cattle.	
	 The measurements for all of the above are as 	
	follows:	
	■ Field 8 - perimeter 285m, area 0.49ha	
	■ Field 9 - perimeter 528m, area 1.73ha	
	■ Field 10 - perimeter 318m, area 0.62ha	
	■ Field 11 fence 398m, area 0.98ha	
	■ Field 17 fence 326m, area 0.63ha	
	 Horse grazing was also discussed: although fields 11 	
	and 17 were originally fenced to accommodate	
	horse grazing in practice horse owners have been	
	reluctant to use these in part due to access but also	
	because of a large incidence of ticks and horse	
	flies/clegs.	
	 Jill would be pleased to use field 9 if fenced, to 	
	provide relief to the field she is currently using.	
	However the need to avoid grazing between April	
	and October as stipulated by rural payments is not	
	ideal.	
	Nick will talk with Alex Pirie to establish if an	NB
	alternative combination of fields other than 8 and	
	10 could be considered as the basis for our contract	
	with Rural Payments	
	We also need to understand what our precise	
	obligations are with Rural Payments as well as our	
	means to fulfil them.	
5.	Community Garden	
	Most supplies have now been delivered (although we would at ill like to identify some cost offertive wheel begreens)	
	still like to identify some cost effective wheel barrows).	
6	Waiting on Spring! Allotments	
6.		
	 Still waiting on payment/intentions re allotment 5 and 6b 	
7.	Volunteer Activities	
	 Volunteer session planned for coming Saturday (11th) with 	
	focus on clearing track/path above M Hunters house.	
8.	AOCB	
	 George Watson School visit. We agreed to take up Darren 	RC
	T's offer to run this. Rob to advise both parties.	

Next meetings Wednesday March 29^{th} and April 19^{th} 2023

29th March 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Karyn Wilson, Nick Burgess, Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson, John Parker-Jones and Eric Milton.

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Previous minutes from March 8 th proposed by Jill and seconded by	
	Karyn	
2.	 Outstanding actions/Matters arising from February 8th Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. Expect Murray Boal will come on site in April; work list to include: drainage at bottom of Field 1 (Can Laura who rents horse field 1 attend), improvement of upper section of middle track approaching field 11, reworking of eroded/steep sections of new 	NB/JW
	track (eg approaching and above quarry), drainage pipe installations	
3.	Finance and Grants	
	 Balance is currently £14,066. (This includes c.£3,900 from SAC) Still awaiting erection of new notice board from Gavin/Cladach; invoice will follow. 	RC
4.	Land Planning	
	 Nick gave some background to proposal to sign up for an AECS contract for 'Species Rich Management' and the suggestion that we fence and graze fields 8 (on hill between hub and bench) and 10 (field behind bench). Nick spoke about the increasing interest in biodiversity and the need to take steps that include this in our land management. He referenced the farming element within the 'Feasibility Study' submitted by ACLI in application for the capital purchase grant in 2014. We revisited the original 5-year plan (attached) which was based on the 2014 Feasibility Study as well as a well-attended community 'strategy day' after the capital award. Farm related activity, including growing crops and grazing rentals (cattle and horses) was included in the Income Generating strand of the plan. Two additional fields above Mandy Hunter (fields 11&17) were therefore fenced and attempts to grow crops were undertaken. Unfortunately, these fields have been seldom used, there having been little demand; potential revenues for the grazing for cattle and sheep are very modest (c. £100/hectare/year); while horse rentals provide a much higher return, demand is limited to only the most accessible fields (1 and 2). Efforts to grow 	

- crops (pumpkins and potatoes were) not successful. As have attempts at honey production.
- We have engaged with Bert Ramage (ex-stockman and now professional fencer) to advise and quote on fencing. This is priced at c.£10-12/m; gates and preparatory ground/shrub clearing would be extra. Fields 8 and 10 have perimeters of 285m and 318 respectively. Bert advised that while water could be supplied to field 8 he could not see a viable sustainable water supply for 10 which in his view would rule it out for cattle or horses.
- The group reviewed the 'Kiscadale AECS 2023' contract in detail and noted the following:
 - The contract is for a 5/6 years (5 years of payment and 6 years of admin) and would pay approximately £300/year; the contract can be fulfilled by cutting, grazing or some combination of both.
 - In return we must agree to keep an up-to-date diary of all activity, we would be subject to "inspecting Officer Verification", "penalties for non/part completion of diaries will be published on the AECS website" and "If grazing, you must adhere to approved grazing regime defining the livestock units and dates", fields must be left un-grazed between April 1st and August 1st.
 - We are minded of the advice given by Alex Pirie of SAC when he first spoke to us about environment grants: "These were significant 5-year awards with two-way commitments, and we should therefore only take on what we can realistically deliver and manage."
- In discussing the contact there were concerns expressed about its nature being geared primarily for farms, farmers or other professionally staffed land management groups who have direct access to and experience of the animals, equipment and staff to easily fulfil the contract. In contrast ACLI is a community group with no farming experience and without animals of our own and therefore wholly dependent on a shallow supply of animals and the goodwill of their owners to follow the contract stipulations. Any day-to-day issues and emergencies (ill/distressed or escaped animals) could be problematic. The income, even with the contribution from SAC, would not cover the costs incurred and the fenced fields, as per our experience with fields 11 and 17, are likely to provide minimal income. The administration is required until 2029 which as a volunteerbased organisation is very difficult to commit to; noncompliance and its open advertisement could significantly

NB

5.	prejudice any other grant applications we would like to make. In voting two were in support of proceeding with three against citing an unacceptable balance of risk vs reward. Eric (as per our constitution and code of conduct) excused himself from voting given a conflict of interest as a sheep flock owner who rents grazing. • We agreed to proceed with the grants relating to 'managing scrubland' which supplement the 'basic payment'. • We do not have a contract in place with SAC and Nick will advise Alex Pirie of our instruction to return the monies intended for fencing related to this project. • The group thanked Nick for the work done on this. • Rob and Karyn asked about the possibility of putting a programme in place which would be educational and allow us to test differing approaches to broadening flora; Rob will seek advice from his ex SNH contact and Karyn will discuss with U3A and make contact with UHI.	KW/RC
J.	 Spring nearly here. We agreed that the small polytunnel beside the barn can be used for activities other than gardening as an aid to inclement weather. 	
6.	Allotments	
	 John will talk with and advise allotment holders re position in allotment polytunnel; broadly remain as same for this year but seek thoughts on next. 	JPJ
7.	Volunteer Activities	
	 Volunteer session planned for coming Saturday April 8th with focus on clearing paths across the site (as included in recently updated Whiting Bay Improvement map of local walks). 	
8.	AOCB	
	 George Watson School visit. Darren T has not yet responded to school-RC to chase. Spare trees can be donated to Kildonan/Silver Sands site We will attend and have a table at the 'Free for All' Arran event on April 22nd 11-2. RC to confirm/fill out form Nikki Summer has encouraged us to put ACLI information in Library 	RC RC
	 Can we plan to include a bench in the bird-hide? 	

Wednesday April 5th 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Karyn Wilson, Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson, John Parker-Jones and Eric Milton. Nick Burgess has tendered his resignation with immediate effect.

1.	AECS Contract	
	We discussed 'lessons learned' from recent consideration of this	
	contract:	
	 While trustees had some/variable knowledge of some 	
	components of the project no-one had sight of the project	
	in total	
	 There was an unanimous feeling that discussion of this 	
	contract was left too late and therefore we must be more	
	aware of the decision-making process-does this need to be	
	looked at?	
	 In future therefore we agreed that we must discuss projects 	
	at an earlier stage and revisit them as they progress.	
	In circumstances such as this where a potential project	
	spans an AGM and the arrival of new trustees, they should	
	be fully briefed on all projects asap	
2.	Roles and Responsibilities	
	Rob will be acting chair until the next AGM	
	And Karyn as Secretary	
	 We briefly discussed future recruitment and having an 'expert' 	
	who would lead particular initiatives vs 'lay people' such as the	
	current group, representative of the wider community and	
	working on a 'everyone must understand and contribute' basis.	
3.	Assignment/re-assignment of outstanding tasks	D.C.
	Contact Alex Pirie and Rural Payments Team	RC JW
	£3921.50 to be returned to SAC	JVV
	Check with Stuart L re outstanding lease and consultancy agreements	RC
	agreements	
	 Bert Ramage and ask him to invoice us for 2 hours of his time 	RC
	OSCR notification	RC
	Banking-Jill to organise John as 2 nd signatory	JW
		RC
	Murray Boal and April visit Saturday valuetees day John to contact Martin	JP-J
	Saturday volunteer day-John to contact Martin	
4.	Education and Biodiversity	
	One simple piece of advice offered before expending time	
	and effort in large floral biodiversity projects is to obtain	
	some native Scottish wild seed	
	(eg https://www.scotiaseeds.co.uk/seed-mixtures/) and try	
L		

them out. Native seed mixes on the scale that we require are expensive with recommended sowings costing between £2500 and £3000/hectare. Given the amount of land we have (fields 8, 9, 10, 14 and 16) even with lower	
concentrations of seed the potential cost is significant!	
 Given the time of year we agreed to buy 1kg each of 'Wet Meadow Mix' and 'MG5 Meadow mix' (priced at c.£96/kg) 	
and try a test patch of both in each of the above fields. Rob will order.	RC
 And in order to test an approach which we could scale up the recommendation is to top/cut the vegetation as close 	
to ground as is possible then scarify before sowing.	RC
We also agreed that it would be very helpful to know what	
the fertility of our fields is and specifically P and N. Rob to investigate.	RC

Next meeting Wednesday April 26th 2023; Location to be decided (weather)

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

April 26 2023, at 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, John Parker-Jones, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Previous minutes from March 29 proposed by JPJ and seconded by	
	JW	
	Previous minutes from April 5 proposed by JW and seconded by RC	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from April 5	
	 RC will take responsibility for Rural Payments and will undertake to understand the complexities of the scheme and communicate them to the other trustees. 	RC
	 RC has contacted Stuart L re lease and consultancy agreements. As no formal contract exists between ACLI and Stuart L no formal payment to the latter is necessary. 	
	 The need for a formal arrangement and negotiated fee for the use of Field 17 and when vacated by JW by Eric Milton was agreed in order for EM to use Field 17 to graze his sheep over the next few months. RC to draw up contract. 	RC
	 Bert Ramage has invoiced ACLI re consultancy work and has been paid. 	JW
	 NB has been removed from OSCR database. Secretary (KWH) and Treasurer (JW) to be added. 	RC
	 JPJ has not yet been added as a bank account signatory. 	JW

		1
	 Murray Boal has not yet given a specific date to come on site but is expected week of May 8th. JW to talk to Johnnie Kelso re visit from M. Boal regarding works on drainage at bottom of field 1 2 different native seed mixes (one wet meadow and one dry meadow) have been purchased to test their viability across a number of fields. Different sowing regimes are being trialled: sowing into horse divots, into shallow spade made divots and also as pre-sown plugs for deployment when ready. 5 	JW RC
3.	Finance and Grants	
	Balance is currently £8861,69. (£3,921.50 have been	
	returned to SAC)	
	 Money is available from Community Benefit Fund. RC to 	RC
	check eligibility for application from ACLI	NC
4.	Immediate and longer- term planning for land use	
	 As an aid to develop a holistic plan for our land, the trustees viewed two maps of our holding, one based on a 2004 aerial photograph and the other a much more recent 2020 photograph. Of note is the conspicuous range of vegetation coverage across the site which can be related to the timing of active farming vs field abandonment. Notably fields 11, 17 &16 were still being cropped for silage in 2004. However, at this time fields 12, 13 &15 already look overgrown and by 2020 had become heavily inundated with a range of trees, bushes, bracken and briar. These have been designated as 'Managed Scrubland' under the Rural Payment Scheme and their 'agricultural value' is probably limited; solar panel deployment is a possibility for 12 & 13 as they are south facing and hidden. Fields 1 and 2 are currently being used for revenue generating horse grazing. Fields 11 and 17 were fenced in 2015 with the hope that they could also be leased for horse grazing. However, given difficulty of access and heavy inundation with ticks they have seldom been used. We agreed that having these grazed would be preferable to mechanical topping (see below) Under the Rural Payments Scheme Fields 8, 9, 10, 16 & 14 had been designated as 'Species Rich Management'. We noted that fields 8, 9 & 10 are predominantly grassy in contrast to 16 & 14 which are heavily Rush infested. Meadow seeds will be tested on each field and we will investigate fertility testing as steps towards deciding a future management plan. In the meantime, we will top field 16 with a view to further rush treatment later in the year. 	All

	 The numbering scheme needs to be clarified and we talked about the possibility of naming fields and investigating if any old Gaelic names could be found. 	
5.	Community Garden	
	 The small polytunnel beside the barn will be used by a group of willow weavers and the Outdoor Sketchers in the u3a 	
	 The first tomatoes have been planted, lettuces to follow. There is a need for more volunteers and greater visibility. 	кwн
	RC to improve Thursday Garden Party poster	RC
	 KWH to liaise with Mandy and Jo to draw up list of tasks 	
	for future volunteer mornings	кwн
6.	Allotments	
	 A couple of payments still outstanding 	
	Nos 5 & 6B are not in use	
7.	Volunteer Activities	
	 Volunteer session planned for Saturday April 8th did not 	
	attract any volunteers	
	 April 22: ACLI stand at Arran Free for All (organised by 	
	ACVS) attracted a fair amount of interest but clearly our	RC
	aims-education and recreation- are unknown to many in	ne -
	the wider community. There is a need for a bigger presence	
	on Facebook.	
8	Furthering Educational Aims	
	George Watson School group to visit on May 18. Their	
	teachers will draw up lesson plans to include learning about	RC
	carbon capture, biodiversity vs monoculture. Activities to	
	include bracken bashing and planting of wildflower plugs.	DC/MANA/IDI
	Mandy and Martin to be contacted for participation	RC/KWH/JPJ
	It was agreed both the High School and WB Primary should	
	be contacted in a bid to restart the involvement of young	
	people. ACLI should be offered as a big classroom. Lucy	DC/N/N
9.	Urquhart-Dixon a potential contact.	RC/KWH
] 3 .	AOCB The question of an additional 6 th trustee was discussed IRI	
	 The question of an additional 6th trustee was discussed, JPJ mentioned a recently arrived retiree with previous trustee 	
	experience. We noted that in previous times we had both	
	younger trustees with school teaching backgrounds thereby	
	providing an appropriate community age balance as well as	
	skills relating to our educational purpose. It was agreed the	
	appointment of a further trustee was not essential at the	
	present time pending further discussion and investigation	
	present time penaling farther diseassion and investigation	1

Next meeting Wednesday May 31 2023 in The Hub at 5 pm

May 31 2023, at 5:30 pm Community Garden Hub

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, John Parker-Jones (from 6 pm), Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Adoption of previous minutes from April 26 proposed by RC and seconded by EM	
2.	Actions/Matters arising from April 26 RC has compiled the Rural Payments/Farm Advisory Service paperwork made available and has found gaps in reports that need to be filled, hopefully by finding the digital trail on the portal. Once clarified, information relating to exactly what we are signed up to and related terms will be shared with all trustees. RC flagged up the need for a common digital repository for all trustees to access to avoid such problems in the future. It was agreed a centralised digital store will be sought. RC to	RC
	 investigate what is available. The fee for the lease of c1.7ha for non-equine grazing in fields 11 & 17 will be £10/month (this is equivalent to rate charged by Charles Fforde/Arran Estates) Secretary (KWH) and Treasurer (JW) have been added to the OSCR database JPJ is still to be added as a bank account signatory. Murray Boal has still not given a specific date to come on site. 	JW RC
3.	Finance and Grants	
	 Balance is currently £8 RC has looked at the conditions associated with the 	JW
	 Community Benefit Fund-ACLI would be eligible. JW indicated some discrepancy between tenants paying on a monthly vs weekly basis and she will therefore 	RC
	indicate an amendment required to other leases.	JW
4.	 ■ RC hosted a professional botanist and flowering plant specialist with more than 30 years of experience with SNH (now Nature Scot). He spent two days walking the land with summary observations: Any former agricultural land left unmanaged on land such as ours will revert to woodland-cf fields 12 and 13. 	

- The fields adjacent to the main track (8, 9, 10, 14 & 16) will therefore need to be actively managed if their current character is to be maintained.
- A striking feature about these fields is a) their contrasting character as well as b) the significant variations in plant life within each field. In short, the land as is demonstrates significant biodiversity, developed by itself since being abandoned circa 20 years ago.

Αll

- A useful approach, widely adopted by other land-owning charities, is to develop a 'Land Management Plan'. This would allow alignment of a charities purpose (as per constitution) with a land management regime that would in ACLI's case support/nurture biodiversity.
- Good things to consider and include:
 - Adopt a plan structure that will allow consultation and specialist input from others as it evolves;
 - Include the history of the land from both existing memory (long term residents) as well as historical information such as 19th and early 20th century maps and aerial photograph (eg photographs taken in 1946 by the War Office);
 - Think about how to manage individual land parcels/fields with minimum intervention.
 - Bracken and briar need to be controlled at margins as well as gorse within fields.
 - Where there is a mix of grass and soft rush then cut the later in a way to maintain and expand grassy areas.
 - All of this can be done mechanically with existing equipment. Be pragmatic.
 - Heavily rush infested areas could be considered for tree planting.
 - Develop a plan for future tree planting in target locations for the whole site.
- Given ACLI's joint need to deliver recreation and education, consider facilitating access with mown paths with a commentary on either story boards and/or available on our website/handouts.
- Observe and monitor what plants do best where; identification can be done by anyone carrying a smart phone with appropriate plant recognising apps (= 'citizen science')

RC

 RC to research potential templates for such a land management plan from other organisations.

5.	Community Garden	
	In order to attract more volunteers improved Thursday Cooler Basic and Lond Transporters becaute in the cooler to the cool	
	Garden Party and Land Team posters have been designed	
	by Fay Godwin, as part of her DoE Award involvement	RC/JW
	with ACLI. RC will print some out to be sent to ACVS/	,
	Brodick Library/ Cladach Garden Centre.	
	It was agreed the spare water butt will be resighted close	
	to the Demo and Sunflower Gardens to facilitate	KWH
	watering.	10.101
	The Demo Garden needs to be netted. This is planned for Wall to contact Kethy Sovento according.	KWH
	June 8. KWH to contact Kathy Sayer to ascertain	
	whereabouts of netting.	
6.	Allotments	
	Nothing to report	
7.	Education	
	The visit by a George Watson School group on May 18 was a huge	
	success. Their teachers drew up an excellent lesson plan to	
	include learning about carbon capture, biodiversity vs	
	monoculture. Activities included bracken bashing around young	
	trees and planting of wildflower plugs. (The activities were led by	
	RC, JPB, Martin Constanides and Maggie Carson.)	
	The lesson plan can be adapted and used again for other visiting	
- /-	groups.	
8/9.	Trustee Recruitment	
	RC had previously circulated OSCR guidelines for the recruitment	
	of trustees which highlight the importance of identifying current	
	skill sets and potential gaps when recruiting. Educational	
	experience is of prime importance to enable ACLI to carry out its	
	educational aims. However, while we have trustees with	
	experience in adult education (including linkage with U3A), in	
	contrast with previous years, we have no teachers or trustees	
	with children under 16.	
	JPJ has suggested an individual who moved to Arran last year and	
	has experience in running an Edinburgh based charity. We	
	discussed the possibility of individual joining the committee for a	
	trial period of 3 months and RC was tasked to discuss this with	
	her.	
	Immediately after our meeting and in light of some new	
	information and subsequent consultation we came to the	
	consensus to take some additional time and consider further at	
	our next meeting before appointing anyone.	

10.	AOCB	
	Paths maintenance was raised by JPJ. This item will be discussed	
	at the next trustee meeting.	

Next meeting Wednesday June 28 2023 in The Hub at 5.30 pm

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

June 28th 2023, at 5:30 pm Community Garden Hub

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, John Parker-Jones, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Adoption of previous minutes from May 31 proposed by JW and	
	seconded by EM	
2.	Actions/Matters arising from April 26	
	 Re Rural Payments/Farm Advisory Service paperwork RC has now been in contact with Alex Pirie. An immediate priority is to be clear on which parts of the land have been designated as 'Grade 1' (forming the basis of our 'basic payment' from Rural Payments) and to be clear on the terms we must meet to qualify for same. We also need clarification on the two additional fields which form the basis of our environmental improvement' grant and related terms (we have not yet received any monies under this scheme) The Rural Payments Office has been in touch to undertake an inspection which they expect in the next month or so. They have also advised that their records do not yet reflect a change in 'responsible person' but have now provided the forms directly to RC to do so. When this is in place, we expect access to our designated online profile via their portal. RC has investigated available common digital repository store and suggested Microsoft Cloud Storage for a small monthly sum. JPJ is still to be added as a bank account signatory. Murray Boal has been on site but JW/RC not entirely happy with work done on drainage. RC to discuss with Murray 	RC RC
3.	Finance and Grants	JW
	Balance is currently £8919,42	7 4 4
4.	Trustee Recruitment	
	 After consultation of the OSCR terms of reference, and taking 	
	advice from other island volunteer groups, we discussed	

	where we might have a 'gap' within our current group in terms of both our 'Arran Community' title and constituted purposes of outdoor education and recreation. Although there is no pressing timeframe, the majority of Trustees agreed the merits of recruiting a sixth member with direct linkage with those of school age on Arran and ideally experience in the education of young people. Several names were suggested, and it was agreed those mentioned should be approached informally.	JW/RC
5.	Immediate and longer- term planning for land use	
J.	 Land Management Plan: RC presented a summary of a LMP adapted from the www.welshlife.org plan. It contains 8 points: legislation and policy; description of the land with environmental information including geographical, biological data and public access data; SSSI features; management options including managing scrub and nonnative species invasion; objectives; rational/vision; action plan. While looking at objectives related to 'biodiversity' regular surveys (of indices such as flora and fauna) are required. We noted that it is nearly a decade since any such effort and there is scope with recognition tools on modern mobile 'phones' that some 'citizen science' might be appropriate. Specialist ecological advice would however need to be sought to provide guidance and talk through the land management options available to us. In relation to Rural Payment stipulations about field topping etc RC to contact Gavin Mutch for advice on who to contract to carry out and cost some of the mechanical management work the LMP would entail. National Islands Plan: of the 13 objectives in the NIP, 4 are of particular relevance to ACLI: health and social well-being; environmental well-being; climate change and biodiversity and education. RC attended a recent meeting of potential participants in the Community Strand of the NIP. 	RC
6.	Community Garden	
0.	 The spare water butt has been resighted in the Sunflower Garden to facilitate watering. The Demo Garden has been netted. Some produce has been put out in the ACLI shop and EcoSavvy A hosepipe has been purchased to facilitate watering in small polytunnel and Demo Garden Additional netting has been purchased for small raspberry plot. 	

	7.	Allotments	
		 Ahead of the trustee meeting, JPJ had provided a chart showing uptake of the use of the polytunnel allocated to allotment holders. He reported a lack of uptake of this facility. It was decided the spaces would need to be reallocated next year. 	JPJ
		 There is no current waiting list for allotments, of which 5 are 	
		free. We discussed a variety of ways to advertise available	
		allotments including The Banner, online and on the noticeboard. If there is no uptake they will be covered over.	
ŀ	8	Education	inc .
	Ü	It was agreed that activities for children have to be	
		renewed but transport remains an issue.	
		Tenewed but transport remains an issue.	
	9	AOCB	
		 JPJ advised that the new Whiting Bay and environs walking map, which includes the new forest tracks, has been 	
		published and will be posted on the ACLI noticeboard together with spare copies for the hub.	JPJ
		RC to post a Tick Warning on noticeboard	RC
- 1			

Date of next meeting given variety of trustee holiday plans TBD by WhatsApp messaging in due course.

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

August 30 2023, 5:00 pm Community Garden Hub

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill. (John Parker-Jones resigned as a trustee after the June Trustees Meeting).

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Adoption of previous minutes from June 28 proposed by RC and	
	seconded by JW.	
2.	Actions/Matters arising from June 28	
	 EM to be added as a bank account signatory. 	JW
	 RC to contact Murray Boal re outstanding work/payment. 	RC
3.	Finance and Grants	
	 Balance is currently £8,448, 64 	JW
	 It was agreed to mount projects in advance of applying for 	
	potential funding and not the other way round i.e. define	
	the resource requirement from a well thought through	

		plan before looking for funding rather than reactively	
		constructing a project in response to a grant	
		announcement.	
4.	Truste		
	•	It was agreed to approach potential candidates who are	
		engaged with younger members of the community.	
		Several names were suggested.	
	•	JW agreed to think about other options and to ask Lisa	JW
		(Arran Active) for potential candidates	
5.	Immed	diate and longer- term planning for land use	
	•	RC to start populating Land Management Plan over the	RC
		winter. This would then be put out for consultation to the	
		wider community.	
	•	Jim Cassels and Terry Southall paid a visit to ACLI 's new	
		bird hide on 29/8/23. Very positive feedback and	
		recommendations for use going forward:	
		- Need for a wader scrape further away from hide at	
		bottom of field to provide valuable freshwater habitat.	
		- This would improve attraction of waders as very few	
		freshwater wading habitats exist on Arran.	
		 RSPB to be contacted for bird related advice. 	1) A / /D C
		 Andy Walker, forester, to be contacted re tree planting planning. 	JW/RC
	•	It was suggested Kate Sampson, NT Ranger, should be	
		contacted re potential inclusion of Ranger-led events in LM	
		Plan	
	•	Other contacts to be made in order to reach out to wider	
		community and to tap into appropriate range of expertise:	
		Charlie McAllister and also Sara Cowan, botanist, to assist	
		with commentary on story boards and identification of plants.	
	•	Rob attended a seminar run by the <u>Farm Advisory Service</u>	
		last week attended by c. 12 farmers on grassland	
		management with a particular focus on cattle grazing.	
		Topics covered included soil structure, chemistry, fertility	
		and the appropriate (extensive and repeated) use of lime	
		to support seeded/re-seeded ground growing what is	
		essentially a crop. Held at The Howe farm on large high	
		quality grassland fields the contrast with the land owned	
		by ACLI could not have been starker (small poorly drained	
		fields with little potential for the type of grazing being done	
		at The Howe Farm).	
	•	Karyn and Rob have attended the Social Care and	
		Environmental meetings relating to the National Islands	
		<u>Plan.</u>	

6.	Community Garden	
	 £92 collected in Honesty Box in return for produce New garden waste bucket and dustpan and brush were requested by Jo Morgan and have been purchased Need for cleaning products for WCRC to provide Neal Tait will deliver shredded garden cuttings for mulching 	RC/JW
	 Doug Coulter from Museum has donated netting 	KWH KWH
6.	Allotments	
	 It was agreed to offer allotment 5a to Sue Archer and 5b to Katie Godolphin 	
	Deirdre Murray has expressed interest in an allotment	
7.	Communications	
	 Need for signage on the land cf. directing visitors to bird 	RC/JW
	hide/ community garden raised by JW	KWH/RC
	KWH to write article for The Banner	in i
8.	AOCB	
	All fields now accessible with mown paths through all -	
	positive feedback received. Updated map to be posted on FB	RC
	 RC to purchase high resolution 1946 map - cost agreed by Trustees 	RC
	It was agreed to reconsider the request from Heather	
	MacLeod and Lynne Jones re construction of a yurt on ACLI	
	land. KWH to talk with them re project	KWH
	Meeting adjourned at 18.38	
	Next meeting Wednesday September 27th 2023 in The Hub at 5.00 pm	

September 27 2023, 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill.

	Previous Minutes	
1.	Adoption of previous minutes from August 30 proposed by KWH;	
	seconded by EM.	

		1
2.	 Actions/Matters arising from August 30 EM has been given requisite forms in order to be added as a bank account signatory. 	1W
	 RC has contacted Murray Boal; outstanding monies owed (£500) have been paid. Andy Walker has been contacted by RC 	RC/JW
3.	Finance and Grants	
	Balance is currently £8,095.01	JW
4.	Trustee Recruitment	
	- Katie Godolphin to be invited to October Trustees Meeting	
5.	Immediate and longer- term planning	
	a) Farm Advisory/Rural Payments for land use	
	 Conclusions of Visit from representative of Rural Payments, no significant 'on the day' issues, however - 	
	Acreage of managed grassland incorrect as original	
	application constructed by SAC was based on old field	
	boundaries which have been superceded by significant	
	briar/bracken growth at field margins; cutting this back	
	would be deemed irrelevant as the grant payment is only	
	made based on <i>existing</i> grassland. Payments for this	
	element will be reduced accordingly.	
	No change to the 'managing non-montane shrub' acreage	
	therefore payment should be unaffected.	
	 Grassland and Non-Montane Shrub Management Diaries 	
	were requested for the environmental payments; these have been submitted by RC	
	Receipts providing evidence of 'farm related activity' was To provide the Passia Form Payment, receipts of	
	requested in support of the Basic Farm Payment; receipts of fencing works, field topping and red diesel have been	
	submitted by RC	
	Business Registration Form submission to make clear the	
	acreage is owned in its entirety ACLI with names of trustees	RC
	included is underway; satisfactory conclusion expected	nC
	imminently.	
	b) On-Site Signage	
	A thorough discussion took place re the need to convey	
	locations and paths to all visitors. It was agreed that 3	
	different types of signage are needed: directional; informational; way-markers	
	Metal signs could be placed at the Golf Corse Road and	
	Glenashdale entrances to the Community Land (Directional)	
	a shadhada shadada sa aha sahini aha (shadana)	

	 Wooden Signage could be used on the Community Land to 	
	 indicate the Community Garden, Allotments, Bird Hide (Informational) Small round signs on posts could mark paths (way-markers) Further researching required to identify vendors and prices. 	RC
6.	Community Garden	
	- Donations continue to be left in Honesty Box	
	 Recruitment of more volunteers will be necessary going 	
	forward.	
	- EM has agreed to check the fruit trees in the large	
	polytunnel for pruning.	
7.	Allotments	
	 Allotment owners to be contacted re intentions going 	
	forward in order to determine how many vacant plots will	
	be on offer in 2024.	
	- Sue Archer and Katie Godolphin have been offered adjacent	
	half allotments from September 2023	
8.	Bees/ACLI Apiary	
	 A new beehive has appeared in the ACLI Apiary, placed 	
	there by Mark Gardner/Bailey after 'advice' provided by Jim	
	Park, by rehousing bees from an old hive owned by John	
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Date of next meeting: Tuesday November 14th at 5 pm at Benview

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November 14th 2023, 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill.

	Previous Minutes	
1.	 Adoption of previous minutes from September 27 proposed by RC; seconded by JW. 	
2.	Actions/Matters arising from Sept 27	
	 Fruit trees in polytunnel (Prunus variety) have been checked by EM: these will need to be pruned <i>after</i> flowering. OSCR contacted by RC re set AGM by in February (as per constitution). Agreement obtained. 	EM
3.	Finance and Grants	
	 Balance is currently £8,772.32 	JW
	 No environmental grant yet received; Basic Farm payment from Rural Payments expected imminently. RC to check Only potential project identified with need for grant support would be for deer fencing around main hub field. More 	
	discussion required.	All
4.	 Trustee Recruitment Two potential Trustee recruits have been identified. RC to contact them At least one of new trustees could be asked to provide 	RC
	guidance for a children's gardening group	
5.	Immediate and longer- term planning	
	a) Rural Payments for land use	
	 RC now in possession of complete file of relevant documents and correspondence which will provide the basis for the Land Management Plan 	
	b) Signage	
	 RC has samples from Graham Chappell. Obtain Quote for specific designs. The cork backing on the sign in the car park 	RC
	needs replacing. JW to ask County Carpets to carry out necessary repairs	JW
	c) Ash Tree Management	
	 Several trees on ACLI's land need attention due to storm damage. Ryan Armstrong to be asked to cut back certain trees as a preventive measure including several near Sandy McGovern's property 	1M
	d) Tracks and Access	
	 No unauthorised vehicle access is to be allowed over main track between car-park and Glen Ashdale but it was agreed to allow restricted access necessary for the upkeep of tracks eg by 	

	 J. Kelso and M Boal Neighbours have commented on the poor condition of 'middle' access track from Golf Course Rd to Southern entrance to Community Land. JW to talk to neighbours and to ask Jim Park to fill in puddles/potholes 	JW/RC
6.	 Community Garden Donations continue to be left in Honesty Box. Another £87 collected since last committee meeting It was agreed to organise an end of season meeting for allotment holders and community garden volunteers to discuss projects and need for further assistance going forward. Date suggested is December 16. 	
7.	 Allotments A number of allotment owners annual lease payment outstanding; RC to investigate Rob and Nanette will move from allotment 4 to 1 It was also agreed to offer the patch next to that of JPJ as a flax test bed 	RC
8.	Bees/ACLI Apiary John Cruickshank has sold his bees to Mark Gardner/Bailey who is an experienced beekeeper We agreed that any new apiary user must be vetted given potential impact of unmanaged/swarming bees and impact on visitors etc	
9.	 Manure will be placed at either end of the Community Garden An Autumn Newsletter will be circulated to members. An article will be written for inclusion in The Banner once signage is in place Flailing: lan Armstrong to be contacted and asked to cut all hedges along access tracks on Golf Course Road and also on the Glenashdale access Accounts to be audited before AGM 	

Meeting ended at 18.25. Date of next meeting: Tuesday January 16th at 5 pm at Benview

January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Eric Milton, Jill Wilkinson, Karyn Wilson Hill. Also, Katie Godolphin, by invitation

1.	Previous Minutes	
	 Adoption of minutes from November 14, 2023, proposed by JW; 	
	seconded by EM	
2.	Matters arising from November 14	
	Repairs to car park sign are ongoing.	
	Storm-damaged and potentially dangerously sited ash trees	
	have been cut back as a preventative measure.	
	Flailing of hedges along access tracks on Golf Course Road and	
	on Glenashdale access has been carried out.	
	Potholes and puddles on 'middle' access track from Golf Course	
	Road to Southern entrance to Community Land have been filled	
	in by RC and JP	
	Singuis and Cuants	
3.	Finance and Grants	
	Bank Balance is £8086.69 College Funding and all the least income and all the second and all the s	
	RC to chase College Funding email trail and check insurance Address of December 21	
	statement of December 21	
	Paperwork ready to be audited ahead of AGM.	
4.	Trustee Recruitment Update	
	Two potential trustees have been identified and will be invited	
	to stand at AGM.	
5.	School/Nursery-School and related engagement	
	Plans to set up a gardening group Nursery Schoolchildren and	
	their parents were discussed. A tree-planting activity for Primary	
	Schoolchildren was also put forward. It was suggested the	
	Outdoor Centre in Lamlash might also like to organise activities	
	at ACLI.	
	KG agreed to take charge of posting information re activities on	
	the ACLI Facebook page; this will allow us to get into a monthly	
	habit of agreeing 'whats on' in the coming month at each	
	trustee meeting	
6.	Immediate and Longer-term Planning	
	a) Land Management Plan	
	RC advised that the work on the LMP is near completion and	
	that a draft would be ready to be sent to all ACLI members, after	
	input from trustees, shortly. It has been deliberately written in	
	non-technical language in order that it can be understood by	
	and commented on by all.	

	b) Ash Tree management	
	EM and RC to carry out a risk assessment survey of all ash trees on ACLI land	
	c) On-site signage	
	 RC has approached Mike Godwin (graphic designer) for advice on signage design: keep it clean and simple with our logo and something like a sage green background. RC to order signs. 	
7.	Community Garden	
	 A certain amount of storm-related damage to Demo Garden and small Polytunnel needs to be assessed and dealt with 	
	 EM and RC to examine doors to poly tunnel and decide on course of action 	
	 Several raised beds need attention, as does the willow house 	
9.	Field Leases	
	JW raised the ongoing problem of water supply to fields and will investigate solution of re- plumbing water via pipes and the relocation of the tap (from top of hill to original position) Top fields: There are now 2 hours in top fields TM would like to	
	 Top fields: There are now 2 horses in top field; EM would like to lease one of the top fields for his sheepJW to organise rotation of fields. 	
10.	AGM	
	 The date of the next AGM will be Saturday February 17 at 2pm in Whiting Bay Village Hall. RC to book hall 	

Next Trustee meeting Tuesday February 13th at Benview