

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

January 11th 2023, at 5:00 pm

Benview

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

1.	Previous Minutes Previous minutes from November 30th proposed by Jill and seconded by Karyn	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from November 30th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. • 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 	JG NB/JW
3.	Finance and Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance is currently c.£9K plus credit we have with Cladach for bird hide build and related works. • We have ordered an 'Apache' mower against a recently won grant but have not yet received it. Rob to investigate • 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. 	JW RC NB/KW
4.	Land Management Tasks and Volunteer Organisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once Jill has access to online banking facility we will need to cross check with our allotment database. 	JW/RC
6.	Communication to Wider Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check progress on signage with Gavin M • Agreed need and benefit of communicating with wider community by use of Website/FB/Insta and Rob has volunteered to take lead on this. 	RC RC

7.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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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

1.	Previous Minutes Previous minutes from January 11 th proposed by Karyn and seconded by John	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from January 11th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. Paperwork has been transferred to our new treasurer Jill. 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/Golf Course Rd); waiting on response from Murray Apache mower has now arrived and waiting on dry vegetation to test it. 	JW NB/JW RC
3.	Finance and Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance is currently £10,857. This includes recent monies received: Calmac £1369; Arran Trust £1865; Rural Payment £800 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. 	RC NB/KW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two outstanding invoices passed to Nick for payment (Apache delivery and new tractor battery) Check insurance direct debit schedule 	RC
4.	Rural Payments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick has received paperwork/maps which delineate areas designated for a) 'Scrub Management' (area between top burn and western edge of ACLI land plus large overgrown tract immediately north of Glenashdale Track) and b) 'Species Rich Management' which will comprise the two still to be fenced fields immediately in front of and behind 'Sarah's Bench'. However we do need to check the correlation and hence acreage of these fields. 	RC
5.	Volunteer Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have designated the second Saturday of each month as land management task day Jobs should include 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 We also require to check the state of the boardwalks 	RC
6.	Community Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karyn has requested that a few new wheel barrows should be added to our required inventory 	
7.	Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All but two holders have made their intentions known and have paid fees; Rob to check on two outstanding 	RC
8.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that we are about to erect a new sign board (agreed this should be in Car Park) which will include maps with walking routes we should double check our legal responsibilities and insurance A question has been raised about water provision to the grazing fields. Check with Gavin re original layout and also potential approach to the hub field 	RC RC

Next meeting Wednesday March 8th 2023

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

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

1.	Previous Minutes Previous minutes from `February 8 th proposed by Nick and seconded by Jill	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from February 8th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift aid tax relief. Still in process. • Murray Boal work should be available in April; work list to include: drainage at bottom of Field 1, improvement of upper section of middle track approaching field 11, reworking of eroded/steep sections of new track (eg approaching and above quarry), drainage pipe installations • New Apache mower has now been assembled and tested. 	JW NB/JW RC
3.	Finance and Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance is currently £13,421. This includes c.£3,900 from SAC • Bird hide balance paid; waiting on installation of car park signage • Rural Payments-see below • Check insurance direct debit schedule with new NFU appointee 	RC RC
4.	Land Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob presented (see attached) a Google Earth based map with key features including original path (from hub field to Glenashdale) and New Track (from car park to Glenashdale) as well as designated 'Scrub Management' zones (fields 12,13 & 15), proposed 'Species Rich Management' zones (fields 8 & 10) as well as currently grazed horse fields (fields 1 & 2) and fields recently grazed by sheep and cattle (11 & 17). • We discussed questions relating to the proposal to fence fields under 'Species Rich Management' designation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In particular field 8 which would straddle the main path from the hub; of concern in progressing this option would be the need to relocate the path, in so doing the proximity of dogs and grazing animals, the relatively small size of the field, 1/3 of which is currently covered in bracken. ○ A potential alternative is the significantly larger field in the NW corner of our site (field 9) which is nearly 3 times larger than 8, has good grass cover and sits away from main track. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 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. 	NB
5.	<p>Community Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most supplies have now been delivered (although we would still like to identify some cost effective wheel barrows). Waiting on Spring! 	
6.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still waiting on payment/intentions re allotment 5 and 6b 	
7.	<p>Volunteer Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer session planned for coming Saturday (11th) with focus on clearing track/path above M Hunters house. 	
8.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Watson School visit. We agreed to take up Darren T's offer to run this. Rob to advise both parties. 	RC

Next meetings Wednesday March 29th and April 19th 2023

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

29th March 2023, at 5:00 pm

Benview

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

1.	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>Previous minutes from March 8th proposed by Jill and seconded by Karyn</p>	
2.	<p>Outstanding actions/Matters arising from February 8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 track (eg approaching and above quarry), drainage pipe installations 	<p>JW</p> <p>NB/JW</p>
3.	<p>Finance and Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>RC</p>
4.	<p>Land Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

	<p>crops (pumpkins and potatoes were) not successful. As have attempts at honey production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 volunteer-based organisation is very difficult to commit to; non-compliance and its open advertisement could significantly 	<p>NB</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
5.	<p>Community Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Volunteer Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Can we plan to include a bench in the bird-hide? 	RC RC

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

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.	<p>AECS Contract We discussed 'lessons learned' from recent consideration of this contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Assignment/re-assignment of outstanding tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Alex Pirie and Rural Payments Team • £3921.50 to be returned to SAC • Check with Stuart L re outstanding lease and consultancy agreements • Bert Ramage and ask him to invoice us for 2 hours of his time • OSCR notification • Banking-Jill to organise John as 2nd signatory • Murray Boal and April visit • Saturday volunteer day-John to contact Martin 	<p>RC JW RC RC RC JW RC JP-J</p>
4.	<p>Education and Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<p>Finance and Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance is currently £8861,69. (£3,921.50 have been returned to SAC) Money is available from Community Benefit Fund. RC to check eligibility for application from ACLI 	RC
4.	<p>Immediate and longer- term planning for land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. RC to improve Thursday Garden Party poster KWH to liaise with Mandy and Jo to draw up list of tasks for future volunteer mornings 	 KWH RC KWH
6.	Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A couple of payments still outstanding Nos 5 & 6B are not in use 	
7.	Volunteer Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 aims-education and recreation- are unknown to many in the wider community. There is a need for a bigger presence on Facebook. 	RC
8	Furthering Educational Aims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Watson School group to visit on May 18. Their teachers will draw up lesson plans to include learning about carbon capture, biodiversity vs monoculture. Activities to include bracken bashing and planting of wildflower plugs. Mandy and Martin to be contacted for participation 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 Urquhart-Dixon a potential contact. 	RC RC/KWH/JPJ RC/KWH
9.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ● 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 to research potential templates for such a land management plan from other organisations. 	<p>All</p> <p>RC</p>
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5.	<p>Community Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to attract more volunteers improved Thursday Garden Party and Land Team posters have been designed by Fay Godwin, as part of her DoE Award involvement 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 watering. • The Demo Garden needs to be netted. This is planned for June 8. KWH to contact Kathy Sayer to ascertain whereabouts of netting. 	<p>RC/JW</p> <p>KWH</p> <p>KWH</p>
6.	<p>Allotments Nothing to report</p>	
7.	<p>Education</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>The lesson plan can be adapted and used again for other visiting groups.</p>	
8/9.	<p>Trustee Recruitment</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

7.	Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	JPJ RC
8	Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that activities for children have to be renewed but transport remains an issue. 	
9	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. RC to post a Tick Warning on noticeboard 	JPJ RC

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).

1.	Previous Minutes Adoption of previous minutes from June 28 proposed by RC and seconded by JW.	
2.	Actions/Matters arising from June 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EM to be added as a bank account signatory. RC to contact Murray Boal re outstanding work/payment. 	JW RC
3.	Finance and Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance is currently £8,448, 64 It was agreed to mount projects in <i>advance</i> of applying for potential funding and not the other way round i.e. define the resource requirement from a well thought through 	JW

6.	Community Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £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 WC...RC to provide • Neal Tait will deliver shredded garden cuttings for mulching • Doug Coulter from Museum has donated netting 	RC/JW KWH KWH
6.	Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for signage on the land cf. directing visitors to bird hide/ community garden raised by JW • KWH to write article for The Banner 	RC/JW KWH/RC
8.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fields now accessible with mown paths through all - positive feedback received. Updated map to be posted on FB • RC to purchase high resolution 1946 map - cost agreed by Trustees • 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 <p>Meeting adjourned at 18.38</p> <p>Next meeting Wednesday September 27th 2023 in The Hub at 5.00 pm</p>	RC RC KWH

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

September 27 2023, 5:00 pm

Benview

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

1.	Previous Minutes Adoption of previous minutes from August 30 proposed by KWH; seconded by EM.	
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2.	Actions/Matters arising from August 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM has been given requisite forms in order to be added as a bank account signatory. • RC has contacted Murray Boal; outstanding monies owed (£500) have been paid. • Andy Walker has been contacted by RC 	JW RC/JW
3.	Finance and Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance is currently £8,095.01 	JW
4.	Trustee Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katie Godolphin to be invited to October Trustees Meeting 	
5.	Immediate and longer- term planning <p>a) Farm Advisory/Rural Payments for land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 included is underway; satisfactory conclusion expected imminently. <p>b) On-Site Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Course Road and Glenashdale entrances to the Community Land (Directional) 	RC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Cruickshank. - Questions of insurance, public liability and health and safety issues were discussed as it appears MG/B is not a member of the Arran Bee Group. It was decided ACLI needs a beekeeping public liability policy which would ensure all beekeepers...and ACLI... were covered in the event of an accident. EM to discuss at Bee group; RC to check ACLI insurance. 	EM/RC
9.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was decided to set the date for the next AGM in February 2024. RC to write to OSCR to advise. - An Autumn Newsletter will be circulated to members. - An article will be written for inclusion in The Banner <p>Meeting ended at 18.32</p>	RC RC KWH

Date of next meeting: Tuesday November 14th at 5 pm at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

November 14th 2023, 5:00 pm

Benview

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

1.	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of previous minutes from September 27 proposed by RC; seconded by JW. 	
2.	<p>Actions/Matters arising from Sept 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<p>Finance and Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance is currently £8,772.32 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. 	JW All
4.	<p>Trustee Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two potential Trustee recruits have been identified. RC to contact them At least one of new trustees could be asked to provide guidance for a children's gardening group 	RC
5.	<p>Immediate and longer- term planning</p> <p>a) Rural Payments for land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC now in possession of complete file of relevant documents and correspondence which will provide the basis for the Land Management Plan <p>b) Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC has samples from Graham Chappell. Obtain Quote for specific designs. The cork backing on the sign in the car park needs replacing. JW to ask County Carpets to carry out necessary repairs <p>c) Ash Tree Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>d) Tracks and Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	RC JW JW

	<p>J. Kelso and M Boal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Community Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Bees/ACLI Apiary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 : Ian 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

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting

January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm Benview

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

1.	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of minutes from November 14, 2023, proposed by JW; seconded by EM 	
2.	<p>Matters arising from November 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
3.	<p>Finance and Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Balance is £8086.69 • RC to chase College Funding email trail and check insurance statement of December 21 • Paperwork ready to be audited ahead of AGM. 	
4.	<p>Trustee Recruitment Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two potential trustees have been identified and will be invited to stand at AGM. 	
5.	<p>School/Nursery-School and related engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Immediate and Longer-term Planning</p> <p>a) Land Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

	<p>b) Ash Tree management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM and RC to carry out a risk assessment survey of all ash trees on ACLI land <p>c) On-site signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Community Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<p>Field Leases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 horses in top field; EM would like to lease one of the top fields for his sheep...JW to organise rotation of fields. 	
10.	<p>AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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