

Arran Community Land Initiative

Trustees Meeting

July 14th 2026

Benview

Present

Rob Cowieson, Alasdair Hall, Thom Jones, Jill Wilkinson and Gordon Clarke

Apologies

Sophie Bunyan

Previous Minutes

Minutes from June 9th proposed by RC after clarification that language on boards was acceptable and seconded by JW.

Matters Arising

- Postpone Disclosure as SB not present. Carried forward to next meeting.
- TJ has emailed High School but has had no response.
- RC has talked to Pauline Reid about financials and insurance money from tree which can be included in accounts year ending April 6th 2026
- RC will include a section about volunteering in the next news letter.
- JW talked with Laura about the horse field spraying costs and they are content with a one off payment.
- Car park has been tidied up and horse box is now parked further back.
- All to monitor vehicle track access and branch overhang. AH offered high reach pruner and GC offered to assist.

Financials

- Current Balance £3088.83, savings £3154.86 = total £6243.69
- There was a MBS backlog payment due to wrong email address being used. Now sorted.
- A cheque from BT for £461.17 has been returned for rewriting as it had wrong details.
- An electric fence storage wheel to be purchased.

Horse Field Update

- RC had noticed a plant called ragwort growing around the edges of the horse fields. This has a cumulative detrimental effect to horses health. All agreed that spraying would be the way forward. RC to source spray at approximately £70. RC
- RC has spoken with a farmer called Iain Armstrong who would be willing to help carry out tractor related work. He has asked for a list of all jobs so that he can plan it into his diary. RC
- AH to approach Liz Kennedy (MBS) to see if ACLI could borrow the roller for the fields (once they are soft enough to roll). Potentially ACLI could offer tractor time via Iain Armstrong to roll Liz's fields in return. AH
- All to consider what needs to go into an annual plan for land management for recurring jobs. ALL

Story boards

- Discussion on story board size. Considered A4 -A2 and decided on the latter to ease reading of font size.
- Discussion on story board fixing. 75mm posts suggested but GC thought 100mm would be more robust. GC content to lead/assist with fixing in place once they are ready.
- TJ reminded RC to incorporate future looking text into the story boards. RC

Volunteering Strategy

- We need more volunteers.
- Monthly Volunteer days need organised. Try Thursdays and Sunday mornings. Make it cake and coffee after?
- To be included in the next newsletter. RC

School update and Disclosures

Not discussed due to SB not being present. To be carried forward.

- Sophie and Rob to arrange transfer of lead signatory form.
- Need to update some policies including Disclosure handling.

AOCB

- We are due an AGM within the next 2 months. 7pm mid week suggested.
- Suggest getting a QR code for donating for fruit crops. RC to put in news letter. RC

ACLI Trustee Meeting
June 9th, 2026
Benview

Present

Rob Cowson, Alasdair Hall, Thom Jones, Jill Wilkinson, Gordon Clarke, and Sophie Bunyan

Apologies

None

Previous Minutes

Minutes from May 12th proposed by Thom Jones
and seconded by Rob Cowieson

Matters Arising

- Rob joined the North Ayrshire biodiversity group (set up by NAC Biodiversity lead who was responsible for our wildflower/pollinator grant) and has since established contact with NAC 'STEM' education lead. RC SC
- Disclosures- spoke to a real person.
 - Need to Update Some policies. RC
 - Rob additional signatory TJ
- Contact High school- pending RC
- Volunteer list- pending
- Second dog poo bin has been installed

Financials

- Current Balance £7246.77
- £130 Of donations, £100 George Watson Collage, £30 of membership fees.

Horse Field Update

- Fields need Rolled.
- £285 invoice from Bert Ramage, for fixing horse fences. ACLI to pay as this is to address 'wear & tear'.
- Keep a stock of Stabs (in barn lockup). Restocked cost- £175
- £500 invoice for Colin Mackenzie to Spray the Horse fields. Agreed 50/50 split between ACLI and Tenants. JW
 - Would it be better to add it to rental cost? JW to ask Laura

Pollinator/biodiversity story boards

- Rob has circulated text based on the narrative developed from previous U3A talk and Biodiversity walk. This will be turned into storyboards with

Photos/illustrations. Intention to produce 7/8 story boards and distribute across the wider site.

- Thoms' feedback was that
 - the reading age is appropriate for interested adult
 - include more about the possible future of the fields
 - Include more about comparisons between fields
- Gordon suggested QR code on boards for linkage to website for more information and possibly donations.
- Sophie has seen posts that you put your phone in to submit photos. Will find more information
- Alisdair keen that visitors have opportunity to read, digest and understand the narrative
- Thom suggested a 'scavenger hunt/ 'in this field can you find' style aspect to the boards to engage children.
- Probably want to keep content appropriate for an interested adult with engagement opportunities for children.
- Graphic Designer on Holiday but would like this done in c.6 weeks.

SC

Volunteering Strategy

- We need more volunteers.
- Monthly Volunteer days need organised. Try Thursdays and Sunday mornings. Make it cake and coffee after?

RC

School update and Disclosures

- One more session for this term.
- Sophie and Rob to arrange transfer of lead signatory form.
- Need to update some policies including Disclosure handling.

AOCB

- We are due an AGM within the next 3 months.
- Trees need trimmed back along track
- Horse box- could we level the ground behind it and move horse box back.
- It would be good to have Wee Growers parents signed up (Both if possible) as ACLI members.
- Open reach would like to improve internet access up back track. Will return track to better condition and give us £800. All in agreement.

JW

ACLI Trustee Meeting
May 12th, 2026
Benview

Present

Rob Cowson, Alasdair Hall, Thom Jones and Sophie Bunyan

Apologies

Jill Wilkinson

Darren Townsend has stepped down as a trustee

Previous Minutes

Minutes from April 14th proposed by Sophie Bunyan and seconded by Alasdair Hall

Matters Arising

- Review of trees on property line
 - Some trees along Glen Ashdale might need taken down in future ?
however they are unlikely to need a specialist (and expensive) tree surgeon
- Review of reserves
 - ACLI is insured for tree removal and for all “big ticket” items so current reserves of £5000 seems appropriate. However this should be reviewed before insurance renewal in December/
- 50 more trees planted 300 so far this winter.
 - Woodland trust have offered us 400 trees, to be delivered in November ‘26
- Liam Blizzard has taken drone footage and is happy to take further footage throughout the year.
- Community land Scotland contact
 - rob to investigate RC
- Disclosures- Still no luck via email. Sophie to call Volunteer Scotland SB

Financials

- Current Balance is £7195 RC/AH
- Move to a spreadsheet tracking financials Year on Year to track trends and changes to spending
- Trustees to be mindful we have 2 years left of the current rural payments funding. There is no indication if it will be continued or dissolved in 28/29 RC
- Speak to Pauline Reed for clarification on when the financial year starts for the accounts.

Five-year Plan

- Positive feedback from members and stakeholders
 - Identify meaningful metrics
 - Compile a list of volunteers
 - More write ups in the Banner
 - Posters advertising events and volunteer days in bay stores, post office, on community boards.
- The five-year plan is to be a living document referenced and updated regularly.
- Rob has spoken with our insurance provider (NFU) and with (Zurich) and current insurance seems in in line with ACLI’s scope. Though other quotes could be gathered before it is renewed.
 - Review in October ready to renew in December
- Contact the High school regarding Higher biology projects. RC/AH TJ

Pollinator Project

- The expected George Watson class coming across this month. They are going to plant Yellow Rattle Plugs out.
- More seeds are on preorder, to be delivered in October.

Volunteering Strategy

- ACLI needs more volunteers.
- Blind CC an email to mailing list to invite them to a volunteer day RC
- Start putting up posters and flyers for volunteer days.

School update and Disclosures

- School visits will be resuming on Wednesday for the summer term. These sessions are being well received by the children and teachers.
- There has been no progress with disclosure services via email. Sophie to call Volunteer Scotland to progress things. SB

AOCB

- Second dog poo bin is waiting on the mainland for collection. RC

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting April 14th, 2026, at 5:15 pm Benview

Present- Trustees: Rob Cowieson, Alasdair Hall, Darren Townsend and Sophie Bunyan
Apologies: Jill Wilkinson. Debbie has asked to step down as a trustee.

1.	Previous Minutes Previous minutes from March 10 th proposed by Rob and seconded by Darren	
2.	Outstanding actions/Matters arising from March 10th • Review of trees that could damage property-ongoing • Review of idea reserves – ongoing and below • 250 trees have been planted in last 2 weeks • Two drone pilots have been identified – SB and RC to follow up • Community Land Scotland contact from Darren – ongoing • Disclosure process – RC to follow up	RC/AH/DT ALL SB/RC DT RC
3.	Finance • Balance is currently £7282 • This includes £1750 insurance claims payment from NFU for the tree surgery conducted on Glenasdale Track adjacent to habitation • This payment was received at the start of April and therefore there is a question about which tax year it should be entered as it would be advantageous for it to appear in the same year as the tree was taken down. Action: check with Pauline Reed bookkeeper • Given we are now at year end and working on a new 5-year plan we agreed to look at finances from previous three years to draw sensible conclusions about potential future requirements vs recent historical revenue and spend. RC to pull previous AGM figures into a single document and circulate prior to next trustee meeting.	RC/JW/AH

		RC
4.	Discussion of 5 Year Plan • A draft plan presented as a matrix with sub-headings Assets for Community Use, Education and Outreach, Nature Recovery/Biodiversity, Resource Management and Administration was constructed and circulated to all trustees. • The intention is to make whatever adjustments trustees see appropriate before circulating this revised draft to all ACLI members for comment and feedback (RC) • Extended discussion on the initial draft: ○ ACLI Assets for Community Use ▪ Recognising the need to ‘consolidate/tidy/maintain’ our access tracks and car-park we do not aspire to being a major tourist destination ▪ Install QR codes around the site; story boards in particular ▪ Google locate ○ Education and Outreach ▪ Round out/complete website with biodiversity pages to include completed ecology study as well as current pollinator project ▪ Construct this in a way that targets appropriate interested parties raising our profile as an educational/citizen science style resource ▪ As well as potential funders ▪ Develop a marketing programme to include digital assets (website, Fb etc) that will appeal to a wider as well as local audience. Include ‘traditional’ posters and leaflets etc ○ Nature Recovery/Biodiversity ▪ Report data/metrics on website: trees planted, carbon captured etc ○ Resource Management ▪ Understand our historical spend/revenue and plan accordingly ▪ Current Agri-environmental grants stop in 2 years time with uncertainty about renewal; what steps can we take in the meantime? ▪ One option is to test digital donations on a) enhanced website and b) a ‘produce’ space adjacent to our hub ▪ Establish a reserves policy ▪ Investigate community related ‘running cost’ grants	

	▪ Volunteer planning – fundamental to a ‘community initiative’; maintain ‘run by volunteers for volunteers’ ethos • Relate to seasonal tasks as per the Land Management Plan • What skills are required and match with who would like to do what • Monthly task days (on a weekend) in addition to our regular Thursday morning sessions ○ Administration ▪ Update safeguarding paperwork ▪ Enrol all trustees and appropriate volunteers into Disclosure Process ▪ Re-research the public liability and separate trustee indemnity requirement for ACLI’s specific requirements ▪ Investigate precise storage requirements for tractor vs current policy viability • Think further about the 5 year aspirations under as many sections as is possible	
5.	Pollinator/biodiversity project update • £4296 grant award has now been spent prior to the stipulated end of March 26 to coincide with the end of the financial year. • An initial spring planting will happen after the risk of frost has passed on several small ‘test sites’ as identified and agreed by DT and RC • A wider spreading of seed will happen in Autumn	
.	AOCB • We note a significant increase in dog-poop across the wider land and in response to a request from a regular dog walker for an additional red bin to be sited further up hill we agreed to this purchase. AH to re-order as per last bin.	AH

Next meeting Tuesday 12th May, 1715, Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

**Trustee Meeting 10th March 2026
Benview**

Attendees		
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair	Present
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary	Present
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer	Apologies
Sophie Bunyan (SB)		Apologies
Darren Townsend (DT)		Present
Jill Wilkinson (JW)		Apologies

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
2	Adoption of Previous Minutes
3	Matters Arising
4	Financials including grant applications
5	Winter activities including tree planting
6	Education
7	Hub & Allotments
8	Pollinator / biodiversity project
9	Planning – priorities for next 5 years
10	AOCB

1. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees

2. Adoption of previous minutes

- RC proposed, DT seconded

3. Matters Arising

- *Action: RC, DT and AH to undertake a review of trees and identify any at risk that may require felling – carried forward*
- Polytunnel bays to be reviewed by RC and AH and communication sent to allotment holders – completed

4. Financials including grant applications

1. Financial Status:

AH shared finances as follows at 10th March:

- Total balance held of **£4,132.21**, comprising:
 - Current account: £992.68
 - Savings account: £3,139.53
- Income since the last meeting of £130 for horse rental and £5 for produce sales
- Payments since the last meeting of £104.09 for insurance and £115.83 for general supplies
- Remaining outgoings for March of £300 (for Ian Armstrong)
- Remaining expected income for March of £622 for carbon study and soil reimbursement
- Indicative remaining balance at YE March 2026 is therefore **£4,454.21**
- Payments against the NAC pollinator fund of **£4,296 of £1,481.98**
- Action: DT to check what was funding request was submitted in the NAC biodiversity grant, and if this aligns with what we have received – completed - £4296 received
- Action: RC to share details of insurance policy, for consideration in assessment of appropriate reserves - completed
- *Action – carried forward: Trustees agreed to revisit the level of reserves in 2026 to review and agree an appropriate balance for 2026, DM to undertake review, noting that the policy to date has been to maintain a £5k reserve – carried forward*

2. Grant applications:

- No further action at this time

5. Winter activities including tree planting

- Action: RC to investigate Ovo Energy and charities in Whiting Bay to understand if additional trees could be made available for winter planting – completed

- RC has secured 400 trees from the Woodland Trust to arrive in November (mixed deciduous), 200 trees from Forestry Land Scotland which have arrived, 100 trees to arrive in April from Lewis Pate
- ***New Action: RC and DT to determine appropriate sighting for tree planting***

6. Education-WB Primary school and more

- Arran High School:
 - Action – completed: Discussions to be progressed with Mara Gosman (Head of Geography) by DM - DM confirmed that this has been discussed with Mara who is keen to explore opportunities; this will be taken forward directly in due course
- Whiting Bay Primary:
 - RC confirmed that sessions were continuing and feedback remained very positive from both the children and teachers
- Arran Environmental Festival:
 - RC confirmed that 8 people had attended the biodiversity walk which had been very well received

7. Hub & Allotments:

- RC updated that a number of allotment holders were investing significantly in infrastructure and that the site was starting to look well prepared for the season
- RC confirmed that 2.5 allotments remain unallocated, trustees discussed the option of combining 2 of them in order to offer a single large allotment and agreed this would be taken forward

8. Pollinator project

- RC outlined discussions with local farmers, MeadowMania, Stuart Lambie and Gavin Mutch, which had provided valuable insight and advice as we take this project forward:
 - The ideal time to plant wildflower is autumn for optimal impact
 - For every 3kg of wildflower then we need to plant 1kg yellow rattle seed
 - We need to scarify prior to planting
 - C.25kg of sand is required to spread with the wildflower seed#
- RC confirmed the following had been ordered:
 - 450 yellow rattle plugs
 - 4kg of wildflower seed
 - Required hand tools, lime and fertiliser
- Our remaining order would like be:
 - A pre-order of Yellow rattle and wildflower seed for future years planting
 - Additional yellow rattle plugs
- George Watson will help with plug planting during their visit in May
- Horses continue to graze within the electric fencing to assist in the removal of grass prior to planting

- ***New Action – RC to discuss with SB putting a communication out on Arran Community Forum to invite someone to undertake drone footage prior to and for the duration of the pollinator project***
- Action - DT to confirm NAC requirements for evidencing / reporting on the outcome of the Planting for Pollinators Project – complete
- Action – DT was eager to go on site and start marking out areas for planting, DT and RC to take forward - ongoing

9. Five year planning

- Trustees discussed the need to revisit the ACLI 5 year plan for the period 2026-2031 in order to refresh the strategy and direction for the forthcoming period, with a view to including:
 - Extension of social media presence
 - Plan to increase membership
 - Ambitious target for the number of trees to be planted by 2030 (2000 tbc)
 - Action on how we can impact our carbon audit
 - Actions to achieve our Land Management Plan
 - Plan to increase the number of children accessing and using the land
 - Plan to increase the number of volunteers
- ***New Action: DM/RC/DT to prepare first draft of refreshed five year plan for discussion with trustees at the next meeting***
- Trustees discussed whether benchmarking against other comparable organisations could be undertaken
- ***New Action: RC to talk to Alex to identify opportunities for community land strategy and planning benchmarking***

10. AOCB

- DM outlined that insurance documents suggested that emergency tree removal was covered with an excess of £250
- ***New Action: RC to investigate insurance cover for tree removal***
- RC outlined that the spring newsletter had been sent out
- Trustees discussed and agreed that disclosures would be submitted for RC, AH and Thom Jones
- ***New Action: Disclosure submissions for RC, AH and Thom Jones to be completed and confirmed***
- DT highlighted the work undertaken by Community Land Scotland and it's relevance for ACLI, including an annual conference
- ***New Action: Trustees to familiarise themselves with the activity of Community Land Scotland and identify any events / activity of relevance to ACLI***

The meeting adjourned at 18.50

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 14th April 2026 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

**Trustee Meeting 10th February 2026
Benview**

Attendees		
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair	Present
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary	Present
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer	Present
Sophie Bunyan (SB)		Present
Darren Townsend (DT)		Present
Jill Wilkinson (JW)		Apologies

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
2	Adoption of Previous Minutes
3	Matters Arising
4	Financials including grant applications
5	Winter activities including tree planting
6	Education-WB Primary school and more
7	Hub & Allotments
8	AOCB

11. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees

12. Adoption of previous minutes

- DT proposed, SB seconded

13. Matters Arising

- *Action: RC, DT and AH to undertake a review of trees and identify any at risk that may require felling – carried forward*
- *Polytunnel bays to be reviewed by RC and AH and communication sent to allotment holders – completed – final email to be sent 11/02 by RC*

14. Financials including grant applications

1. Financial Status:

- AH confirmed total balance held of **£8,498.13** at 9th February, comprising:
 - Current account: £5358.60 (including £4,296.00 from the NAC pollinator fund)
 - Savings account: £3,139.53
- AH confirmed payment since the last meeting of £746.40 (inc. VAT) for carbon study and soil samples
- AH confirmed indicative remaining income for Feb-March of **£942** (£290 horses, £622 carbon study and soil sample reimbursement, £30 allotment)
- AH confirmed indicative remaining outgoings for Feb-March of **£404** (£104 for insurance and c.£300 to Ian Armstrong)
- AH confirmed that funding from the NAC pollinator grant will be accounted for separately, noting that this is a restrictive fund
- AH confirmed resultant indicative balance, excluding the NAC pollinator fund, at 31 March 2026 of **c.£4,740**
- *Action – carried forward: Trustees agreed to revisit the level of reserves in 2026 to review and agree an appropriate balance for 2026, DM to undertake review, noting that the policy to date has been to maintain a £5k reserve – carried forward*
- *New Action: DT to check what was funding request was submitted in the NAC biodiversity grant, and if this aligns with what we have received*
- *New Action: RC to share details of insurance policy, for consideration in assessment of appropriate reserves*

2. Grant applications:

- NAC Biodiversity grant:
 - RC and DT outlined that items for purchase has been established, including the required wildflower seeds and plugs, noting that yellow rattle plugs will be bought asap given their ability to weaken grass and in so doing support wildflower seed germination

- Trustees explored options for taking photos of the land now, prior to planting, in order that progress can be tracked as the project progresses this year and into future years
- RC explained that Gavin Mutch has provided helpful guidance on recommended rotavators and /or alternative options, RC and DT to confer and agree the best solution in order that a purchase can be made
- Action - RC to complete the required documentation for the NAC biodiversity grant asap - completed
- Action - RC, DT and DM to meet and define the plan for the Planting for Pollinators project by end Jan – completed
- **Action - DT to confirm NAC requirements for evidencing / reporting on the outcome of the Planting for Pollinators Project – carried forward**
- **New Action – DT was eager to go on site and start marking out areas for planting, DT and RC to take forward**

15. Winter activities including tree planting

- RC outlined that the previously committed Whitebeams were no longer available, and that trees from the Forestry Commission were also no longer available, but that we have been able to secure 25 hazel trees
- Trustees discussed other options for sourcing trees at no cost; DT suggested Ovo Energy, DM suggested other Whiting Bay charitable organisations that may be in a position to support
- Action - AH requested further discussion on additional clearance needed over the coming months – AH, DT and RC to meet and discuss on Sat 24th Jan - completed
- **New Action: RC to investigate Ovo Energy and charities in Whiting Bay to understand if additional trees could be made available for winter planting**

16. Education-WB Primary school and more

- Arran High School:
 - Action – carried forward: Discussions to be progressed with Mara Gosman (Head of Geography) by DM - DM confirmed that contact had been made with the High School but that at this stage there was no response
- Whiting Bay Primary:
 - RC provided an update on attendance from pupils over recent weeks, which have been met with much enthusiasm by both pupils and supporting teachers:
 - Two groups have attended for a period of an hour for each session; RC, AH and Thom Jones have helpfully provided support from ACLI, with direction from Jody Sutton (Whiting Bay Primary Teacher) who maintains responsibility for all children at all times

- Plots have been made available for use in the polytunnel and in an outside allotment
 - We have agreed with the school to run these sessions for a period of four weeks, in order to assess fitness for purpose and if indeed the children enjoy their time on ACLI
 - There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback to date, despite challenging weather at times, and so the expectation is that these sessions will continue
- Action - RC to set up an email group to with AH, Thom Jones, Karyn and Mandy to get ideas and plans together for sessions with Whiting Bay Primary school groups – complete
- Arran Environmental Festival:
 - RC confirmed that a biodiversity walk has been offered during the festival in March; information developed or this will be used as the basis for storyboards in the future to be placed around the land

17. Hub & Allotments:

- AH outlined that further extensive clearance had taken place around the polytunnels and the barn, which was continuing, with grateful help from James, Alex, and Robin Young who has helped remove debris to the coop
- RC relayed that a number of individuals had expressed how nice the hub area now looked
- RC confirmed that the ‘hut’ on plot 12 had been removed following change of lease from Jim Park to Anne Shephard, in line with the rules signed by all lease holders which include the ‘prohibition of huts and greenhouses’ (Rules of the Allotments clause 2c).

18. AOCB

- SB and RC outlined that the Little Growers apple ceremony was a resounding success, and enjoyed by all
- RC noted a discussion with Malcolm Whitmore who had expressed a desire to build a pond in field 15 RC had checked the contract with Rural Payments which makes clear that NO intervention in this field (together with fields 12 & 13) is permitted.

The meeting adjourned at 18.30

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 10th March 2026 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

**Trustee Meeting 13th January 2026
Benview**

Attendees		
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair	Present
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary	Present
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer	Present
Sophie Bunyan (SB)		Present
Darren Townsend (DT)		Present
Jill Wilkinson (JW)		Present

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
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6	Education-WB Primary school and more
7	AOCB

19. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees

20. Adoption of previous minutes

- JW proposed, RC seconded

21. Matters Arising

- RC confirmed that the tree of concern, adjacent to Ian & Emily's property, had been successfully removed by Ryan Armstrong, at a cost of £2000 (as best quote received), noting that part removal had been explored but not pursued in order to ensure complete removal of any risk to adjacent properties; RC also advised that SSE and OpenReach cables present within tree growth had been left intact. Trustees agreed that works carried out were of a high standard, and those in adjacent properties (Ian, Emily and Sandy) were pleased with the outcome.
- DT explained that due to excessive rain following tree removal there had been drainage blockage as a result of residual leaves and debris, which had required removal by himself and with the support of council workers - DT confirmed that the issue was now resolved
- Trustees discussed a need to undertake a wider review of trees in order to identify any others that may require felling, either now or in the future, in order to ensure sufficient funds were held should they be needed
- ***New Action: RC, DT and AH to undertake a review of trees and identify any at risk that may require felling***
- ***Polytunnel bays to be reviewed by RC and AH and communication sent to allotment holders – RC, AH to complete by end Jan***

22. Financials including grant applications

1. Financial Status:

- AH confirmed total balance held of **£4,837.62** at 13th January, comprising:
 - Current account: £1698.09
 - Savings account: £3,139.53
- AH confirmed indicative remaining income for Jan-March of **£1190** (£500 horses, £90 allotments, £600 carbon study and soil sample reimbursement)
- AH confirmed indicative remaining outgoings for Jan-March of **£1,228** (£300 Ian Armstrong invoice, £600 + £120 VAT for carbon study and soil samples, £208 insurance)
- AH confirmed resultant indicative balance at 31 March 2026 of **c.£4,799.62**
- ***Action – carried forward: Trustees agreed to revisit the level of reserves in 2026 to review and agree an appropriate balance for 2026, DM to undertake review***
 - RC confirmed that the policy to date had been to maintain a £5k reserve

- DM offered to further review with consideration of costs that would be required for e.g. tree felling, fence repairs and any damage to polytunnels and other infrastructure
- Action - Closed: RC to liaise with Alex Pirrie to ensure Carbon Audit is completed by end Dec 2025
 - RC confirmed this work has been completed (Costing £500 + VAT for carbon study and £100 + VAT for soil samples, of which costs will be returned (less VAT))

2. Grant applications:

- NAC Biodiversity grant:
 - DT confirmed that funding of c.£5000 had been awarded to support a 'Planting for Pollinators Project', which includes costs for wildflower seeds and plugs, as well as a new rotavator and additional tools to enable planting; Trustees agreed this was a hugely positive outcome which would enable extensive planting of wildflowers across identified fields, and significantly benefit ACLI's ambition of improving biodiversity
 - DT confirmed that the award would be paid once bank details had been passed to NAC, and that monies were required to be spent by end March 2025
 - **Action - RC to complete the required documentation for the NAC biodiversity grant asap**
 - Trustees enquired what NAC expected by way of return, for example a report on progress, invoices etc
 - **Action - DT to confirm NAC requirements for evidencing / reporting on the outcome of the Planting for Pollinators Project**
 - Trustees discussed the need for a clear action plan and agreement on items for purchase
 - **Action - RC, DT and DM to meet and define the plan for the Planting for Pollinators project by end Jan**
- HSBC Scottish Community Fund Grant - DM confirmed this had been unsuccessful
- Other Grants explored:
 - NAC – RC confirmed he had reviewed other grants available and that none were of current interest or applicability
 - Arran Trust – RC confirmed none was available
- Action - closed: RC to update Trustees on advice from Rural Payments regarding whether there is a need for two ACLI bank accounts – RC confirmed that two bank accounts were required, and that the named contact needs to be RC as responsible farmer

23. Winter activities including tree planting

- RC reported on discussions with Jackie Kemp (Chief Forester) who has confirmed that c.250 trees can be supplied to ACLI; Trustees discussed and agreed that involving the community in planting would be ideal; RC also confirmed that this number of tree stakes / bamboo sticks were already in stock

- RC further reported discussions with the Woodland Trust for the provision of Arran Whitebeam root stock, with 50-100 available; Trustees discussed and agreed that these needed specialised planting so would be undertaken by Trustees rather than the community
- SB requested a Little Growers Apple ceremony for January, which Trustees were supportive of
- DT outlined that some tree pruning was needed in Jan/Feb, in particular those in field hub behind allotments, and in the fire circle; all others can be left

24. Education-WB Primary school and more

- Arran High School:
 - ***Action – carried forward: Discussions to be progressed with Mara Gosman (Head of Geography) by DM***
- Whiting Bay Primary:
 - RC outlined recent discussions with Jodie Sutton, a recently appointed primary support teacher, and Thom Jones; Jodie has further confirmed the school's enthusiasm to use ACLI land for teaching purposes, likely twice a week for up to four children
 - RC, AH and Thom have confirmed their availability to support school visits, with a target date of end Jan for a first session
 - ***Action - RC to set up an email group to with AH, Thom Jones, Karyn and Mandy to get ideas and plans together for sessions with Whiting Bay Primary school groups***
- RC updated trustees on the EcoSavvy led Arran Environmental Festival being planned for March, following discussions with Jess Wallace; guided walks on ACLI have been offered, date to be confirmed
- Action - closed: RC to put required documentation in place for SB to be lead signatory on Disclosure matters going forward – paperwork completed, SB to finalise

8. AOCB

- AH outlined the work undertaken around the polytunnel to clear vegetation and increase daylight; Trustees thanked him for his extensive efforts and acknowledged the improvement in access and light to the polytunnel
- ***Action - AH requested further discussion on additional clearance needed over the coming months – AH, DT and RC to meet and discuss on Sat 24th Jan***
- DT enquired on the status of the horse fields, given recent rainfall and winter weather; JW confirmed that fencing, water availability and general access were all okay

The meeting adjourned at 18.20

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 10th February 2026 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

**Trustee Meeting 15th December 2025
Benview**

Attendees		
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair	Present
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary	Present
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer	Present
Sophie Bunyan (SB)		Apologies
Darren Townsend (DT)		Apologies
Jill Wilkinson (JW)		Present

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
2	Adoption of Previous Minutes
3	Matters Arising (inc. Tree Surgery update)
4	Land management summary and budget
5	Financials including grant applications
7	Education-WB Primary school and more
8	AOCB

25. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees, noting apologies from Darren and Sophie

26. Adoption of previous minutes

- JW proposed, RC seconded

27. Matters Arising (inc. Tree Surgery)

- RC confirmed the following regarding the tree of concern, adjacent to Ian & Emily's property:
 - ACLI is liable should the tree fall down; ACLI insurance does not provide damage cover
 - SSE (Angus Rayburn) had reviewed the tree and confirmed that surgery was unlikely to be a priority
 - OpenReach (Ian Shand) had been contacted and similarly confirmed that surgery was unlikely to be a priority
 - ACLI will need to advise SSE and OpenReach prior to any removal
- Trustees agreed that addressing this concern was a matter of priority, and that given the response from SSE and OpenReach ACLI would take responsibility for appointing Ryan Armstrong to undertake tree surgery and incur associated costs
- Trustees also agreed to explore whether part removal would provide sufficient removal to ensure no further risk to property, and in so doing reduce cost
- **New Action: JW to discuss tree surgery options and associated costs with Ryan Armstrong, with a view to a speedy decision by Trustees and resolution**
- Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	RC to put required documentation in place for SB to be lead signatory on Disclosure matters going forward	RC	Ongoing	Dec: Paperwork prepared by RC, to be given to SB to take forward
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	JW to contact Mara Gosman to suggest a discussion with RC on whether ACLI could be used to support Geography studies	JW	Completed	Nov: JW to pass on Mara's details to RC and DM in order to follow up directly and gauge interest in using ACLI for high school Geography projects Dec: DM to contact Mara via the High School
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	SB to ask Mandy to complete a Little Growers questionnaire	SB	Completed	Dec: Assumed completed and that SB will flag if any concerns
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	SB to explore ideas for a Christmas event for Little Growers	SB	Completed	Dec: Assumed completed and that SB will flag if any concerns
14-Oct-25	Tree Surgery	Trustees to review tree surgery quotes for the sycamore by Ian and Emily's house at the next meeting, in order to expedite action and confirm whether a grant application will be required	All	Some Issues	Nov: - RC received quote for £2k from mainland contractor and confirmed the quote from Ryan is now £2k - RC has spoken to Andy Macdonald who advised that any tree surgery near to lines should be undertaken by the owner of those lines - DM spoken to Zeno Alberti on Middle Road who had a similar situation earlier in the year, who confirmed that the owner of any lines is responsible for any required work and would not allow work to be undertaken by anyone else - RC spoken to Brody at the Council who confirmed that SSE or Openreach would address any issues, pending confirmation of ownership - RC to contact SSE and ask Ian & Emily to also contact SSE, to escalate the need for works to be done - RC to contact Sandy McGovern to advise on progress, following concerns raised by her to JW Dec: - RC discussed with SSE and OpenReach, neither will provide surgery - Trustees agreed to proceed with surgery through Ryan Armstrong, JW to explore with Ryan an option to reduce the extent of felling in order to minimise costs, whilst ensuring that the tree presents no risk to adjacent properties

28. Land Management Summary and Budget

- Trustees were invited to discuss the management usage of each of the ACLI fields, which is summarised at the end of these minutes
- Open actions:**

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Land Management	Trustees to agree location of winter tree planting (see land management planning below). RC to contact F&LS to ask about availability of trees for the coming winter.	All	Not Started	Oct: Rob spoken to Jackie who is positive that trees can be sourced for ACLI
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	RC to get quote for 30 raspberry canes for the management of fruit bushes by John Parker-Jones	RC	Not Started	Nov: On hold until required for the 2026 season
18-Nov-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	Polytunnel bays to be reviewed by RC and AH and communication sent to allotment holders	RC	Ongoing	

29. Financials including grant applications

- Financial Status:**
 - AH confirmed total balance held of **£6,503.15** at 18th November, comprising:
 - Current account: £4,367.95
 - Savings account: £2,135.20
 - AH confirmed indicative remaining income for Dec-March of **£1,410** (£600 horses, £750 Rural Payments, £60 for 2 x outstanding allotment payments)
 - AH confirmed indicative remaining outgoings for Dec-March of **£3,550** (£300 Ian Armstrong invoice, £750 electric fence, £2,000 tree surgery, £500 carbon study)

- AH confirmed resultant indicative balance at 31 March 2026 of **c.£4300**
- Trustees agreed that further income from grants would be favourable, in order to positively impact reserves
- **New Action: Trustees agreed to revisit the level of reserves in 2026 to review and agree an appropriate balance for 2026**
- RC advised that a carbon audit was required by year end in order to adhere to Rural Payments requirements, which was for this to be undertaken every 5 years; Alex Pirrie will advise on appropriate individual, cost c.£500
- **New Action: RC to liaise with Alex Pirrie to ensure Carbon Audit is completed by end Dec 2025**

2. Grant applications:

- Scottish Government Rural Capital Investment Grant Scheme – unsuccessful
 - RC confirmed that the application for £750 for the electric fence had been unsuccessful
- NAC Biodiversity grant - opportunity:
 - RC outlined that funding up to £5,000 was available, to be awarded by end March 2025
 - RC and DT will draft the funding application to maximise the projects impact and include 1) Cost of wildflower seed, 2) Community use requirements inc. materials for Little Growers and new/replacement tools and 3) other potential equipment
- HSBC Scottish Community Fund Grant - opportunity:
 - DM outlined an opportunity made available on 1st Dec for employees of HSBC, which required submission by 12th Dec for up to £500; following consultation with RC a funding application has been submitted for part funding of the electric fence
- Other Grants to be explored:
 - NAC – RC to explore further options
 - Arran Trust – RC to explore option of funding for ACLI Storyboards (c. £400) and Website updates (c.£200)

1. Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
18-Nov-25	Finances	RC to update Trustees on advice from Rural Payments regarding whether there is a need for two ACLI bank accounts	RC	Ongoing	Dec: Discussions underway
18-Nov-25	Finances	RC to present further details and opportunities for funding for a carbon study, soil study and expansion of wetland area, as per advice from the Scottish Agricultural Consultancy	RC	Ongoing	Dec: Carbon Study to be completed by YE

30. Education-WB Primary school and more

- Arran High School:

- Discussions to be progressed with Mara Gosman (Head of Geography) by DM
- Whiting Bay Primary:
 - RC, DM and AH met with Thom Jones, a new resident of Whiting Bay and an ex Life Sciences teacher, who is keen to support and provided insight on what learnings could be provided by ACLI including opportunities to use polytunnel and allotment plot space
 - RC and TJ will continue dialogue with Claire at Whiting Bay Primary to further develop the approach and plan
- RC provided insight to an EcoSavvy led Arran Environmental Festival being planned for March, with a view to getting storyboards installed by then and offering Trustee led walks around ACLI emphasising what biodiversity looks like on land without habitation or agricultural activity;
- **New Action: RC to continue dialogue with EcoSavvy regarding the Arran Environmental Festival planned for March 2026, and provide an update to Trustees at the next meeting**
- Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	RC to put required documentation in place for SB to be lead signatory on Disclosure matters going forward	RC	Ongoing	Dec: Paperwork prepared by RC, to be given to SB to take forward

9. AOCB

- No items for discussion

Field Tabulation – December 2025

Field	Size (Ha)	Descriptor	Vegetation Cover	Habitat	Tasks	Non-Intervn, Min Mgmt, Active Mgmt
1	1.05	Front Horse Field	Grass	Improved Grassland	Graze/roll/manage 'weeds'	AM
2	1.54	Upper Horse Field	Grass	Improved Grassland	Graze/roll/manage 'weeds'	AM
3	0.85	Small in-between field	Wild/wooded/dense thicket	Natural Woodland and Bracken	Leave	NI
4	0.34	Orchard Field above hub	Heavy bracken/grass cover		Feed and prune trees; cut grass	AM
5	1.23	Allotment/Hub/Garden	Grass and rush	Garden	Feed and prune trees; cut grass	AM
6	0.41	Behind Farm Shed	Heavy bracken cover	Bracken	Potential future tree planting site	AM

7	0.84	Swing	Heavy bracken between saplings	Bracken	Bracken knock back	MM
8	1.29	Front of Bench	Steep, grass/bracken cover at margins	Unimproved grassland with significant bracken at margins	Cut bracken-top field annually	AM
9	2.57	NW Corner Field	Mainly grass with heavily overgrown perimeters,	Mainly unimproved grassland, native scrub at margins,	Graze field annually and flail margins	AM
10	1.16	Ex-caravan field	Mainly grass with heavily overgrown perimeters	Unimproved grassland	Graze field annually and flail margins	AM
11	2.3	Lower Grazing Field	Grass with margins overgrown by bramble, gorse and bracken	Improved Grassland	Graze; cut bracken and remove ragwort	AM
12	1.97	Bounds Habitation/ Lower Glenashdale Track	Very heavily overgrown with significant tree/shrub growth in proximity to GA Track	Scrub/marshy grassland	Scrub Management' designation	NI
13	4.46	Middle Field bounding Glenashdale Track	Very heavily overgrown with significant tree/shrub growth in proximity to GA Track	Scrub/woodland	Scrub management' designation	NI
14	3.12	Upper Field bounding Glenashdale Track/ Footpath steps	Grass with very extensive rush cover	Marshy Grassland		MM
15	2.32	Bird Hide Field	Grass with some rush, bracken and shrub	Scrub/Marsh Grassland	Scrub Management' designation	NI
16	2.3	Two Pond Field	Grass with very extensive rush cover	Marshy Grassland		MM
17	1.69	Upper Grazing Field	Grass with margins overgrown by bramble, gorse and bracken	Improved Grassland	Graze, cut bracken and remove ragwort	AM
Total Ha	29.44					

The meeting adjourned at 18.30

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 13th January 2026 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

**Trustee Meeting 18th November 2025
Benview**

Attendees		
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair	Present
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary	Present
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer	Present
Sophie Bunyan (SB)		Apologies
Darren Townsend (DT)		Present
Jill Wilkinson (JW)		Present

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
2	Adoption of Previous Minutes
3	Matters Arising
4	Land Management Planning
5	Hub, Community Garden & Allotment update
6	Financial update
7	WB Primary School
8	Tree Surgery
9	AOCB

31. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees, noting apologies from Sophie

32. Adoption of previous minutes

- RC proposed, DM seconded

33. Matters Arising

- Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	RC to put required documentation in place for SB to be lead signatory on Disclosure matters going forward	RC	Ongoing	
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	JW to contact Mara Gosman to suggest a discussion with RC on whether ACLI could be used to support Geography studies	JW	Ongoing	Nov: JW to pass on Mara's details to RC and DM in order to follow up directly and gauge interest in using ACLI for high school Geography projects
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	SB to ask Mandy to complete a Little Growers questionnaire	SB	Ongoing	
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	SB to explore ideas for a Christmas event for Little Growers	SB	Ongoing	
14-Oct-25	ACLI community use	RC and DT to contact William and politely ask that use be restricted to nominated tracks only, at reasonable speed, and speed to be reduced when other users are present	RC	Completed	Nov: RC met directly with William and had a constructive and friendly conversation, explaining that access to the land was for all and that users were asked to treat with both the land and other users with respect which William was open to

34. Land Management Planning

1. Land Management Plan:

- RC summarised discussions from the last Trustee meeting, regarding circulation and feedback of the LMP to/from ACLI members, a number of expert individuals and the need to consolidate feedback into the document. Clearly this should include findings and advice from recent specialist ecological and woodland studies.
- The document presents a field inventory with required tasks, resource requirements and timings with a narrative which relates to ACLI's constituted purpose.
- Aside our 'hub field', 4 fields are dedicated to horse grazing with the remaining 12 having been allowed to revert to a 'natural' state. Of this 12 we receive government grants to a) encourage wildflowers in 2 fields designated as 'unimproved grassland' and b) allow the un-interfered establishment of native shrub in 4 fields designated as 'non montane shrub of conservation value'.
- To meet our obligations as stipulated within the contract with government the 'wildflower improvement' fields must be either cut or grazed after flowers have seeded. We have consistently been advised that although cutting and removal fulfils the minimum contractual requirement, grazing is preferable as it a) resembles what would have been originally a 'natural' process as well as b) exposes the soil profile to seed thereby significantly improving the chances of new germination and enhanced wildflower colonisation.

- DT outlined the availability of a North Ayrshire Biodiversity fund that could potentially be integrated with these approaches particularly for the provision of wildflower seeds and/or plugs. This is consistent with what has been done previously with the deployment of plugs on the 'hill field' (ie no 8) where grazing is not practical, while wildflower seed could be deployed on the former 'caravan field' (no 10) which we are planning on grazing. As agreed at our last meeting, we also plan to graze the NE field (no 9) and could
- include 'yellow rattle' in a seed mix as recommended by the ecology study to weaken the grass thereby improving the chances of establishing a higher future wildflower concentration.
- **New Action: DT to circulate details of North Ayrshire Council's Biodiversity fund for review by Trustees and potential application**
- **Previous actions:**

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Land Management	RC to confirm if a roller needs to be purchased with Liz Kennedy	RC	Completed	
14-Oct-25	Land Management	RC to include appropriate time to roller in the LMP	RC	Completed	
14-Oct-25	Land Management	RC to install a sign outlining User Responsibilities by the shed	RC	Completed	Nov: Signs produced by RC and shared with trustees, trustees confirmed these could be installed
14-Oct-25	Land Management	AH & RC to assess condition of benches and mount on slabs where required	AH	Ongoing	Nov: Reviewed and additional paint added to our two benches; Rob to provide spare bricks to mount benches on
14-Oct-25	Land Management	Trustees to agree location of winter tree planting (see land management planning below). RC to contact F&LS to ask about availability of trees for the coming winter.	All	Not Started	Oct: Rob spoken to Jackie who is positive that trees can be sourced for ACLI
14-Oct-25	Land Management	Trustees to review the LMP for discussion at the next Trustee meeting	All	Completed	Nov: Discussion held

35. Hub, Community Garden & Allotment update

2. Hub:
 - AH suggested we use the two bays by the produce table for a new delivery of manure from Liz, noting that these needed some attention to ensure fit for purpose which he would address – Trustees were in agreement
 - AH noted there was some remaining manure between the tree cage and the red currant enclosure which can be used this year
 - **New Action – AH to restore the two bays by the produce table for new delivery of manure**
3. Polytunnels:
 - AH outlined that he has repaired the sliding doors which had come ajar from their fixings
 - RC outlined that the polytunnel bays would be allocated to allotment users and communications sent
 - **New Action: Polytunnel bays to be reviewed by RC and AH and communication sent to allotment holders**
4. Allotments:
 - RC outlined that we have three new allotment holders and that introductory meetings had been held

- RC confirmed items from Jim's allotment still required removal, and that he would be contacted by way of reminder
- **Previous Actions:**

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	DT to remove algae from polytunnels and install guttering	DT	Ongoing	Nov: Algae removed from the top, the bottom to be completed; vegetation to be removed on the north side; guttering and drainpipe priced at c.£150 - Trustees to discuss at the next meeting if this is required
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	RC to email confirmed allotment holders early November to request polytunnel clear up c. end November	RC	Ongoing	Nov: RC to do once new bays have been allocated, which is underway
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	AH to manage the splitting of the large polytunnel plot into three sections	AH	Ongoing	Nov: Trustees confirmed these would be used for Little Growers; AH has discussed with Mandy and agreed the preferred approach is to split into two sections with access for youngsters in between - AH to progress
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	RC to get quote for 30 raspberry canes for the management of fruit bushes by John Parker-Jones	RC	Not Started	Nov: On hold until required for the 2026 season
14-Oct-25	Hub, Community Garden & Allotments	DT to level grass by the hub and clean up firepit	DT	Completed	Nov: AH and DT confirmed the grass is now levelled and the firepit cleaned.

6. Finance update

1. Financial Status:

- AH confirmed current balances at 18th November as:
 - Current account: £4613.75
 - Savings account: £2135.20
- AH confirmed income from allotments to date is £540, c. £100 from produce sales, and £100 from a donation received this week
- AH also confirmed a February invoice of c.£300 is expected from Ian Armstrong for the annual work that he undertakes to cut back track side growth and hedges across the entire site
- DM confirmed a proposed Financial Reporting template had been circulated to Trustees for comment; this will be updated and presented at the next meeting prior to formal adoption by Trustees, and circulated 1 week prior to a Trustee meeting thereafter
- RC confirmed he has contacted the Rural Payment department to understand if two separate accounts are needed and will update Trustees at the next meeting
- **New Action: RC to update Trustees on advice from Rural Payments regarding whether there is a need for two ACLI bank accounts**
- RC proposed that JW would stand down as second signatory, to be replaced by RC as chair – Trustees were supportive of this
- **New Action: Second bank signatory to be updated to be RC, with AH remaining as first signatory**
- RC confirmed that accounts had been prepared and would now be submitted to the OSCR.
- **New Action: RC to submit accounts to the OSCR**

5. Funding:

- RC confirmed there had not been a response to the application for an electric fence; Trustees confirmed they remained supportive of purchasing this regardless of the outcome of the

application, which was estimated to be £750 for 300m of double electric fencing including fence posts, as advised by Gavin Mutch

- **New Action: RC to reconfirm price options for an electric fence with Gavin Mutch**
- **New Action: RC to provide update on electric fence funding application**
- RC outlined that advice from Alex Pirrie at the Scottish Agricultural Consultancy was that ACLI is potentially eligible for three small grants: 1. To undertake a carbon study, 2. To undertake a soil study, and 3. To expand the wetland area. RC further explained that the carbon and soil study would need to be undertaken in the next 12 months, noting that both will become statutory requirements for our Basic Farm Payment as well as providing a better understanding of the soil science and how much carbon is being sequestered on site.
- **New Action: RC to present further details and opportunities for funding for a carbon study, soil study and expansion of wetland area, as per advice from the Scottish Agricultural Consultancy**

6. Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Finances	DM to draft a budget and financial forecast template for review with AH and RC prior to finalising and using for financial management	DM	Completed	Nov: Shared with Trustees prior to Nov mtg and overview provided at the mtg; to be formally adopted from Dec

7. Whiting Bay Primary School

- RC and AH provided an update on the recent meeting with Claire McNally, Interim Deputy Head of Whiting Bay Primary School
- Claire was keen to utilise ACLI, outlining that this would be of particular interest to a small number (3-4) of children, for probably half day sessions, accompanied by a teacher; she was extremely enthusiastic to tap into a local community owned facility noting that children would be transported in a teacher's car
- Trustees agreed we were entirely supportive of this approach, noting we would need to know who would be using ACLI, when and what for, in order to ensure awareness to us and other users; DT noted the success with school visits in the past
- RC and AH offered to devise a school visits schedule, together with Mandy given her leadership of Little Growers and it's success, with advice from Claire on ideal activities
- RC noted that the option of a John Muir award was discussed, but not thought appropriate for primary school aged children
- **New Action: RC and AH to continue discussions with Claire McNally of Whiting Bay School, with a view to school visits commencing in the new year**
- Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Whiting Bay Primary School	RC and AH to discuss the requirement for the school/teachers to take responsibility for activities on ACLI at the forthcoming meeting with Whiting Bay School	RC	Completed	Nov: AH and RC discussed at mtg with Clare McNally of Whiting Bay primary
14-Oct-25	Whiting Bay Primary School	RC and AH to discuss schools appetite for using ACLI for the John Muir Award scheme at the forthcoming meeting with Whiting Bay School	AH	Completed	Nov: AH and RC discussed at mtg with Clare McNally of Whiting Bay primary, and agreed not appropriate for Primary school aged children

10. Tree Surgery

- Previous actions:

Meeting Date	Theme	Action	Owner	Status	Commentary
14-Oct-25	Tree Surgery	Trustees to review tree surgery quotes for the sycamore by Ian and Emily's house at the next meeting, in order to expedite action and confirm whether a grant application will be required	All	Some Issues	Nov: - RC received quote for £2k from mainland contractor and confirmed the quote from Ryan is now £2k - RC has spoken to Andy Macdonald who advised that any tree surgery near to lines should be undertaken by the owner of those lines - DM spoken to Zeno Alberti on Middle Road who had a similar situation earlier in the year, who confirmed that the owner of any lines is responsible for any required work and would not allow work to be undertaken by anyone else - RC spoken to Brody at the Council who confirmed that SSE or Openreach would address any issues, pending confirmation of ownership - RC to contact SSE and ask Ian & Emily to also contact SSE, to escalate the need for works to be done - RC to contact Sandy McGovern to advise on progress, following concerns raised by her to JW

11. AOCB

- DT enquired about the state of fields following the recent extensive rainfall
- JW confirmed that the work done by Craig on track runoff has been successful although she still has a problem with the southern side of field 2: very boggy where the drains are broken
- JW highlighted that some of the fences on the field have rotten due to wet ground and would need repair; Trustees confirmed that costs would be covered
- **New Action: JW to arrange for fence repairs as needed around horse fields with Bert Ramage**
- Trustees discussed whether any further drainage work was required, including on the track to Mandy Hunters house – it was agreed that this will be monitored over the coming months with no action required at this time
- RC outlined that a tree had fallen down by the bird hide in recent winds, which has now been removed

The meeting adjourned at 19.15

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 15th December 2025 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Outdoors Education and Recreation for All

Trustee Meeting 14th October 2025
Benview

Attendees	
Rob Cowieson (RC)	Chair
Debbie Morgan (DM)	Secretary
Alasdair Hall (AH)	Treasurer
Sophie Bunyan (SB)	
Darren Townsend (DT)	
Jill Wilkinson (JW)	

Agenda	
1	Welcome & Apologies
2	Adoption of Previous Minutes
3	Matters Arising
4	Land Management Planning
5	Hub, Community Garden & Allotment update
6	Financial update
7	Tree Surgery
8	AOCB

36. Welcome & Apologies

- RC welcomed Trustees and outlined some change in structure to meetings going forward in order to facilitate additional discussion time

37. Adoption of previous minutes

- RC proposed, DT seconded

38. Matters Arising

1. Sourcing of roller:

- RC confirmed that Liz Kennedy has agreed to share a roller with ACLI - whether this needs to be purchased is to be confirmed – **Action: RC to confirm if a roller needs to be purchased**
- JW confirmed spring is the best time to roller, Trustees agreed to add into the Land Management Plan (LMP) – **Action: RC to include appropriate time to roller in the LMP**

2. Disclosure applications:

- RC explained that Sheridan (ACVS) has confirmed that Trustees do not need disclosure approval, unless taking responsibility for managing ‘vulnerable’ members of the community; RC confirmed that Mandy’s role with Little Growers was explicitly discussed, Sheridan confirmed that since Mandy plans activities for families (ie not children) a disclosure is not required
- SB confirmed this is correct, following an update in legal requirements in April 2025, but outlined that ACLI Trustees are liable if something is inadvertently left around and an accident happens; Trustees agreed that all users need to be made aware that they take responsibility whilst on ACLI land – **Action: RC to install a sign outlining User Responsibilities by the shed**
- SB explained that disclosure requirements may need to be revisited if schools take part in activities on ACLI and we have direct responsibility for child interaction (school visits last year were facilitated by school teachers and assistants)- **Action: RC and AH to discuss the requirement for the school/teachers to take responsibility for activities on ACLI at the forthcoming meeting with Whiting Bay School**
- Trustees agreed to continue to monitor disclosure requirements and take action as required – **Action: RC to put required documentation in place for SB to be lead signatory on Disclosure matters going forward**

3. Renaming of Field 8 to Ferun’s Field:

- RC confirmed that he had spoken to Robbie and this is probably best dropped for now.

4. John Muir Award Scheme:

- AH confirmed a letter has been sent to Quentin Black to invite interest in using ACLI for John Muir accreditation but had not yet had a response – **Action: RC and AH to discuss schools appetite for using ACLI for the John Muir Award scheme at the forthcoming meeting with Whiting Bay School**

5. School involvement:

- AH confirmed a meeting has been arranged with Claire McNally (acting Deputy Head for Primary Schools) for Friday 24th October at 2.30pm; Trustees confirmed the discussion should cover 1. Appetite for using ACLI for the John Muir Trust awards, 2. Activities the school would like to use ACLI for (with the school taking full responsibility), 3. Advice on how ACLI might encourage older/high school children to get involved
- DM suggested high school involvement might be welcomed by Geography students; JW offered to contact Mara Gosman to suggest a discussion with RC – **Action: JW to contact Mara Gosman to suggest a discussion with RC on whether ACLI could be used to support Geography studies**

6. Pesticide Application course:

- RC outlined that pesticide application would be done professionally if and when required and therefore a course was not required

7. Bench restoration:

- AH confirmed that one bench is left to treat, but that some were rotting at the feet and need to be placed on slabs – **Action: AH & RC to assess condition of benches and mount on slabs where required**

8. Little Growers:

- SB confirmed that completion of questionnaires remained at three, and that Mandy would be approached for feedback – **Action: SB to ask Mandy to complete a Little Growers questionnaire**

9. Ownership of Beehives:

- RC confirmed that he had contacted the Bee Club to confirm that all hives on ACLI land are owned by Mark

10. Dog poop bins:

- DT and RC confirmed that a poop bin has now been placed in front of the barn, RC will routinely empty

11. Little Growers Halloween event:

- SB advised that the recent harvest event to thank volunteers was a success, with cake enjoyed by all; the preferred next event is Christmas time – **Action: SB to explore ideas for a Christmas event for Little Growers**

12. Tool security:

- DT advised that tools in the shed had been sorted, and two combination locks installed to limit access (one on the shed with the lawn and mower, one on the shed with the Honda mower)
- DT confirmed that an open shed remains for use by allotment holders
- DT enquired if there is a tool inventory, AH confirmed there isn't; this was not taken forward at this stage

13. Conclusion of support from Zabdi:

- RC confirmed that a thank you email had been sent to Arran Pioneer thanking them for funding support from Zabdi

14. Tree planting:

- [To be followed up at the next Trustee meeting] – **Action: Trustees to agree location of winter tree planting (see land management planning below). RC to contact F&LS to ask about availability of trees for the coming winter.**

39. Land Management Planning

1. RC provided a comprehensive overview of the current status of the ACLI LMP, including recent strategic reviews; key points as follows:
 - The purpose of the plan is to make clear how we intend to manage our land in the context of ACLI's constituted purpose (outdoor education and recreation).
 - Our c.80 acre holding was re-registered as a farming unit with the Scottish Agricultural and Rural Payments Directive ('Rural Payments') in mid 2019 and is therefore eligible for a 'Basic Farm Payment'. At this time we also engaged the Scottish Agricultural Consultancy ('SAC') who advise most of the farms on Arran (annual membership c. £300)
 - SAC has provided significant advice on how to manage our land in the context of our charitable purpose and the appropriate grants available to ACLI. Of particular interest and relevance are those relating to biodiversity and carbon capture. Opportunities for arable production are very limited however grazing has some potential 'conservation benefit'.
 - Rob is currently our nominated 'responsible person' and is in regular contact with both Rural Payments and SAC's local representative Alex Pirrie.
 - With SAC's assistance we now have the following contracts and related payments, as they relate to our land holding and its management, in place:
 - i. Basic Farm Payment + 'Greening Payment' (the latter relating to the adoption of biodiversity enhancement measures) -> c.£750/annum payable in September
 - ii. Two Agriculture and Environment Scheme (AECS) payments:
 1. Species Rich Grassland Management (fields 8 and 10) -> c. £300/annum payable in February
 2. Managing Non-montane Shrub of Conservation Value (fields 12, 13 & 15) -> c. £700/annum payable in February
 - A first draft of the Land Management Draft was circulated to all ACLI members and other island stakeholders (F&LS, NT, COAST etc as well as a variety of ecology and land management professionals in 2024). Since then we have also had two recent studies done by SAC staff on Biodiversity and Woodland Management. The current revised draft includes feedback as well as detail from each of the two recent studies.
2. RC invited discussion on two specific LMP related topics:
 - An option for Field 10 is to provide a temporary enclosure for horse grazing using an electric fence, whereby Laura Tulloch has expressed interest for her two horses; this assumes there is no desire for further fixed fences. RC explained that a grant of £750 may be available for the purchase of the electric fence.
 - i. Trustees confirmed no further fixed fences were anticipated or desired in order that we maintain the current accessible and open aspect to our holding;

- ii. Trustees therefore confirmed that while the grant for the electric fence should be pursued irrespective of its outcome we should purchase the electric fencing in order that grazing can commence now that ground bird nesting has finished.
- iii. This has the benefit of fulfilling our obligation to the Species Rich Grassland Management contract while also providing additional grazing for our horse leases.
- iv. If the use of electric fencing is successful then field 9 could also be made available for grazing as recommended in the recent biodiversity study.
- The draft LMP, which includes a calendar of land management tasks and suggested owners, requires review and challenge from Trustees with a view to finalising and publishing in preparation for 2026 – **Action: Trustees to review the LMP for discussion at the next Trustee meeting**

40. Hub, Community Garden & Allotment update

7. Hub:

- RC and DT confirmed that Hub field rubbish has been cleared, with help gratefully received from Robin Young

2. Polytunnels:

- DT offered end of season cleaning to remove algae, and suggested that guttering could be installed to limit algae and provide rainwater collection, which Trustees supported – **Action: DT to remove algae from polytunnels and install guttering**
- Trustees agreed that allotment holders would be requested to clear polytunnel plots by end November – **Action: RC to email confirmed allotment holders early November to request polytunnel clear up c. end November**
- Trustees agreed to split the large plot by the entrance into three to provide additional space to allotment holders – **Action: AH to manage the splitting of the large polytunnel plot into three sections**

3. Community Garden:

- DT and RC confirmed that Karyn Wilson Costa would continue to manage the community polytunnel, and Mandy would continue to manage the Little Growers garden
- RC confirmed that John Parker-Jones has offered to take responsibility for the fruit bushes, and requested to buy 30 raspberry canes – **Action: RC to get quote for 30 raspberry canes for the management of fruit bushes by John Parker-Jones**

4. Allotments:

- RC confirmed emails have been sent to current allotment holders to confirm allocation of plots for 2026, and reiterate that items should be removed when plots were no longer required
- RC confirmed that Jim Park had been asked to remove items from his plot, in time for the next allotment holder
- RC and AH discussed the need for an overwintering plan should plots be available, to minimise excessive weeds

5. General maintenance:

- DT confirmed winter digger tasks were underway
- DT requested that grassy areas by the hub were levelled at the end of the year and the firepit cleaned up – **Action: DT to level grass by the hub and clean up firepit**

6. Finance update

- AH confirmed current balances at 14th October as:
 - Current account: £4257.50 (including ARE payment of £758.25)
 - Savings account: £2135.20
- AH confirmed expected income from allotments is £600, with two payments made to date
- RC presented options for creating and managing a budget and financial forecast – **Action: DM to draft a budget and financial forecast template for review with AH and RC prior to finalising and using for financial management**
- RC confirmed two grants had been submitted, with outcome expected at EOY:
 - Electric Fencing (£750) from the Rural Payments fund
 - Lawn Mower from NAC
- AH confirmed invoices had been received for the VAT element of the Biodiversity and Woodland Studies, Trustees confirmed these could be paid

7. Tree Surgery

1. RC explained the concern over the sycamore tree adjacent to Ian and Emily's house, and actions taken to resolve:
 - JW confirmed that a quote of £4k had been received from Ryan Armstrong, which assumes complex tree surgery due to the presence of telegraph wires, and that additional quotes are awaited from Gareth McNicoll and James McKewen; all agree that surgery requires full leaf fall
 - RC confirmed that a further two contractors from the mainland have been approached for quotes
 - Trustees agreed that addressing this is a matter of priority, but that charity funds are not sufficient should £4k be required; Trustees acknowledged a grant may be required
 - **Action – Trustees to review tree surgery quotes for the sycamore by Ian and Emily's house at the next meeting, in order to expedite action and confirm whether a grant application will be required**

8. AOCB

1. RC outlined concerns raised by ACLI users of the owner of an electric bike using ACLI land at high speed, in particular in some of the fields; RC, DT and SB confirmed this was an individual living on Montrose Terrace (William) – **Action: RC and DT to contact William and politely ask that use be restricted to nominated tracks only, at reasonable speed, and speed to be reduced when other users are present**

2. RC confirmed there was no serious damage across the site following the recent storm

The meeting adjourned at 19.15

Next Trustee Committee Meeting on 11th November 2025 at 5:15pm, at Benview

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting
2/9/25
Benview

Present : Rob Cowieson (RC), Alasdair Hall (AH), Sophie Bunyan (SB); Darren Townsend (DT)
Karyn Wilson (KW);
Guest: Debbie Morgan (DB)
Apologies from Jill Wilkinson (JW)

1. Adoption of previous Minutes proposed by AH, seconded by RC
2. Matters arising from 15/7/25 meeting:
 - Re sourcing a roller: no progress as yet
 - JW has booked Ryan Armstrong to attend to the tree near the properties of S. McGovern and E & I Longmore in the autumn.
 - Re new Disclosure applications: RC has still to tackle the paperwork (RC); DM enquired whether a list of volunteers concerned has been drawn up. RC agreed to do this (RC)
 - Re clearance of the last of the Hub field rubbish: Robin Young has agreed to loan his trailer. RC and AH to contact him (RC; AH)
 - Re DT's request to hire a digger: Trustees agreed this would be useful for winter tasks such as clearing ditches. DT suggested drawing up a plan (with aid of AH) and then sourcing a digger (DT; AH)
 - Re DT's suggestion to rename Field 8 as Ferun's Field, in memory of Mandy Hunter's late son: still outstanding
 - RE John Muir Award Scheme: AH to recontact Quentin Black. SB will keep a watchful eye on the John Muir website for updates. (AH; SB)
 - AH to contact Fiona Kerr re potential ongoing involvement of Whiting Bay Primary School at ACLI during the new school year (AH)
 - RC reported the bracken bashing is ongoing and that Alex McBain has been helping as a volunteer with physical tasks after a referral by NAC Social Services. The arrangement is being monitored and is proving beneficial both to him and ACLI (RC; AH)
 - RC reported that Jim Park is giving up his allotment
 - Craig McNeil has completed the work to improve access and drainage along the tracks as far as quarry for a fee of £1600
 - RE Pesticide Application Course: RC has yet to contact the Scottish Agricultural College (RC)
 - RE treatment of the benches with wood preservative : AH reported that there remains one bench to be treated (AH)

3. Finance update:

- The current bank balances as reported by AH are: £2,377.55 (current account); £3,356.10 (savings account) The current account was used to pay Craig McNeil (£1600) and purchase a new mower (£600) RC reminded Trustees that there will be increased funds in the current account once Horse Field payments, annual allotment fees and Farm Subsidies and environmental grants have been received but in the meantime, AC suggested moving £2000 from the Savings account into the Current account. This was agreed by Trustees. (AH)
- AH to draw up a Money Plan for the next few months (AH)

4. Grant Applications

- RC has consulted Gavin Mutch re cost of adding electric fencing to a potential new grazing field for use by Laura Tulloch and will put in a grant application for £750

5. Little Growers

- SB reported she had received 3 completed questionnaires with feedback from parents. KW suggested Mandy Lovejoy could also be given one
- Re the wasp nest in front of the Hub: KW reported she visited the child who had been stung and there was no cause for concern. RC reported he had contacted Mark, resident beekeeper, who had intervened swiftly and effectively.
- SB raised the question of the ownership of the empty beehives at ACLI, which had been mentioned at a recent meeting of the Isle of Arran Bee Club. RC is to contact the Bee Club to confirm that all hives at ACLI belong to Mark (RC)

6. 'Hub Field'/ Community Garden/Allotments

- KC reported that over £70 has been collected so far in the Honesty Box
- RC reminded Trustees that Allotment leases are to be renewed at the beginning of November and that there are potentially 6 that will not be renewed and will therefore be available. The annual leasing fee is £30 per half plot

8. Wider Land Management Tasks

- RC pointed out that as per the advice of the recent Survey non native species such as salmon berries and fuchsia need to be controlled
- DT reminded Trustees that ACLI land has specimens of rare Arran Whitebeam ; at the invitation of RC (via Henry Murdo), a representative of the Woodland Trust has been collecting seeds which will be propagated in the tree nursery on the Isle of Mull)
- Re tree planting this winter: DT suggested a plan be thought out before organizing tree planting sessions in the winter months. DT and RC will agree on potential locations. There was some discussion re which groups could potentially be asked to help. SB agreed the Little Growers and their parents could take part; AH will contact WB Primary School and Fiona Kerr; DM suggested contacting Graham Johnson at the Arran Foundation
- RC reminded Trustees that the Forestry Commission can provide a range of indigenous broadleaf trees for free; RC to contact them (RC)

9. Education

- It was agreed that 6 storyboards are to be positioned around the Community Land to reflect the main points in the recent Survey, accompanied by photos of flora and fauna. RC to produce powerpoint slides and storyboards (RC)

9. AOCB

- To tackle the increase in dog poop left around the Community land, it was agreed that more poop collection bins, poop bag distribution points and signage were needed. KW reminded Trustees that NAC provides poop bags free of charge (RC)
- AH raised the question of the extra invoice sent by SRUC Innovations Ltd. RC to investigate the amount demanded (RC)
- After RC pointed out the complications involved in organising AH's suggested Autumn bbq, DT suggested organising a Halloween event. SB to investigate further and sound out parents in Little Growers and Mandy (AL). RC offered to make pizzas in ACLI's pizza oven. DT offered his help in organising.
- DT informed Trustees he has stored the new mower in the tool cupboard in the Hub shed, which he suggested should be locked as some tools have gone missing. DT also suggested there should be rules on who can use the new mower. DT to look at the security surrounding the use of tools and report back at the next Trustees meeting (DT)
- Re ZK's involvement at ACLI: RC reported that funding from the Arran Pioneer Project has come to an end. SB suggested emailing ZK to thank her for her help. DT suggested emailing the Arran Pioneer Project organisers to thank them also (RC)
- KW is standing down from her role as Trustee and Secretary, but will continue to oversee the Community Garden. RC thanked KW on behalf of the Trustees and welcomed DM as a new Trustee. DM has agreed to take on the role of Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 18h37

Next Trustees' Committee Meeting to be held on October 14th 2025 at Benview at 17h15

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting
15/7/25 5.15pm
Benview

Present : Rob Cowieson (RC), Alasdair Hall (AH), Jill Wilkinson (JW) Karyn Wilson (KW); apologies from Sophie Bunyan (SB); Darren Townsend (DT)

1. Adoption of previous Minutes proposed by RC, seconded by JW
2. Matters arising from 17/6/25 meeting:
 - Re sourcing a roller: RC to ask Liz Kennedy (RC)
 - Ryan Armstrong has agreed to attend to the tree near the properties of S. McGovern and E & I Longmore in the autumn. JW to book him in for October. (JW)
 - KW has replaced out of date items in First Aid Box.
 - Re new Disclosure applications: RC has still to tackle the paperwork (RC)
 - Re clearance of the last of the Hub field rubbish: see AOCB
 - Re DT's request to hire a digger: still outstanding (DT)
 - Re DT's suggestion to rename Field 8 as Ferun's Field, in memory of Mandy Hunter's late son: still outstanding
 - RE continuation of visits from Whiting Bay Primary School pupils next school year: RC advised that teacher Fiona Kerr will be in charge of a different class of younger pupils and trustees wondered whether the visits would therefore continue
 - RE John Muir Award Scheme: AH has not heard back from Quentin Black. SB is to work on a structured education plan to be offered to schools (SB)

- RC reported the bracken bashing is ongoing and suggested tackling it earlier next year as the bracken is very tall already
- AH enquired re the health and wellbeing of Jim Park and expressed the need to encourage JP to keep his allotment
- Craig McNeil has provided a quote for work to improve access along the tracks up to ACLI
- RE Pesticide Application Course: RC has yet to contact the Scottish Agricultural College (RC)
- RE purchase of more wood preservative for the benches: this has now been applied by AH

3. Review of AGM Minutes

- There is nothing to report

4. Finances update:

- The current bank balances as reported by AH are: £5,006.51 (current account); £3,356.10 (savings account)
- Re submission of accounts to OSCR: JW has received audited accounts and RC will submit them to OSCR (RC)
- JW advised that as there are now fewer horses, revenue from this source has been reduced

5. Little Growers

- The questionnaire to obtain feedback from parents has been circulated to parents and SB will give feedback at the next Trustees meeting (SB)

6. 'Hub Field' / Community Garden

- KC reported that some produce is ready for picking and is regularly left for visitors to take away

7. Ecology Study Findings

- RC reported that the Study provides a comprehensive scientific snapshot of ACLI and really useful information and advice on land management and educational objectives:
- One of the standout advisories concerns the use of the top field where there is lots of grass that needs to be grazed or cut. RC expressed reservations re the latter solution as the field is currently full of voles. JW suggested Laura Tulloch (LT) could be approached re using the field for grazing from mid August, after the wildflowers have set. RC to liaise with LT (RC)
- A second recommendation in the Survey concerns the necessity of keeping the bracken knocked back
- KW asked whether the Survey is to be published on the website. RC suggested a more user-friendly approach to sharing the information could be to produce 6 storyboards to be positioned around the Community Land. It was agreed the Study could be easily condensed into a series of bullet points, accompanied by photos of flora and fauna. AH pointed out this would feed into the educational objectives foregrounded on the ACLI website

8. Wider Land Management Tasks

- Re repairing access tracks: RC reported the cost would be somewhere in the region of £2000. After some discussion re whether this would be an affordable/ necessary expenditure Trustees agreed sustainable investment in core infrastructure was both necessary and unavoidable to provide access to horse fields (first source of income)
- Trustees agreed to ask Craig McNeil to go ahead with the work and also to investigate the drainage problem in JW's field (JW)

- AH volunteered to trim the branches at the bottom of the trail leading to the carpark meanwhile (AH)
- A discussion ensued re the rotation of grazing fields and whether instead of topping some of the horse fields they could just be tidied up. JW pointed out the ideal time for spraying the fields is in Spring

9. AOCB

- Re transporting remaining rubbish to tip: AH reported fixing a tow bar to his van is not possible. RC suggested asking Robin Young (RY) to put his trailer at ACLI's disposal. KW volunteered to ask RY (KW)
- AH advised that Elizabeth has gifted a sprinkler to ACLI and that he has left some bird books in the Hub for the use of the Little Growers. The Trustees thanked both Elizabeth and AH
- RC advised that there is an additional bench that requires painting

Meeting adjourned at 6.13 pm

Next Trustees' Committee Meeting to be held at Benview at 5.15pm
Date 2/9/25 (post summer break)

Arran Community Land Initiative Trustees Meeting
 17/6/25 5.15pm
 Benview

Present : Rob Cowieson (RC), Sophie Bunyan (SB), Alasdair Hall (AH), Darren Townsend (DT); Jill Wilkinson (JW) Karyn Wilson (KW)

1. Adoption of previous Minutes proposed by DT seconded by AH
2. Matters arising from 13/5/25 meeting:
 - DT advised Trustees Juliette Walsh is very happy to be involved in ACLI activities when and where necessary
 - Re sourcing a roller: RC expressed a preference for sourcing a secondhand roller and using the Capital Fund to buy other equipment.
 - Ryan Armstrong has yet to attend to the tree near the properties of S. McGovern and E & I Longmore. JW to chase him up on this.
 - KW had yet to replace out of date items in First Aid Box. (At time of writing this has now been done).
 - Re new Disclosure applications: SB advised that RC has been named as lead signatory and coordinate and the necessary link has been sent to Trustees
 - Re clearance of the last of the Hub field rubbish: JP's trailer being no longer available it is still in situ. RC suggested leaving it there until the autumn (RC, AH)
 - The unused Rylock has been cleared away and moved to the Orchard
 - Re DT's request to hire a digger: DT is planning to hire one in July
 - Re the allocation of the spare bays in the Allotment Holders' Poly Tunnel: all bays are now allocated
 - Re DT's suggestion to rename Field 8 as Ferun's Field, in memory of Mandy Hunter's late son: Sandy McGovern has still not yet reported back on Ms Hunter's decision
 - RC reported that there has been positive feedback re the new website

- re tractor training: AH expressed the wish to have more training to ensure absolute safety especially on the higher ground (AH, DG)
- RC reported that Alastair Eccles is still owed £60 for the topsoil he provided
- Whiting Bay Primary School pupils have visited ACLI 3 times since May 20. Trustees reiterated the need for all accompanying adults/teachers/volunteers to be PVG-checked and therefore will advise ZK not to invite anyone who has not been PVG-checked. Trustees also expressed the need to check if ZK herself has been PVG-ed. (RC)
- RE John Muir Award Scheme: SB to check their website for the latest updates as it is being redesigned. (SB)
- DT pointed out that if ACLI is involved in the scheme in its own right and not as part of a wider group, this could inspire WB Primary School to get involved (SB)

3. Trustee Roles

As per the constitution, committee roles are decided at the first committee meeting after the AGM.

- RC remains as Chair
- JW stood down as Treasurer and remains second signatory for Internet banking purposes
- AH takes over as Treasurer and is to become a signatory for Internet banking purposes. JW to liaise with AH
- KW remains as Secretary but does not wish to continue in the role until the next AGM. There was a discussion re recording and writing up committee meeting Minutes using AI and it was agreed to trial this

3. Finances update:

The current bank balances as reported by JW are: £5,078.89 (current account); £3,356.72 (savings account)

4. Little Growers

- SB reported that the group's activities are still going well and praised the excellent support provided by Mandy (AL)
- DT has put together a questionnaire to obtain feedback from parents. DT to circulate this to Trustees who agreed that this was a good idea to ensure the group continues to thrive
- SB reported that the Willow Den is now used as a Storytelling Den at the end of each session
- RC pointed out that funding to support the involvement of ZK runs out in September.
- There was some discussion re potential educational programs and how to identify appropriately qualified people.

5. 'Hub Field'/ Community Garden

- KC reported that everything was going well

6. Wider Land Management Tasks

- RC and AH agreed to tackle the bracken on the hill on 19/6 as ticks are numerous and pathways need to be kept open for public access

7. AOCB

- AH suggested acquiring a trailer as JP's is no longer available. AH to investigate the cost of a tow bar and that of fixing it to his van
- RC raised the poor state of the track up to JW's horse field and suggested asking Craig McNeil to come and have a look at it. JW will contact him. RC will order more hardcore for the tracks

- RC raised the issue of the ragwort that is beginning to come through in the top field, pointing out this is likely to be an issue later in the summer. Re RC's suggestion to use backpack sprayers to control the ragwort DT pointed out that to do so it is a legal requirement to follow a Pesticide Application Course and obtain the PA1 and PA6 tickets. RC is to contact the Scottish Agricultural College and look into applying for the PAC course
- RC to buy more wood preservative for the benches. AH will apply it.

Meeting adjourned at 6.45 pm

Next Trustees' Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at Benview at 5.15pm