

IONA COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATES ADVISORY GROUP REPORT
REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2017

Present: Marlene Finlayson, Angus Mathieson, Alison Adam, Caro Smyth, Carla Roth, Simon Barrow, John Dale, Jan Maasen, Isabel Sarle, Richard Sharples, Mary Duncanson, Kathy Galloway, Christine Jones, Rachel Hockey, Benedicte Scholefield, Sandra Kramer, Jeanette Sheldrick

Apologies: Jennie Lismore

1 Marlene welcomed everybody and expressed Council's thanks to Kathy and Caro and Benedicte, and all staff and Members who'd shown trust and patience throughout this difficult time.

2 A second statement about the 'present situation' had been sent to Members and staff on Friday. Trustees had just agreed a version to be sent to Associates and Friends.

3 The office was led by Caro and Kathy.

4 Matters for AOCB - none

5 Minutes of last meeting 16 September 2017

A number of spelling changes were made to the previous minutes and the Minutes were agreed.

6 Matters arising:

a) September gathering – It was agreed a Members' gathering would take place in the Netherlands from 13- 18 October 2018. Theme would be around 'What does it mean to be European?'

NB It was confirmed that the Hallowing & Recommitment Service would remain as part of the AGM programme.

b) Leadership team will look at putting together hospitality list for Glasgow with a view to extending this to other places. This may reduce cost of regional plenaries to Members.

c) Israel/Palestine working group will bring an updated report to March Council.

7 Finance Committee report including extra items

a) It was decided to appoint an accountant for 2 days a month plus an extra day a quarter.

b) Budget for 2018 will be brought to March meeting.

c) It was agreed to sell a small portion of land at the rear of Roseneath and any monies raised be used either to start up a new Buildings Maintenance Fund, or be used to upgrade Shuna with a view to renting it out next year.

d) Renting out island properties as holiday lets needs to be further investigated.

e) Suggestions to increase entrance fee will be investigated. Visitors to the Abbey, may be able to use the Abbey toilets and see the Library and Refectory and it may be possible to offer visitors tea/coffee/baking in Refectory.

f) Following a proposal sent out to Council by email, it was **AGREED** in principle to merge the Finance and the Staffing sub-groups.

g) New directors of the Iona Community Trading Company Ltd need to be appointed. A number of names were suggested.

Marlene thanked John for all his work, especially over the last two months.

8 Report from interim leadership team

Benedicte thanked Council on behalf of staff for appointing the interim leadership team so quickly and confirmed it had made a great difference to staff in recent weeks.

9 Reports from the Committees, Capital Appeal and Associates

a) Iona Committee

- i) Following a review of timing of evening worship it was decided to revert to 9pm in 2018 and to ask the Iona Centres Futures Group (ICFG) to think about this further.
- ii) Pastoral Support - paper will be brought to March Iona cttee
- iii) It was agreed that a feasibility study about The Mac's future use should be started as well as a building survey to determine the future viability of the building.

b) Camas Committee

The woodland project has started and a new coordinator will be appointed in the new year. The Crerar Fund will be used next year as a fundraiser line for Camas.

c) Programme Committee

It was agreed to appoint a Safeguarding Officer, not only to organise bi-annual review and planning meetings but to co-ordinate safeguarding training and ongoing needs between the islands centres and mainland.

It was agreed to use the Travel Pool for the Young Adults gathering.

d) Iona Abbey Project Group (IAPG)

Christine Jones reported that we're not far off the half-way mark for the appeal; a message is ready to go to Members when it's reached. The role of Jo MacInnes and Phyllis Ives continues to be essential and much appreciated.

(a) Phase 2 will be Sept 2019 to Dec 2020. Raymond & Walter will be working on details of phase 2 in January but proposal is: 2018 non-residential, 2019 residential, 2020 closed. But what if money is in sooner?

(b) The £2.7m budget includes 3-year Development Worker post; It was agreed to investigate a proposal to consider an appointment in 2018 for the specific purpose of developing ideas for use of Abbey by disadvantaged groups. This would strengthen the business case for the Abbey in meantime.

e) Short report about AAG and survey

After last January's AAG meeting, when the desire was expressed by some for an induction to being Associate, an email survey was sent to all UK/Continental Associates. Rachel asked that Council approached the results positively, as a recognition of many committed people wanting to be more involved, rather than thinking that it will simply bring more work to the office. She said the results, from 51% response, were amazing and not yet fully reviewed. She asked Benedicte to continue the SurveyMonkey subscription so that we can assimilate the information in different ways.

Recommendations so far: to affirm the positive contribution of AMs; to organise regional 'intro to being an Associate' days, perhaps starting in London next year; to have an Associates week on Iona (tho in recent past they haven't been well attended) - they love a connection with IC people. 95 are interested in becoming a New Member though only those in an Associates group or FG will know what that means. Only 7% were under 45 years; low % of those who filled in survey were ex-volies.

Rachel asked if vollies, as well as resident staff, get Associate Membership for a year after they've left.

Angus thanked Rachel and said expressed delight in the huge and positive response. He was sorry we didn't have time to go through each point at the moment, asked Committee Conveners to take note and agreed that we need to take account of this in our strategic planning.

10 AOCB - none

11 Dates of next meetings:

Friday 16 March, Sat 19 May, Fri 21 Sept, Sat 8 Dec with AGM 1-3 June