

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**of**  
**Arran Community Land Initiative**  
**on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**at Whiting Bay Golf Club**

**In attendance:** Keith Robertson (Chairperson) (KR); Juliette Walsh (Treasurer) (JW); Ishbel Gordon (Secretary) (IG); Pippa Downing (ACLI Project Manager) (PD).

Also in attendance were:- Trisha Sloss, Andrew Downing, Rob and Nanette (Benview), Richard and Lynn, Ceilidh Keyworth, Matt Searles, Jennifer Macdonald, Maria Clayside, Malcolm Whitmore and Kathy Sayer, Neil Wilkinson, Claire and Stuart (Bay Stores), Robin Gray, Gill Kelly and Mum, Darren Townsend and Howard Litton.

**Apologies:** Jane McCartney

**Welcome:** Everyone was welcomed – since a minimum of 10 members is required for a members' AGM, this was more than fulfilled.

**Chairperson's Report:** KW said that he and Pippa would both contribute to the Chairperson's Report. PD did a presentation outlining what we have achieved in the past year.

We have employed 4 Session Workers, Jenny Macdonald, Andy Macdonald, Ceilidh Keyworth and Matt Searles.

She said food on site was the big thing this year and that with the Climate Challenge Fund 12 allotments and water taps were created in June/July. Jenny created a demonstration allotment plot and will demonstrate seasonal growing next year. We have a Community Garden where Eco Savvy have taken over one bed and others can too.

We are currently building two polytunnels, one with raised beds for the allotment holders and another near the Community Garden where we propose to grow peaches, kiwis etc.

Ceilidh has run sessions on composting showing different ways of composting, ie an array and a wormery.

We now have an Apiary on the land in collaboration with Arran Bee Group.

The Session Workers have run workshops on a whole range of subjects ie woodworking, preserving gluts of fruits, Jenny has run Family Groups which includes bushcraft, building fires, tea, nature craft, and of course fun and these continue every month now but were being run every week during the summer.

Arran High School groups have been on the land with Matt Searles who supervises their working on the land which gives them experience in teamwork, problem solving, communication, being creative, making plant beds and making them function and work. He mentioned Eco Savvy and a green manure design which will create an organic shape before winter. The children have also been involved in tree planting, making the holes, planting the trees and putting up fencing to protect said trees from deer. During Zero Waste Week he had them gather carpets from skips and had them stitch offcuts together to use on the land.

We also have an apple orchard with 30 apple trees and many children have helped plant the trees and put the fences up.

We received a donation and have used this money to pay for making walking paths with signs and vehicular tracks, these paths and tracks open up the site and links it with Glenashdale, and on the west side with forest tracks so that cyclists can access the forest tracks from the land. We also created car park access for the bee group.

We have had many children on the land helping out. Whiting Bay Primary School children helped with the raised beds.

There have been children completing John Muir Award activities on the land. Also the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award group have camped on the land. Jenny has had children participating in growing activities. Many children have worked on site with the Outdoor Centre. The Outdoor Centre are developing an orienteering course on the land and a map is being specially made.

There is a woodland Recreation Area where we have planted 20 Arran Whitebeam trees which are a protected species.

College horticultural courses will be run on the land.

Things which will be coming soon include an archery range, more walking routes, a nature reserve with bird hides, a woodland rubbing trail and our hub building.

Robin Gray proposed we accept the Chairperson's Report and Jenny Macdonald seconded it.

**Treasurer's Report:** JW provided our Financial Statements and said that all were welcome to look at them. PD listed the money we had received over the past year ie

Climate Challenge	£30,000
Postcode Lottery	£16-17,000
D'Oy	£4,000
Hugh Grant	£2,000
Health Scotland	£1,500
Arran Trust	£2,200
Robertson Trust	£8,000
JHT Trust	£250

Discussed how we have used this money to create the infrastructure but that that we need to make it sustainable and asked if anyone had any ideas on how to generate income. JW mentioned we have some income from horse grazing.

JW and PD are applying to Climate Challenge for fruit cages citing carbon reduction.

Robin Gray proposed we accept the Treasurer's Report and Jenny Macdonald seconded it.

Rob and Andy Surridge raised the issue about the parking space near their property and we agreed that a Land Certificate needs to be produced.

KR spoke again and all the Trustees stood down. All stood again and it was agreed and accepted.

KR said that the Trustees meet every 2 weeks by skype and that new Trustees would be welcome. Both Darren Townsend and Jane McCartney were put forward as Trustees and accepted.

## **Other Business**

The Trustees asked the audience for any ideas for what they would like done. Howard suggested a map of the land and Clair said if she had a laminated copy she would show her customers.

