Minutes of Ullapool Board Meeting. 13th October 2025 at 10am.

Present:- Siobhan Beatson, August Maclean, Penny Stewart, Mhairi Muncaster, and Neil Lebeter.

Apologies:- Erik Lundberg

Minutes:- The minutes from the last meeting were proposed by Mhairi Muncaster and seconded by Penny Stewart.

1. Funding

We have received match funding of £1000 to match the community benefit fund acquired for new laptops.

2. Young Curators Club

The Young Curators Club has gone very well as we reach its final weeks. There are 4 very engaged participants. The exhibition opens on the 1st of November in the Macphail centre and will run until the 7th. Local and nearby schools have been emailed about it inviting them to visit if they are interested.

3. Art Week

Art week went very well. There was a good turn out for the shadow puppets show and the talk with Nina Edge, as well as a good amount of interest in her art piece that was displayed in the museum.

4. Cruises

The cruises have gone very well and brought in a significant amount of money this year both from admissions and shop sales. There is set to be a higher number of boats next year. The Klondyker talks for Fred Olsen were very successful and Stephen has been given the go ahead to see if anyone else would be interested in it for next year.

5. Jen

Jen is going to be stepping back and her role will be taken over by Janelle who she has been giving a handover in the last few weeks.

6. Edinburgh training

Siobhan and August have just done a textile training session at the National Museum collection centre. It has been incredibly helpful for preparing for the YCC exhibition, general storage information, and making some new contacts from various organisations.

7. Next year

Strategic funding. MGS has launched the museum futures programme with a number of different funding options. We have applied and gotten funding to backfill Siobhans role which

will up August and Janelles hours to take on some of her tasks so Siobhan can focus more on strategy and long term plans.

Cruise liaison role

We are looking at an innovation and entrepreneur fund to form a cruise liaison role that will also help develop the Klondyker package and other similar ones as the cruises are taking an increasing amount of time to work on as it gets busier each year.

Telescopes

We are looking into installing telescopes by the harbour as a small passive income stream and a way of branching the museum outside of the building. There is a VR version which would show a 1800s version of shore street, and has two heights to be accessible that would cost approximately 24k to be done. There are also oral history posts for about 3k which could also utilise parts of the old village tour. We are currently in discussions over the details such as maintenance and weather proofing. The innovation fund goes up to 60k and would be suitable, the open fund with MGS would also work as an alternative.

Team building/well being

Barriers to work in tandem with the capacity fund to allow the staff to attend a number of conferences next year to expand knowledge and work on team building especially with Janelle newly joined. We are looking at getting a mentor/advocacy role that would also ideally do community consultation. We have a big focus on well being and are aware the museum isn't the easiest place to work in. We want to find ways we work well together, and maybe put together some hot desking funding.

8. Salary rates *REDACTED*

9. Finances

We are where we had hoped to be, sitting about 47k with a few weeks still to go, leaving us 15k up from last year already.

There has been some issues with the online shop as someone has been using it to test credit cards but they are all very small transactions and failing or being immediately refunded. We are going to set everything to out of stock until the issue can be resolved.

There hasn't been any progress with adding Neil to the bank account but that should hopefully be resolved shortly.

Mhairi is going to set a £250 limit on the card to allow Siobhan to use it to that limit without immediate approval being required.

10. AGM

The AGM is scheduled for 6pm on Wednesday 26th of November and will be online to allow everyone to easily attend. Siobhan and/or Neil will give a short presentation on the Young

Curators Club. The AGM will be advertised 3 weeks in advance. Mhairi will have the chairs report by 3rd November.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 11:45.