



**Lochaber Enterprise**  
Iomairt Lochabair

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
LOCHABER ENTERPRISE**

**Held Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2001  
Lochaber Enterprise, 12.30pm**

**The Minutes have been revised to exclude items of Commercial Confidence**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Cllr. D. McFarlane Slack</b>
	<b>Co. Secretary</b>	<b>Mr G. McIntyre Mr S. MacDonald Mr D. Wright Mr L. Young Mr A. MacLean Mrs K. MacGregor Mr I. Robertson Mr E. Daynes Mrs A. Martin</b>
	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Mrs J. Wright Mr S. Dingwall Mrs M. Cameron Miss M. Cormack</b>
		<b>Andrew Sargeant (HIE) Chris Roberts )HIE)</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		<b>Mr A. Race Mr A. Rogers Mr K. Larson</b>

**i). MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2001 were approved.  
The revised minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2001 were approved.

**Matters arising**

Torren Energy – A meeting has been held with the client regarding this project. A formal paper has not yet been submitted to Highlands & Islands Enterprise, due to further information required by Highlands & Islands Enterprise. Mr R. MacPhee has been contracted to help assemble this information on behalf of Torren Energy.

The following cases have been subsequently approved by Highlands & Islands Enterprise:

- Sco-Fro (Lochaber) Ltd
- Investors in People 2002/2003
- Lochaber College 3-year strategic funding

## Appointment of New Directors

Mr E. Daynes was formally admitted to the Board  
Mr I. Robertson was formally admitted to the Board  
Mrs A. Martin was formally admitted to the Board

## ii). **CASES FOR APPROVAL**

**Item ii) has been deleted to protect Commercial Confidentiality.**

## iii). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### Correspondence

No correspondence received.

### Lochaber Economic Forum Mapping Exercise

The first task of the Forum is to map out the provision of Business Development Services in the area, and identify overlap and duplication, and any gaps that exist. An action plan to address these issues is also required. This exercise is now almost complete.

The next meeting to confirm the plan is 9<sup>th</sup> October 2001 at 2pm. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and will be in public. The draft mapping exercise and action plan will be available for public consultation from 01/10/2001.

### Lochaber Enterprise Business Plan

The Business Plan was submitted to HIE in August. The plan was discussed, via videoconference, with Mr A. Rogers, Mrs J. Wright, Sandy Cumming and Jim Hunter.

The plan was recognised as being focussed and robust. The final plan will be completed by the end of October 2001.

### First Ministers Visit - Feedback

Mrs J. Wright, Mr A. Rogers and Mr D. MacFarlane-Slack met with the First Minister on his visit to Lochaber. It was noted that the visit was both positive and productive.

The Minister opened Carn Mor House and visited Glenfinnan, the Initiative at the Edge skills project team, Sunart Oakwood and Strontian High School.

### Highland Convention

The next meeting is to be held in Orkney on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

### Tourism

The Board discussed the shocking events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the potential impact on UK Tourism. This issue is high on the agenda of Visit Scotland & HOST as they market next year. Further updates will be discussed at future meetings.

### Fort William Waterfront

Further to Highland Council securing an option on the site, a design prospectus is in the process of being produced, by Highland Council, for circulation to interested parties. The

Directors expressed support for these developments and concern to know the likely cost of this significant project. Further updates will be advised as they develop.

It was suggested that this item may require more detailed discussion at a future meeting.

**iv). CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Unemployment Figures

The unemployment figures for July = 1.6. August = 1.7.

The Directors discussed the positive approach being taken by Lochaber Enterprise Skills Department to address recruitment issues being experienced.

The housing situation in the Lochaber area was also discussed at length as an ongoing concern. Mr D. MacFarlane-Slack and Mrs J. Wright will meet to discuss the situation in more detail.

Local Advisory Board

Mr L. Young has been elected as the Chairman of this group. A second meeting is to be held at Lochaber College on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2001. Mr L. Young informed the Board that the Area Manager post would be advertised next month.

Annual Report Update

Lochaber Enterprise's Annual Report is due to be completed this week. A Press Conference is to be arranged to launch the report – 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

Kinlochleven Update

A. Morrison, Deputy Minister, Enterprise and Lifelong Learning will be visiting Kinlochleven on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2001, to mark the land transfer from Alcan to Kinlochleven Land Development Trust.

Mrs J. Wright advised Directors that discussions are ongoing with private sector operators for both the Micro Brewery and the Outdoor Leisure Centre.

**v). AOCB**

Mrs J. Wright advised the Board of issues relating to HOST's current review of operations, and adverts encouraging potential private sector operators to bid to run these services. This is to be discussed by HIE's Management Group on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001.

**vi). Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2001, Caol Community Centre, 12.30pm

**Signed:** .....

**Print:** .....

**Position:** .....

**Date:** .....