



Lochaber Enterprise
Iomairt Lochabair

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

REVISED

**Held Tuesday, 24th April 2001
Strontian Hotel, 11.30am**

PRESENT:	Chairman	Mr A. Rogers
	Directors	Mr A. McLean Mr S. MacDonald Mr D. Wright Mrs K. MacGregor Mr A. Race Mr L. Young
	Staff	Mrs J. Wright Mr S. Dingwall Mrs M. Cameron Mrs A. Gainsford Miss M. Cormack
APOLOGIES:	Vice Chairman	Cllr. A. McFarlane Slack
	Co. Secretary	Mr G. McIntyre Mr K. Larson Dr R. MacLeod Mr G. Gardiner

i). MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 27th March 2001 were approved.
The revised minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 27th March 2001 were approved.

ii). POLICY MATTERS

Foot and Mouth

Lochaber Enterprise has sent out weekly updates to Directors. Roadshows have been organised and undertaken to offer Local businesses one to one meetings with staff. The national phoneline will be managed down gradually as the number of calls is reducing.

Mr S. Dingwall attends the local liaison meeting on an ongoing basis. Significant progress has been made to open up local access and Lochaber Enterprise has offered assistance in this area.

The Directors expressed their concern on Tourism Marketing activities, which they felt should be more dynamic and pro-active on a national and local basis. Directors will continue to receive weekly updates on the situation.

iii). CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Correspondence

All covered below.

Lochaber Economic Forum

Full attendance at last meeting. The main task of the Forum this year is to look at duplication and overlap of Business Services in Lochaber. Work has started on this and the next meeting of the group is June.

Mr A. Rogers advised that Andrew Simpson of Mallaig Chamber of Commerce will chair the Lochaber Economic Forum. Mr A. Rogers also asked Directors to advise him if they were prepared to consider being his substitute representative on the Forum.

HIE/LEC Conference

To be held on 24th and 25th May 2001. The agenda will be circulated as soon as it is received. Karen MacGregor and Laurence Young have expressed their interest in attending.

LEC Status Change / Name Change

Mrs J. Wright circulated a document from HIE's solicitor on the legal changes to the company. Mrs A. Gainsford and Mr G. MacIntyre are liaising with Allan MacLeod of HIE.

It is likely that an EGM will take place July/August. Mr G. MacIntyre will continue as Company Secretary in the interim.

Directors

The Chairman advised that as part of our "Appointability Through Openness" policy, adverts have been running over the past 2 weeks. The closing date for interested individuals is 27th April 2001. Mrs J. Wright has written to individuals already on our list advising them of the situation.

Operating Agreement

This document as been signed and returned to HIE.

Other

A Bi-lateral meeting with Highland Council is scheduled for 8th May 2001, 12pm – 2pm. An agenda will be circulated w/c 30th April 2001.

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

Unemployment Figures

Figures have fallen from 4.1% last year, to 3.7% this year.

Labour Shortage

Further meeting has taken place with Employers to discuss Recruitment issues. It was agreed at this meeting to establish a local recruitment website. The website will company information and what would be expected of potential employees.

Directors also expressed concern at the housing situation in Lochaber against labour shortages and our positive approach with this issue.

Year End Target out-turn

Mrs J.Wright circulated a detailed list of targets and outturns as at the year-end.

It was noted that an additional £1.2m had been secured from HIE in the year which assisted in reducing our carry forward commitment for 2001/2002.

Annual Report

Mrs J.Wright advised that our Annual Report is being drafted at present. We are awaiting details from HIE as to the printing of the final report and dates for this. We will then set a date for the Launch.

AGM: May Board Meeting

Mrs J.Wright advised that the AGM would be held on May 29th. Mrs A. Gainsford will issue a notice regarding this. An Audit Committee Meeting will be held before the next Board Meeting.

IIP Re-Assessment

Mrs J.Wright advised that Lochaber Enterprise's reassessment was 22nd May 2001. Mrs M. Cameron is managing this event and Mr John Stinton will be our assessor. Board members will be informed in advance if they are required to be interviewed by Mr Stinton.

v). AOCB

Careers Scotland

Mrs J.Wright advised that the outcome of the Careers Service reviewed has been published. Copies of this will be circulated to Directors.

vi). Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 29th May 2001, 11.30pm at Lochaber Enterprise

Signed:

Print:

Position:

Date: