



STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST
Minutes of board meeting
Tuesday, August 30 2016
7.30pm

1. Present: SCT – Donald MacDonald, Dugald Ross, Sandy Ogilvie, Ian MacDonald, Hugh Ross; Skye Sea Harvest – Alister MacKinnon

2. Apologies: Angus Ross, Sine Gillespie, Gordon Higgins, Roddy Gillies

3. Previous Minutes: IMcD pointed out his name was not included as being present and an area of “about 10 sq. m” was probably needed per car under the Storr item. The minutes were otherwise agreed to be accurate by DR and seconded by SO.

4. Slipway Development: DMcD welcomed AMcK to the meeting who provided an update about the revised development and said that SSH would be pleased to attend the SCT AGM next month in Staffin. AMcK left the meeting at 8.45pm.

5. Housing: HR had meetings in Staffin and at the site last month with the local MSP Kate Forbes and Highland list MSP David Stewart and both were very supportive about the proposed development and offered to help in any way they could leading up to the submission of a planning application.

An agreed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was to be signed this week by reps of SCT, Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association

HR intends to draft a SCT press release announcing that agreement, including a comment from MS Forbes and Mr Stewart, and will also ask the community if there is interest in leasing business units/storage at the development site. HR shared a poster he intends to display locally to that effect. DMcD said it was important the poster made it clear that the business units were not just aimed at people living in proposed new homes. IMcD thought there could be an interest in leasing storage containers at the site.

HR said he was now working on an application to the Scottish Land Fund for the planning application/appeal process while HSCHT and LSHA were working on a draft Development Agreement to be shared with all parties for input. HR said this would be much more comprehensive than the MOA.

Action Point –

- Poster and press release about MOA to be distributed locally by HR

6. Storr Project: Since the last board meeting, the contract for the Options Appraisal was awarded and HR and AR had held a site visit and meeting in early July with the project team led by Hazel Allen of Athena Solutions. At the end of last month in Staffin Hall a community drop in event was attended by 40 people and the feedback was largely positive, HR is awaiting a summary from the project team.

HR is travelling to Inverness on Thursday to attend a meeting with the project team and Highland Council's Development and Infrastructure officials Emma Whitham and Ann Hackett, plus John MacDonald of HIE and Rory Dutton of the Community Ownership Support Service. It will be first time the project team and council officials have met. There was discussion about the recent coverage of tourism pressures in Skye and the infrastructure, plus the formation/re-emergence of new tourism groups.

- **Action Point** – HR to update SCT following Inverness meeting and next steps in Options Appraisal

7. Ceumannan II: HR said the Heritage Lottery Fund would let him know on September 14 whether the Ceumannan funding application had been successful. He thanked everybody for their input to the project including the HLF site visit earlier this month. HR and GH had submitted an application to the Coastal Communities Fund to pay for the Lealt platform car park and associated costs, as HLF refused to allow it to be included in the bid.

HR said he was working through some issues regarding the approval of the car park with the council's transport department requesting that the first six metres of the access track to new car park is tarred etc. IMcD found that surprising as the existing car park, which was the direct access to the A855, was already tarred, as per the council specifications.

HR updated the board about the proposed grant from the Rabbies' Backpackers towards path repairs/general maintenance. This was an important part of the Maintenance Plan HR had submitted to HLF. Rabbies had requested a breakdown of what the money would be spent on. HR shared a draft summary for the board which included tools and equipment. There were also suggestions of a small garden shed/storage space, hi-viz jackets, ear defenders etc. To commence the Rabbies and SCT relationship, Donald Kennedy, the council access officer had proposed a repair of the path at the Quiraing which he could supervise.

Action Point –

- HR to finalise Rabbies' spending summary and send to the company for approval

8: AOCB:

- DMcD suggested he and AR to carry out a second annual staff appraisal with HR soon.
- DMcD said SCT should be including the annual Gaelic in the Environment course in meeting minutes