

Urras an Taobh Sear – Staffin Community Trust
Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneamh
Minutes of Meeting – 4.4.17
SCT office
7.30pm

1. **An làthair/Present:** Sandy Ogilvie, Dugald Ross, Angus Ross, Roddy Gillies, Hugh Ross
Leisgeulan/Apologies: Gordon Higgins, Catriona Ross, Iain MacDonald, Martin Farquhar, Donald MacDonald, Sìne Ghilleasbuig,
2. **Geàrr-chunntas/Minutes 7.3.17:** DR and AR agreed that the previous mins were accurate.
3. **Gnothaichean ag èirigh/Matters Arising:**
 - **Articles of Association/Charitable Status** - At the SCT December meeting, the board agreed to revise the Articles, and also move towards charitable status. HR said that he and GH had met this morning and looked at the suggested changes from the board. They include ensuring the Articles will permit borrowing when SCT becomes a charity and avoiding a mass enforced retiral of directors at future AGMs. HR said there was still some work required to be carried out and read out some of the suggested changes. AR said the impact of SCT becoming a charity should be investigated, with an audit required if significant income comes in, which could be the case if trading entities were set up for projects like the Storr, housing etc. AR advised HR to check with Donald Rankin Accountant. HR will also check with Rory Dutton of the Development Trusts Association Scotland. Action Point – HR and GH to carry out further work and report back to board.
 - **Cash Flow** – HR said that he had met with AR a fortnight previously to start work on a cash flow forecast for SCT and its projects over the next two years. HR said that he had not managed to progress that work because of his other project commitments but hoped to provide a fuller picture at the next board meeting.
4. **Ceumannan II:** – The new Programme Manager job had been advertised in the West Highland Free Press, in local shops, website and through the SCT membership mailing list. It had also been shared extensively on social media and through organisations SCT works with, like the UHI, High Life Highland, Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust etc. Six requests for the job specification had been made to HR; one local woman among them but she was looking for a P/T post.
SO suggested sharing it with the Skye mountain guide Mike Lates and the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust.

HR said SCT had successfully been awarded a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund to pay for the viewing platform car park, footpath, fencing, road markings, signs, project manager, etc. It will also pay some of the Ceumannan II activity plans costs. HR said he was very grateful to everybody on the SCT board for their help and assistance with the application including GH, IMcD, DR, DMcD and SO. He said it would not have been achieved

without that combined effort and the approval showed the confidence funders had in the project and SCT.

RG asked about the capital works and HR said all the funding was now in place and the plan was to deliver the over the next year but there was work to be done before going out to tender.

The closing date for the job application is Thursday, April 20. HR has proposed that the Ceumannan II sub-group meet on Friday, April 22 to discuss a shortlist and all the other pressing issues.

Action Point – HR to continue to promote job/sub-group to meet on April 22.

5. **Taigheadas/Housing:**

HR said Rural Design was now close to submitting the planning application.

AD had requested that HR provide information on why the other proposed housing sites were not preferred by SCT following the “Call for Sites”. The site’s size, availability and economics were highlighted. HR had now submitted that report to AD and it would be included with the planning application.

Township – HR handed out copies of a letter sent to him by Kenny MacDonald, the Stenscholl township clerk, following the recent meeting, which highlighted their request for agricultural improvements near the housing site. The township has asked for two new parks to be fenced on either side of the cattle pens/loading bay, a new sheep handling system and drainage and hardcore.

HR said it would be part of the discussion with the SCT’s development partners – the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust. DR thought that infill could be sourced locally, possibly even at the site, to minimise costs.

AR suggested that an application for the township’s works could be made through the CGAS scheme which could see a grant of at least 50%. He said SCT could possibly act as the agent and would likely to have to find the money up front. HR said it could be discussed at the next meeting with the township

- Action Points – Planning application to be submitted by Rural Design/HR to arrange follow up township meeting

6. **The Storr** – Highland Council had now formally validated the Storr Asset Transfer Request. It had been posted online by the council and April 28 is the deadline for any public comments to be made. Copies of any comments made will be sent to SCT and it will have 2 days to respond. The senior official Ann Hackett had sent HR a list of further questions relating to the project and proposed purchase and the queries range from cash flow queries to more technical questions about a peat sump and parking management. HR intended to ask for help in responding to the queries from the Storr consultant Hazel Allen and the SCT advisers at HIE and DTAS.

7. **A’ Chidhe is Na Tuathanais Eisg/ Staffin Slip and Fish Farms**

HR had been due to meet OSH's Alex MacInnes last month to discuss the development and Slipway but it had been postponed. A fresh date this Wednesday had been suggested and SO said he would also like to attend.

8. GISBE/AOCB

- AR had spoken to HIE's Phil McCaherty and HR's contract as the SCT's LDO had been extended until March 31 next year. It had been due to expire in June.
- HR had met recently with SCT director Martin Farquhar who had told him he was keen to provide more support and input to the projects after bedding in following his appointment to the board last year. HR had welcomed this and suggested he could play a closer role in the housing, Storr and possibly Ceumannan II project. The board was very supportive of MF's offer.