



Coinneamh UTS Dimàirt
Mins of Meeting of SCT – Church of Scotland Annexe
An Taobh Sear/Staffin
Tuesday 4.7.17
7.30 pm

1. An Iathair/Present: board members Gordon Higgins, Martin Farquhar, Ian MacDonald, Dugald Ross, Donald MacDonald, Sine Ghilleasbuig; development officer Hugh Ross

Leisgeulan/Apologies: Sandy Ogilvie, Roddy Gillies, Angus Ross

Chair: In SO's absence, DMcD was asked to chair the meeting.

2. Geàrr-chunntas na coinneamh mu dheireadh / Mins of previous meeting: These were approved by GH and DR.

3. Gnnothaichean ag èirigh/Matters arising

Cashflows and Business Plan – DMcD had started on a SCT cashflow/business plan document with HR, who had requested consultant support from the Scottish Government service, Just Enterprise. GH had previously a positive experience when working with JE on the management sustainability of another previous Skye business.

Public Liability Insurance – AR confirmed that SCT currently has PLI.

4. Ceumannan II/Manaidsear – Angus Murray will begin in post as Ceumannan Programme Manager on 5.7.17. His responsibilities include delivering the Activity Plan; leading the project's rebranding and the new physical and digital interpretation, such as the construction of "gateway" structures. AM will work closely with the Ceumannan Sub-Group and will attend the Staffin Community Council meeting on Thursday. DMcD highlighted Àros projects – 1] Tha seo math dhuibh/ Good for You and 2] Sticks, Stones and Bones, which could complement Ceumannan's work.

GH highlighted SCT's commitment to matching £66k "in kind" for the project delivery. In reaching the required sum, SCT must input the professional and skilled contributions of all concerned, such as Highland Council's Access Officer Donald Kennedy's input and the labour by Rabbie's staff at the Quiraing. HR is about to lodge the first HLF claim.

Oilthigh Chill Rìmhinn is Map digiteach/ St Andrews Uni and Digital Mapping: DMcD had met St Andrews University's Allan Miller re project to create a new digital map film of Skye and suggested potential for SCT involvement.

Viewing platform/paths: Hugh had received signed consent forms from the Lealt township, SGRIPID and Flodigarry for the Heritage Lottery Fund and Coastal Communities Fund. Next steps will be to draft a brief for the platform site survey (to establish the exact location) and recruit a paths project manager. There was discussion about cash flows and whether having the paths, platform and car

parks works running at same tonight may cause problems. IMcD said the payment methods would need to be explained to contractors

Àrainneachd, Cànan is Dualchas – Numbers could be higher but the 10-day course goes ahead from 24.7.17.

Sgitheanaich òg gu Costa Rica/ Young Sgitheanaich going to Costa Rica

Skye - through Ceumannan - is a partner in the two-year EU LAC Exchange with Costa Rica and Portugal. The six 16-year old pupils will travel to Costa Rica on 24th July with the 12 Costa Ricans returning to Staffin in July 2018. SG reported a positive relationship and experience working alongside Jamie Brown and Karen of Oilthigh Chill Rìmhinn/ St Andrews University in the delivery of monthly workshops.

5. Stòrr: HR shared a briefing paper with the board on the latest with the Asset Transfer Request (ATR). Chris Marsh, of the Community Woodlands Association, had submitted a draft report on the recently planted native woodland at the site, which the council had urged SCT to include in the ATR. Mr Marsh concluded the liabilities of the woodland could cost SCT up to £27,000. His recommendations were that SCT should not take it on given the liabilities and lack of information about the SRDP grant the council received to stock and manage the woodland. Mr Marsh said SCT could consider taking it on (if it wished) several years down the line, once the woodland is established and all the grant contract obligations have been concluded. His report highlighted that that almost three-quarters of the site had only recently been replanted after early-years failure – 65% of the 30,000 trees originally planted had died. Trees have also been gnawed by voles and the weevil insect and non-native species like the sycamore and fuchsia are growing and would require removal. The board was taken aback by the issues and liabilities and it strengthened SCT's belief the ATR should remain exactly as it is.

HR said there had been an encouraging report and agreement at the council's Planning, Development and Infrastructure committee last November in which £400,000 was allocated to the site, as potential match funding for the SCT project. IMcD said the transfer of existing laybys should be checked out as he did not think the council's view was accurate.

SCT would be looking to arrange a meeting with the council very soon. HR had a meeting with the Skye councillor John Gordon next week, the Transport and Islands Minister Humza Yousaf was visiting the SCT office next week as well and Kate Forbes MSP was visiting Staffin in August.

It was agreed that HR would draft a response to the council regarding the ATR. DMcD said it might be useful if HR quantified the expenditure and time and effort which had gone into the project so far. The council has until September 6 to give a yes or no to SCT.

6. Cidhe Stafainn / The Slipway and Organic Sea Harvest

Three letters of objection to the fish farms, from Kilmaluag residents, which were all the same in content, had been sent to HR, despite the planning application by Organic Sea Harvest not having been submitted to Highland Council.

DMcD said the fish farm development was important but the key question was what SCT can, and want to do, to improve the slipway, even if only a water and power supply is provided and the pier is extended without dredging. GH said there was legitimacy for SCT to support the fish farm as it was a development trust because of the significant economic benefits for the community in terms of employment and benefit to area.

DMcD had recently met David Cowan of the Scottish Government and discussed the potential for significant investment in Slipway for marine tourism facilities. There is a Rural Regeneration Capital Fund and the council could make an application, on SCT's behalf. The council leader Margaret Davidson had told DMcD and HR to contact a senior council official called Alan Webster who could provide support and guidance.

7. Taigheadas / Housing

HR said the planning application was still "live".

The council's development and infrastructure department was not happy about visibility splays or about proposed footway route to school. Rural Design would be discussing those issues with the officials.

A meeting to discuss the boundary line and other key issues with Stenscholl township would be arranged in July, HR said.

HR had responses from medical related services about whether they would use the proposed "multi-user" business units building. The Portree Surgery GPs would be discussing the proposals to move from the Staffin Surgery to the new building soon.

GISBE/ AOCB

- Talla Coimhearsnachd Stafainn – The existing wind turbine currently provides one fifth of the electricity consumed by the hall. Martin Perry, the Hall Committee chairman, has indicated that the Community Hall are looking to build another wind turbine and was keen to know if this would be supported in the community. The board was supportive and thought the community would be as well.

Coinneamh bhliadhna / AGM

- SCT must confirm a date for the AGM soon, with 21 days' notice given.