



**Geàrr-chunntas Choinneamh Bhliadhnail UTS
MINUTES OF AGM OF STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST – HELD ON
TUESDAY 27.5.14 AT STAFFIN COMMUNITY HALL AT 7.30 pm**

An làthair - Present:

Directors: Donald MacDonald, Dugald Ross, Angus Ross,
Sine Ghilleasbuig, Gordon Higgins, Sandy Ogilvie

SCT Local Development Officer: Hugh Ross

Apologies: Ian MacDonald

In attendance – Alex MacInnes, Robert Gray, Alister
Mackinnon [Skye Sea Harvest]

There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

Fàilte – Welcome

- Donald welcomed everyone to the 2014 AGM of SCT. He thanked Marion Beaton for her work as LDO, and introduced Hugh Ross as her replacement.

Geàrr-chunntais 2013 - Mins of 2013 AGM [28.5.13]

- Angus Ross and Sandy Ogilvie confirmed that these were in order.

Facal an fhear chathrach - Chairman's Address

- Donald reported that an account of the previous year's activities would be presented at the end of the formal AGM.

Cunntais - Accounts

- Angus Ross, treasurer, provided a paper statement of the previous year's accounts [1.4.13-31.3.14], as yet unconfirmed by Donald Rankin, accountant.

**Stiùirichean UTS - Re-appointment of Directors co-opted
by the Board from membership since previous AGM**

- According to the Memo and Articles of Association, a director may serve two consecutive three-year terms. Thereafter he/she may or ought to have one year out.
- The above being the case, there was no requirement for any of SCT/UTS directors to stand down at the 2014 AGM.

Re-appointment of Directors retiring by rotation

- According to the principles of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, there was no requirement for this action.

Stiùirichean is buill ùra - Election of directors from members who have notified willingness to be appointed

- Four people indicated their willingness to join SCT/UTS. These were
1] Seumas Gillanders, 2] Roddy Gillies, 3] Jennifer Shanks and 4] Lachie Gillies (Glasphein).

An luchd-chunntais - Re-appointment of auditors/accountant

- Donald Rankin, accountant, was duly nominated by Gordon and seconded by Angus for a further year [1.4.14 to 31.3.15].

Gnothach iomchaidh sam bith eile - Any other competent business

- There was none.

Following the official AGM, a meeting followed to focus and discuss the current developments on the agenda of SCT. The minutes of that discussion are on the attached pages.

Business of Meeting, following Formal AGM of Staffin Community Trust on 27.5.14

SCT current projects were discussed. The two which demanded most discussion were The Storr and The Slipway. These feature below as the final two items.

Ceumannan II – Stage 2 of the Ecomuseum

- Gordon reported that Phase II will create 8.5 miles of new paths.
- A local steering group [Gordon, Dougie, Hugh & Sine] will take project forward. SCT had been successful with HLF funding and a period of 6-8 months will be spent on related studies.

Pairceadh aig Cuith-raing - Quairing Parking

- Lachie Gillies [Glaspein] asked whether there were plans to extend Quairing car park, and raised the need for this. Donald said that the Linicro township had earlier opposed plans to extend.
- Lachie Gillies suggested a possible Compulsory Purchase Order by Highland Council on health and safety grounds.

Cuimhneachadh nan Croitearan – Memorial to Crofters’ Uprising

- Research and development underway by arts organisation called ATLAS, in conjunction with SCT. Public consultation will run concurrently.

Àrainneachd, Cànan is Dualchas – 10-day Gaelic in the Environment Course

- Roddy Maclean’s course set to run for the second year in August.
- The course is organised by SCT, brings business to the area and builds on Staffin’s growing reputation as an ideal location for outdoor Gaelic courses.

Leasachadh aig An Stòr – Proposed Development at The Storr

- SCT still awaited report by Highland Council which was expected to deal with maintenance issues only, and not with major expensive developments.
- The council would send a rep to Staffin in due course but all were aware that things move slowly with THC.

Hugh outlined Storr options via a draft Feasibility Study by the consultant Duncan Bryden:

1. Make do and mend.
2. Car park improvements at timber stacking site, major improvements to the paths, plus extra walking loop from car park to a suitable viewpoint.
3. 4-star coffee shop facility (no retail space), toilets and increase in car parking.

A number of points were made from the floor.

Gnìomhachasan na sgìre - Existing Businesses in Staffin

- Staffin Community Council chairwoman Norma Young expressed concern that a facility at Storr with catering facilities may put off visitors from travelling on to Staffin.
- Donald responded that to satisfy HIE requirements for its funding of the local development officer’s post, SCT requires to generate income from its projects. Significant income could indeed come from a business development at the Storr which could be spent in community projects.
- Donald also had information that 39 cruise liners, with an average of 2,000 passengers, would benefit area by visiting Storr and Quiraing. However, Norma questioned whether such passengers would spend money in Staffin.
- According to the consultant Duncan Bryden’s study, 70% of Storr traffic currently continues on to Staffin.
- Donald clarified that the study was at an early draft stage and the community would be widely consulted on it.
- Norma suggested that SCT should be marketing Staffin instead.

- Hugh reported that he is currently developing a website to market Staffin businesses and the work of SCT.
- Norma questioned the feasibility studies and said CC would like opportunity for input.
- Donald acknowledged that SCC's concerns would be taken on board.

Pairceadh - Car Parking

- The meeting expressed concern at the congestion caused by lack of inadequate parking at the Storr, and the worry of the current situation being 'an accident waiting to happen'.
- Staffin resident Colin Wilson recommended that there be scope for temporary parking to alleviate current situation of congestion.
- Another resident DL Mackenzie made the point that the exit should not be on the blind summit.

Gnìomh mun Stòrr – Action Points for Storr

- SCT to forward copy of draft Study to community council.
- SCT to take on board comments by Norma on behalf of SCC.
- SCT to make endeavours to take on board provision for toilets and car parking.

Cidhe An Taobh Sear - Staffin Slipway

- Alister Mackinnon acknowledged Marion's efforts and also Hugh's on behalf of this project.
- Donald introduced the three reps from SSH to the meeting. He stressed to the meeting that 'now is the time to talk', to feed ideas into plans and encouraged all to respond. Donald stressed he wanted this 'to work first time'.
- Alex reported that feasibility studies were due mid-July. Road access is an issue. SSH is not competing with local businesses and is engaging with HIE at highest level.
- SSH has no intention of building a fish farm.
- SSH plans to develop a safe harbour and a fish processing facility onshore by Staffin Slipway.
- SSH and SCT are committed to getting the harbour facility and building right.
- Donald said that there had been in the last number of years three community consultations in Staffin and that each had put development of Staffin Slipway at the top of the agenda. The community would not realise its aspirations without an economic partnership and the partnership between SSH and SCT was based on the understanding that there will be creation of on-site jobs and benefits for other local businesses.
- Donald recorded that he was impressed with attitude of SSH and their concern for environmental sensibility. The development is not merely about fish processing facility but about surrounding area and the access road. Donald stressed the importance of gaining as many benefits as possible from this development.

- An important fact to remember is that following a period of 10-15 years, vision of SSH and SCT is that the business/building will revert back to the community.

Seirbhisean - What services are to be included at The Slip?

- Electricity, fuel, water, rope and tackle, for starters.
- A piermaster will be needed

Dè seòrsa toradh a bhios ann - What kind of product?

- A branded product
- Salmon, trout and shellfish
- Markets for bi-products, to meet demand
- No discharge
- Waste can be taken away frozen.
- Question was raised by Lachie Gillies [Glasphein] how long will salmon continue as an industry – Answer from SSH was “a long time”.

An Togalach - The Building

- The vision is that the community itself will build.
- It will not be a box profile green shed, but more aesthetic.
- A state-of-the-art automated plant will be built
- Community will lease back to SSH.

Obraichean – Jobs

- 40 jobs are projected on processing side
- 10-20 jobs are projected in servicing
- Wages will be above the minimum wage
- Employees will include the Staffin community. SSH won't arrive complete with a workforce from elsewhere.
- Highly skilled jobs will go to whoever is capable of doing them
- People will be brought in to run business
- 10-15 year project
- Employee-owned; highly trained and highly motivated

Buannachdan Choimhearsnachd - Spin-offs for Community

- Positive economic and social effects on community as a whole are projected, including those on housing, school and businesses, redressing decline in school numbers.
- SCT currently await results of an independent housing survey in Staffin. It was expected to show a demand for affordable housing.

Dè tha daoine ag iarraidh - Points from the Floor/What do people want?

- Lachie Gillies [Stenscholl] cautioned that we ought not to repeat the mistake of previous generations. After much infighting in earlier generations over a proposed pier at Staffin, the developers instead built at Uig.
- Lachie Gillies, Glasphein, wanted it recorded that there be an emphasis on servicing small boats.

- Storage of Boats - Staffin people are not always able to launch with current pier. It would be desirable if tourists were directed to Staffin under new pier.
- It was suggested that barras and sheds might be beneficial also.
- Sandy Ogilvie wanted it minuted that in the event of the SSH project not being successful SCT continue to look at Staffin slipway and its development.

The chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.