



Geàrr-chunntais 24.6.14 – Mins of SCT 24.6.14

C of S Portacabin, 7.30 pm

An làthair – Present

- Angus Ross, Donald MacDonald, Dougie Ross, Gordon Higgins, Ian MacDonald, Roddy Gillies, Sìne Gillespie, Hugh Ross

Leisgeulan – Apologies

- Sandy Ogilvie and Seumas Gillanders.

Geàrr-chunntas mu dheireadh – Mins of Previous Meeting

- 27.5.14 – The meeting that followed the AGM on the same night – Angus proposed that these were accurate and there was general consensus that this was correct.

Gnothaichean ag èirigh – Matters Arising

- None

Buill ùra - New members

- Donald welcomed Roddy onto the Trust.

Làrach-lin ùr – New Staffin Website

- Hugh had received a quote from Steve Taylor, of Cuillin Web Design, on basis that Hugh supplied the content and photos and Steve builds website using WordPress.
- A second quote from Dunvegan firm Skye Websites was also received.
- Hugh sees the website as an important tool to promote the area/SCT development. He estimates it will require merely 10 minutes work per day once up and running. Hugh will link into Staffin Facebook page, keeping website current and lively.
- Sìne had recommended that there could be Gaelic funding to make it bilingual.

Iris Choimhearsnachd - Community Newsletter

- Hugh is currently preparing one, to communicate SCT projects and get organisations to contribute.
- Sìne informed Hugh of Lionnra Stafainn – the Staffin Network which was hitherto a network with representatives from community orgs who met three times a year or so. It was thought possibly useful to kick start this once again.

Cidhe Stafainn – Staffin Slipway and Related Developments

- ERDF and Lottery funding details will be released Sept 2014.
- SSH had recently lodged an application to HIE for pre-planning stage assistance.
- Eilidh Ross is our link with HIE and she is keen to talk to SCT about what the community wants. HIE will be liaising with both Skye Sea Harvest (SSH) and SCT and seek a chat this Thursday.
- Hugh has requested that HIE help with drawings.
- Consultant John Porteous [Wallace Stone] is concerned about the depth of water at Slipway.
- Anything spent will have to be paid by SCT first and submitted.
- There had been a meeting in May with Eilidh and Alison Gainsford of HIE and all parties seemed happy enough.
- HIE need to have confidence that there is private funding to complete project. Supposing we got 80% funding, there would still be a shortfall.
- Gordon pointed out that the figures were difficult to quantify and address, but SCT might include directors' time and use of its office for meetings.
- Were SCT to get funding to build, an income would return to SCT. The only feasible way for project to work is to borrow money on back of guarantees of funders and income contributions to cost of borrowing.
- Alternatively, HIE put up the building and lease it out to SSH, with income going back to HIE.
- Option still exists to go to Highland Council and purchase pier for £1.
- **Action – SCT to resubmit proposal in consultation with SSH.**
- **Hugh and Dougie – and Donald, if eligible, – to attend Thursday's meeting with HIE.**
- **In consultation with SSH, SCT to work up paper for funding.**

Studies

- 1] Environmental Impact Study almost ready.
- 2] Economic Impact Study underway
- 2] Road & Marine Engineer Study to be started July. Roddy wondered whether dredged rock could be filled in and this was confirmed. Road Access Study is part of same feasibility study and being undertaken by same company.
- Iain and Dougie highlighted that the rock is exceedingly hard and would need blasted. Wallace Stone suggested a seismic survey would have to be carried out at the Slip. Channel to ensure access at all times.
- Donald highlighted the importance of SCT sourcing matching funding.

An Stòr

- Highland Council official Emma Georgeson had visited Storr, met Hugh and said the local authority is keen to work in partnership with SCT.
- THC is committed to parking improvements, she said

- Emma is expected to update the Skye councillors at a ward business meeting in Portree on week beginning July 14th re Duncan Bryden's report for council, assisted by Steve Westbrook, on Storr, Kilt Rock and Lealt.
- Report completed by Duncan Bryden.
- Steve Westbrook working with Duncan Bryden

Ceumannan II – Skye's Ecomuseum

- Project at similar stage to Slipway. Tendering process underway with Paths, Archaeology & Economic
- Deadline to meet imminently with Paths and Arch.
- Sub group in place [Gordon, Dougie, Hugh, Sìne] and meeting with council access officer, Donald Kenendy, on 2.7.14
- July 5th – initial consultation in Hall, looking for community views [benefits for visitors; maps of paths; photos]
- Hugh had spoken to most of township clerks who are supportive in the main though not Valtos township.
- Deadline for economic and feasibility study July 7th.
- Progress report for Heritage Lottery Fund is done.
- Modest budget for looking at similar projects. A former colleague of Gordon's had developed a path project but it didn't have archaeology or culture.
- There could be jobs and initial grant aid.
- Quote for Archaeology Report was from Ross & Cromarty Arch. Services via Mary Peteranna. Archaeologist Steven Birch had been approached separately.

Cuimhneachadh nan Croitearan – Crofters' Memorial

- Emma Nicolson of ATLAS Arts had visited Hugh and Sìne in office previous Friday.
- Trip to Norway scheduled for late Sept/early Oct.
- Donald asked who wished to go, there are places for two SCT reps. Those willing to go are 1] Hugh, 2] Angus if it coincides with school hols and if not 3] Sìne.
- A sub-group was formed of Hugh, Sìne and Angus.
- The Lewis trip to look at Will McLean's work may be undertaken with or without Emma – this summer – and can include anybody from SCT.

Leirmheas Thaigneadais – Housing Survey

- Hugh had spoken to Morven Taylor, of Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, which had undertaken the survey.
- Headlines from report – 18% of houses in Staffin are holiday homes; 3% are empty and 21% of houses available to buy or rent.
- Survey to be strengthened by interviewing local businesses and a comment from SCT.
- Broadband survey was also undertaken at same time, and is imminent.

- **Gnìomh/Action**

- **SCT to identify 1 on 1 housing surgeries.**
- **SCT to get coverage of housing situation via political representatives like Charles Kennedy, etc [following examples of other areas such as Ullapool]**

Arainneachd, Cànan is Dualchas 2014 – Gaelic in the Environment Course

- Sìne gave Angus 3 cheques for the course - total £700.

Parking at Bealach

- Ongoing congestion of traffic noted as being a problem at the Bealach.
- During Phase I of Ceumannan, Lionacro crofters [who operate a sheep stock club] were not for upgrading car parking. Iain pointed out that the area is outwith Staffin, and on Lionacro common grazings.
- THC is apparently looking at problem.

Ionmhas – Accounts

- Donald Rankin is working on them.

Rud sam bith eile – AOCB

- Hugh wanted clarity on his role vis-à-vis additional community orgs. Sìne said that Hugh had started with an already penned agenda which in turn had been created and scored according to a Staffin community consultation on community aspirations.

Coinneamhan 2014 – 2014 Meetings

- [7.30 pm on the last Tuesday of each month except July & December]
- Dimàirt 26.8.14
- Dimàirt 30.9.14
- Dimàirt 28.10.14
- Dimàirt 25.11.14