



SCT/UTS Geàrr-chunntas

Mins of Meeting 24.2.15 @ C of S Portacabin @ 7.30

An làthair/Present

- Donald MacD, Dougie Ross, Roddy Gillies, Hugh Ross, Sìne Ghilleasbuig
- Gordon Higgins joined at 8.00 pm

Leisgeulan/Apologies

- Angus Ross, Ian MacDonald

Geàrr-chunntas mu dheireadh/Previous Mins [January]

- Dougie and Roddy confirmed those were accurate.

A' Chidhe/Slipway

- 20.3.15 – Working group [HR, DMcD, SO, HIE + SSH] to meet. Agenda monitoring report – John Porteous wants wording correct re marine report conclusion. To discuss sources of funding and who will do the work.
- 21.3.15 – Community consultation day [10.00 am – 2.00 pm] on similar lines to 2014. UTS to take more of a lead than last year. Hugh to speak to WH College and perhaps a couple of others to create an animation model or artist's impression. Short questionnaire to be prepared. Might advertise in Criomagan, WHFP. Tea to be provided and urn to be borrowed, etc. UTS can take turns to be on duty for 1: 1 consultation.
- SCT very close to hearing about European funding – expected April.
- Roddy said Ian MacDonald (The Herd) would look favourably on losing 2 to 3 metres of ground for Slip road, if it was fenced

An Stòrr – The Storr

- *Gordon joined meeting at this point.*
- Donald & Hugh had met Highland Council officials Emma Georgeson and Ann Hackett in Inverness in December to discuss the Storr and they said they were “open minded” about proposals from UTS.
- Hugh spoke to Pam Noble of HIE assets team and she advised that UTS should get it outlined what the council is proposing at the Storr. Ann had subsequently responded before UTS meeting to specific questions put by Hugh, and this was passed around to directors.
- UTS is faced with two options: to lease the land or to buy it, and pros and cons were discussed. Forestry land is relatively low in value.

- Need to clarify what role SNH will have in this. Hugh has also been given good advice/guidance from the Scottish Government's Community Ownership Support Service [help for buying land]. HIE want more detail; a business plan.
- Donald's impression is that the council is open to UTS doing something at the Storr but want Lealt and Kilt Rock to be considered also.
- Car parking fees can have significant benefits for UTS income stream and community benefit.
- Re timescale, the content of Duncan Bryden's report on Storr for UTS in 2013 could be used for business proposal/plan.

Taigheadas/Housing

- Three sites have come out of the community consultation process and are ready to go into Local Plan – 1] Stenscholl Common Grazing, 2] the field behind the Avenue, next to Columba and 3] opposite Avenue, both tenanted by Neil Nicolson, Garafad. SNH had indicated they would not be in favour of housing at Stenscholl on account of impact on National Scenic Area.
- There is potentially a fourth site, but the details must remain confidential at present.
- UTS will need to present a strong case for Stenscholl, particularly if a statutory consultee like SNH is not in favour.
- UTS wants more than four houses though.
- Housing needs to comprise affordable/sheltered accommodation/part ownership etc. with a good mix. Also, the development needs to include 'more than housing' with potential for business units.
- Sine to ask Sean óDrisceoil *formerly of Taighean Innse Gall* to forward his report which might be useful.

Ceumannan II

- Hugh met with Gordon today. Donald Kennedy had requested more detail on path routes' plans in Chris York's study so contractors would have enough information for Bill of Quantities. CY has pledged to offer more information in the report.
Hugh asked Dougie about car parking at Lealt. CY said parking spaces would be needed if a viewing platform was built and identified the quarry. Hugh will ask DK if THC has somebody who will do this for us.
Dougie highlighted potential benefits of quarry as 'huge' and he noted it is outwith SSSI area.
Funds are left in Ceumannan II development budget which is enough for other tasks.
Meeting thought it would be beneficial to lease quarry.
- Permission to extend planning phase by 3 months; and May is too tight.
- Need to be clear when final report is due
- Project well within budget
- Interpretative Plan contractors MacDonald Orr Design coming to Staffin on Tuesday for recce: Hugh, Sine and Gordon will meet them.
- Roddy will speak to contractor Duncan Macdonald about quarry.

Carraig Chuimhne nan croitearan /Crofters' Memorial

- Emma Nicolson had contacted Hugh to enquire about possibility of last two weeks in April for Scottish recce. Sìne to check diary.

70 Bliadhna air adhart - Memorial Service for Airforce lost on Beinn Edra

- All was going according to plan for the ceremony on 7.3.15.

Cha robh gnothach sam bith eile ann – There was no other business.