



Urras an Taobh Sear – Staffin Community Trust

Geàrr-chunntas – Minutes

SCT office

Dimàirt - Tuesday, 28.10.15

7.30 pm

Leisgeulan/Apologies: Gordon Higgins

An làthair/Present: SCT directors Donald MacDonald, Angus Ross, Dugald Ross, Ian MacDonald, Sandy Ogilvie, Roddy Gillies, Sine Ghilleasbuig; SCT member Martin Farquhar; local development officer Hugh Ross.

Geàrr-chunntas/Minutes: DR approved the August minutes, and this was seconded by AR.

Cunntais/Accounts: ACD Course

- Sine wished it noted that the accounts to 31.3.15 did not include the 2015 Gaelic course figures since the course ran thereafter – in June and August.

Peinsean Ùisdein/LDO Pension

- It was noted that from 1.11.15, HR will be enrolled on the Local Development Officer pension scheme through the Development Trusts Association Scotland.

Annual Return to Companies House

- **Action Point – Sine to alter address of registered office within Annual Return - due to Companies House by 18.11.15.**

STORR:

- **Loch Abair** - HR had visited Laggan Locks as part of research for Storr project. Scottish Canals plan to build a 'grab and go' refreshment kiosk with toilets. Buildings are estimated to cost £300k. A grant of £155k from Scottish Government's Scenic Routes Scheme has been awarded for the site which already attracts 40k visitors per annum. A gross profit [from car parking income] of £19.5k was forecast, and staffing would cost £16.5k. Glamping and bike hire would also accrue income.
- **Loch Laomainn/Loch Lomond – See point about Platform in Ceumannan below**
- **Ceisteachan/Questionnaire** - HR tabled a draft questionnaire for public consultation about future provision at The Storr. SCT board felt it looked good subject to one or two bits of tweaking.

- **Action Point – All directors to help Hugh to circulate the questionnaire to households in townships in mid-November, with a view to turning them around by the end of that month.**

Cidhe Stafainn/Slipway

- Sandy had spoken with JP who had appeased most of his concerns. JP has complete faith in the seismic study. JP says there is not a great deal of deep water to allow safe and regular passage of sailing yachts. JP agreed with Sandy that pontoons should remain as designed in drawings.
- Donald and Hugh had not been in recent contact with SSH. Currently there is a shortfall in the £18m project cost and the challenge is how to bridge the funding gap.
- It was further noted that the road to the Slip has deteriorated considerably.
- **Action – SCT to speak to SSH, and invite them to the next SCT meeting.**

Cuaraidh an Leth-uillt/Lealt Quarry:

- **Case Study 1** - Gigha Trust Partnership purchased quarry in 2007. HR spoke to Maggie Macsporrán. Gigha has 42 properties, 34 which have been refurbished. GTP has two part-time employees [Admin & Quarry supervisor]. Royalty £2 per tonne. Staffin = £0.45 in £1 Sconser costs £13 ex quarry but haulage “a killer” – coming to circa £18 per tonne. Lealt depot could charge base rent and £0.65 per tonne.
- **Case Study 2** – Uist was bought from private owner. They have two quarries and two borrow pits, leasing to independent customers who pay royalties. Borrow pits are used for house founds. Revenue generated highly variable. Positive but income irregular.
- **Action – SCT to speak to Angus MacLeod [Dinah’s brother] and Gavin Mennies [a colleague of AMcL] of Breedon Aggregates, to source info about quarry info, cost etc.**
- **Action – Donald to prepare a Microsoft excel document to get a cashflow projection started. Thereafter, those with knowledge can input figures to it, to determine whether it might be a viable project.**

Ceumannan II

- A meeting of the sub group had been held on 20.10.15. Hugh was hopeful that permission for six of the original nine sites would be forthcoming from the relevant townships. These were 1] Flodigarry-Quiraing, 2] Glasphein to Digg, 3] Chamara Rathad, 4] Brothers’ Point-Lealt, 5] Grealin-Lealt and 6] Storr. Adding the Lealt viewing platform into the application made it more exciting.
- The extent of the original nine paths had been 12 km in total: the six amounted to 9 km.

- The plans for the viewing platform are currently with the Lealt township clerk, Norma Young, who has not as yet given a formal response. A principal tenant, Murdo MacPherson, had indicated he was not opposed to the plans, which was encouraging.
- The meeting was pleased that our HLF case officer informed HR that they are not opposed to car parking costs being included in the package, as long as these are not too costly. Dougie drew attention to the fact that stone for car park might be quarried from Lealt.
- A' Chrom Allt [Bride's Veil Site] - SCT is mindful of the boon it would be were the communities to retain the 'temporary' new car park currently being built at Crom allt.
- **Action – SCT to speak to Donnie MacLeod of TECS office in PR, Roads Dept or Scottish Water and also to Caley Nicolson, to determine whether this resource might be retained for the community/Ceumannan II etc.**
- **Action – Hugh to continue dialogue with townships**
- One message from the Loch Lomond visit is that the platform needs to face sun as there can be probs with mildew growing. Platform will be of galvanised steel and in colour brown or green. There is the potential here to upgrade car park.
- **Action – Establish whether we could upgrade existing paths – Flodigarry, Brogaig for example - with under-used 3 km?**
- **Action – In-kind costs [office running costs; mileage] to be built into application.**

Taigheadas/Housing

- HR met Stewart Clark, township clerk and other shareholders at the Stenscholl AGM on 29.10.15. HR was looking to get their backing for the Stenscholl common grazing site.
- They regarded the potential Stenscholl site favourably. It was noted that outline planning lasts for three years, but may thereafter be renewed.
- The meeting want to get land zoned not just for 6-8 housing units but also for small workshops and businesses, which might accrue revenue. It was noted that there was such a development in Lochcarron.
- Ronnie MacRae [HSCHT] and John Lamont [LSHA] were meeting today to discuss affordable housing in the Highlands: Staffin would be discussed at that meeting. They are focussing on how the development might be funded and HR will continue to liaise with them. The meeting was keen that the site be marked out within the next two to three weeks, alongside representatives of the township.
- **Action – Get the land development approved by the township. Get land zoned for housing, business and storage units.**
- **Action - SCT should be looking to remind Highland councillors of the ongoing affordable housing struggle in Staffin.**

RSBE/AOCB

- **Là na Sàbaid chuimhneachaidh/Remembrance Sunday** - There will be two short remembrance services – at Cul nan cnoc and Staffin – on Sunday 8.11.15.
- **Action point – A wee clean-up of the war memorial at Staffin is to be carried out.**

An Ath Choinneamh/Next Meeting

- Dimàirt/Tuesday, 24.11.15