

Urras an Taobh Sear – Staffin Community Trust

Geàrr-chunntas – Mins of Meeting 23.2.16 @ SCT Office, 7.30 pm

An làthair/Present

- Donald MacDonald, Angus Ross, Dugald Ross, Ian MacDonald, Sine Gillespie, Hugh Ross

Leisgeulan/Apologies

- Roddy Gillies, Gordon Higgins, Martin Farquhar

Geàrr-chunntas na coinneamh mu dheireadh/Previous Mins [26.1.16]

- Everyone was in agreement that the Mins were accurate.

Cidhe/Slipway

- Skye Sea Harvest are awaiting feedback from The Highland Council prior to their next visit to SCT. It is expected that SSH will visit at time of SCT's March meeting.

Taighadas/Housing

- HR and Donald met the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust to discuss the Stenscholl site. Ronnie Macrae had circulated a Memo of Understanding but John Lamont requested clarity on a few points and said more work was required.
- The planning process and appeal will cost several thousand pounds. The Rural Housing Fund will launch soon and could assist. Development needs to be seen as coming from the community with SCT as the lead organisation.
- Once the Memo of Understanding is signed SCT will need to find one third of the estimated cost of the planning process. Memo of Understanding has a breakout clause where one party might be released. Clarity needed on whether VAT on top of that.
- The meeting agreed that the big question is where to source the funding needed. Donald suggested that an Options Appraisal might be funded by the Scottish Land Fund.
- **Action - Hugh to request advice from HIE's Pam Noble**
- Hugh contacted local MSP Dave Thompson to announce M of Understanding and he is keen to provide supportive comments. Dependent on agreement.
- Angus cautioned about taking on big financial commitments.

- The land might have to come out of crofting tenure prior to anything happening. The Department (Kilmuir Estate) would need to be contacted.

Ceumannan

- Though the Heritage Lottery Fund case officer said planning permission is not required prior to submitting funding application in June, it nevertheless strengthens SCT application if we do have it.

- Car parking and access are being addressed at Lealt in relation to the viewing platform with the designer Jock Gordon's third draft outlining a significant improvement in the visual splay (a "planning gain" for THC) with the green margin between the A855 and current car park increased.
- Jock's draft has been sent to Fred Macintosh, THC transport official, and HR has had discussions with him. The access officer Donald Kennedy noted implementation of the plan would be a plus for THC. Getting a positive decision on the car park plans is vital to seeing the platform approved.
- Staffin Community Council is in agreement that the planning application will be lodged in their name.
- Hugh is obtaining consents from the crofting townships. Shirley Muir, the Audience Development consultant, has interviewed all head teachers in Skye and businesses including B&Bs, Flodigarry Hostel, Skye Pie Café, Columba 1400. She has carried out a focus group in Cumbria about what would attract people to Skye. She will recommend a travel grant for schools to visit, along with a resources pack for schools. Report due in March with a meeting of the sub group to follow.
- Hugh will present a draft application at a HLF meeting in April, with the final application being lodged in June 2016.

Storr

- HR spoke to Willie MacKinnon, Skye THC ward manager. Action points from Storr meeting – HR has subsequently applied to THC for Options Appraisal funding, and also to HIE.
- Re intent to purchase: Willie advised that all correspondence to go through the Inverness-based Development Infrastructure Service officials Ann Hackett and Emma Whitham.
- In the expression of interest in Storr letter to Willie, HR also asked for any move to install car park meters to be postponed until Options Appraisal carried out.
- SCT want to make a public statement about purchasing site, so local community know what is happening. Hugh to meet HIE's Pam Noble on Wed to find out more re Scottish Land Fund meeting.

Fo foid na time – Archaeology Partnership with UHI

- Summary of September 2015 excavation
- Small scale dig will take place in autumn 2016, if funding available, with a larger project in 2017.
- Interface and THC ward discretionary are possible funders. Gordon might know of other outlets.
- Extensive sites were discovered here by Scotland's First Settlers project [circa 20 years ago], but not explored. Site is of huge importance. Funding agencies might well be attracted.
- The Càrn Bàn is well recorded but has never been explored. Another site is situated close to the river where there are signs of potential evidence of a burial chamber.
- The whole area from the river to the Viking settlement at the top of Garafad has outstanding archaeological significance.

- Donald cautioned that we might have too many applications going into Lottery for an array of projects. We might want to discover their attitude to successive bids? There was an acknowledgement that these orgs had significantly less funds than in previous years.
- It would be good to include the Viking site and/or others.
- Hugh and Dougie will have a conference call with UHI's Dan Lee in the near future.

Pàirc chluiche/Playpark for School

- Hugh spoke to Simon Gilkes, SCC secretary, which is investigating possible improvements to the football pitch and the playpark. Simon applied to SSE for a fund and got through the first stage. The advice was that as SCC is an unincorporated body, any application should come through a Scottish Charitable Incorporated org, geared towards community betterment. SCC is considering how to proceed and enquired whether it was possible to form a sub group of SCT to drive project.
- Mention was made of the excellent new shinty pitch at Balmacara – an HLF project. Shona MacLennan had been a key fundraiser and somebody who might provide sound advice for SCC.
- Process – SCT is allowed to 'second' people with specialism. Such individuals don't formally get to vote but they might come on in an advisory capacity without the need to become directors.
- The meeting felt that as SCT has several large projects ongoing, it would be necessary that the SCC itself drives this one forward.
- It was noted that public liability is the only insurance SCT has.
- HR to ask HIE whether a SCT sub-group to develop playpark/football pitch was acceptable.
- SCT would support the proposal if acceptable but would need to know who was on the group and how it would operate, minutes etc.
- **Action – SCT to request additional info and offer SCC a slot in SCT's March meeting.**

An Snaim sa bhasailt – Crofters' Memorial Project

- Hugh said that the forthcoming research trip might be to Norway or Germany
- A draft date of departure of week beginning May 23rd or the following week was suggested. Donald, Sìne and Angus might provisionally attend for four days or so.

SLCVO Meeting in Staffin

- It was noted that SLCVO had an open day in Staffin, for community orgs.

An Ath Choinneamh/Next Meeting

- Tuesday, 29.3.16 @ 7.30 pm, Portacabin