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STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST

Board meeting minutes

SCT office

Tuesday, March 29 2016

7.30pm

1. **Apologies:** Sine Gillespie, Ian MacDonald, and Gordon Higgins. **Present:** SCT directors Donald MacDonald, Sandy Ogilvie, Angus Ross, Dugald Ross, Roddy Gillies, SCT member Martin Farquhar, SCT local development officer Hugh Ross and Staffin Community Council (SCC) secretary Simon Gilkes.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting 23.2.16 were accepted as being accurate.
3. **Matters Arising:** No matters arising.
4. **Playpark/playing field:** DMcD welcomed SG to the meeting. HR updated the board that SG had investigated the possibility of trying to attract investment to the football pitch and playpark to the rear of Trotternish Avenue. SCC had asked HR whether SCT would support a sub-group to investigate and push for improvements, under the SCT name. SG said he thought improving these facilities would chime well with SCT projects, such as the proposed affordable housing development, near the pitch. He said that coming under the SCT umbrella would help demonstrate to funders that the community was working together instead of different applications from different organisations.

DC said SCT would not be in a position to be left liable if the sub group got to a certain stage and then disbanded. He said SCT would require assurances about the potential liabilities and if a sub-group was established; who would be serving, and how it would be run. SG said the SCC had not got to that stage yet but would be looking for members from the community who were interested in the project(s). AR said SCT had previously been involved in trying to secure improvements to the pitch through Highland Council but the subsequent work was unsatisfactory.

There was some discussion about whether the sub-group might look to purchase the two sites from the council. DC said that SCT would require to be kept updated about the sub-group's work and it was important the project was taken through to the delivery stage. SCT had a lot of its own projects to work on for the community such as the Slipway, housing, Ceumannan, Storr etc. and would struggle to get involved in the sub-group.

AR suggested to SG that the Hall Committee might be interested in the project given its new gym and possible in-direct links with health, exercise, etc. SG said he had a

conversation with the committee recently. DMcD thanked SG for attending and he left the meeting at 7.55pm.

After SG left, the board agreed that it was supportive of the proposed sub-group's objectives. The board would like the sub-group to evidence that it could offer SCT some protection and would not become liable to step in, if the project was to reach the critical delivery stage.

Action Point – HR to inform SG of the SCT's support for the project and request evidence of how it might be protected against liabilities

5. **Storr:** HR said that a brief for the Storr Options Appraisal had been drafted by him with a lot of input from DMcD and it had been assessed by Highland Council, HIE and the Development Trusts Association Scotland. Acting on recommendations from among others, Community Land Scotland and a HIE/DTAS list, he had issued an Invite to Tender to five consultants last Friday (25.3). The consultant who is awarded the contract will also be required to draft the Business Case, after the preferred Storr option has been selected, presented to the board and decided upon. The tender has an April 28 deadline. The final report will be due in October, after which SCT will be looking to present a Business Case to Highland Council.

Action Point: HR to provide information to tenders as requested and ensure three quotes are submitted by April 28.

6. **Housing:** HR said John Lamont of the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association is working on a Memorandum of Agreement between it, SCT and the Highlands Small Communities Trust. This agreement will set out who will be leading the work on the planning application, John had suggested it could be the LSHA but that will need agreement. HR said that he had spoken to Pam Noble at HIE about an application to the Scottish Land Fund and the Rural Housing Fund to help with the planning application costs. HR had also been alerted by Pam to the existence of shooting rights in the Kilmuir Estate which the Flodigarry Township Trust has had to deal with recently. The rights holder is a man called Alex Woods who is currently working in the Far East. HR now has his contact details and will flag up the project to him. HR said the Kilmuir Estate factor Ewen MacPherson had indicated that Scottish Ministers would be prepared to sell the site, subject to the consent of the Stenscholl Township, and it being resumed from crofting tenure through the Land Court. Resumption of the land from crofting tenure cannot take place until planning consent is in place. The purchase price would be divided 50% to Scottish Ministers and 50% to the township.
Action Point – HR to share Memorandum of Agreement with SCT and to work towards an application to SLF for funding.

7. **Ceumannan II:** HR and GH required to attend a HLF Review Meeting in Edinburgh on April 22, with the required documents such as Cash Flow, Maintenance Plan, Volunteer Training etc., lodged by start of that week. The actual application will be submitted on June 3. It was hoped to hold a Ceumannan sub-group meeting on April 11 to discuss outstanding issues with the consultant Shirley Muir also working hard on the Activity Plan, a draft had been submitted. HR said an objection to the proposed path route between Lealt and Brothers Point had been made by which he was trying to resolve.

Action Points – HR to approach Culnacnoc township to discuss situation, HR and GH to attend Review Meeting.

8. **Slipway:** Donald had been in touch with Skye Sea Harvest which wanted to discuss its revised project with the board. May 3 and May 10, both Tuesday nights, were suggested, as was the next SCT board meeting on April 26. **Action Point** – DMcD to suggest April 26 to SSH as meeting date.
9. **Crofters' Memorial:** SG is confirmed to travel on research visit, proposed to depart on May 23, and return on May 26. DMcD and AR also interested. Emma Nicolson at Atlas Arts looking at flying to Amsterdam, driving to Germany to visit the artworks there but also reviewing the potential Norway costs to make a final decision on the destination.

10. AOCB:

- DMcD said the SCT AGM in May would require some directors to stand down and asked HR to review the Articles of Association.
- The North Skye Broadband company is coming to Staffin Hall next Monday night (4.4) for a presentation. Staffin is now out of their project area. Apparently BT as the supplier of the superfast internet contract had reviewed all its exchanges and is now looking to run a "fibre spine" between Uig and Staffin, and running through the Duntulm exchange area. This means the Staffin postcodes currently in North Skye BB's catchment area, which they had drawn up with input from Community Broadband Scotland and BT, will be removed.
- GH looking to join the board of Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations and wanted the SCT board to be made aware. It was noted.