



Urras an Taobh Sear – Staffin Community Trust
Geàrr-chunntas – Mins of Meeting 26.1.16 @ C of S portacabin, 7.30 pm

1. **An làthair/Present:** Donald MacDonald, Angus Ross, Dougie Ross, Iain MacDonald, Roddy Gillies, Gordon Higgins, Hugh Ross, Sine Gillespie, Martin Farquhar
2. **Leisgeulan/Apologies:** Sandy Ogilvie
3. **An Stòrr** The consultation showed strong community backing for the proposals. A meeting on 28.1.16 will take place between Highland Council Area Surveyor Matt Johnston and Skye Ward Manager, Willie MacKinnon, with HR and Angus, other key council officers and HIE and Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) officials. Skye has a new Area Committee, and the councillors will meet for the first time in Portree at end of February.

Diane Campbell at COSS provided guidance to HR on Storr ahead of the meeting -

 - A clear understanding is needed for SCT on what ‘the partnership’ with Highland Council at the site might entail. SCT needs to identify how this might impact positively – and negatively on the development of the project.
 - Parking income might cover costs of an attendant and toilets without the kiosk, but this is uncertain until all development work and costings are calculated.
 - Intensive discussions are needed on how to pull together a design team to shape this new venture - to the expectations of community and visitors. It must be fit for purpose and yet blend into the surrounding environment.
 - 2016 is the Scottish Year of Innovation and Architecture. This lends opportunities to architects and designers. DMcD recommends that it goes out to competition, to ensure choice and quality options are presented back to the wider community.
 - There was discussion on the pros and cons of buying versus leasing.
4. **Ceumannan II** – six paths, Lealt platform and car park, footbridge at Brothers Point is the project.
 - HR hoping to submit planning application on week commencing 14.2.16. Lottery application to be lodged in June 2016. HR presenting plans to Staffin Community Council meeting on 4.2 and asking for its name to go on planning application, thereby saving 50% on fee.
 - Community consultation ‘drop in’ will take place on Feb 6 at Kilmartin Restaurant
 - Signed consents from townships are coming in.
 - Platform – Draft artist impressions have been submitted, and were tabled for discussion. HR had a meeting with SNH which is supportive in principle. Trotternish & Tianavaig Special Landscape Area covers platform area.
 - SNH has to give SSSI consent at Storr – there is concern where stone to be used will be sourced from and the grass seed.
 - Lealt platform car park – There was a recommendation not to paint it from the engineer Geoff Freedman and paths consultant Chris York.

HR had asked Jock Gordon, Kilmuir designer, to come up with a car park plan at Lealt as Dugie has not got time because of heavy work commitments. HR declared that Jock was his brother-in-law. HR said he was confident that Jock could design a car park which would allow SCT to submit a planning application quickly. Jock believes there could be some concern from HC's transport officials about the access because of visibility splay requirements for the road, which are longer because it is on a 60-mph stretch.

HR had shared the two car park drafts with SNH and handed them out to the directors.

Draft 1 showed a track leading north, from the existing car park, north towards the quarry, where it would sit in a natural hollow. Jock Gordon suggested coaches/buses parked in existing car park could impact on visibility from the access. Jock advised Hugh to speak to transport officials before submitting application. Draft 2 was an alternative option that would increase the size of the current car parking area.

Action – Hugh to take both drafts to council transport officials to seek their advice

5. Cidhe/Slipway

Slipway – a draft Local Management Agreement (LMA) from The Crown Estate had been sent to SCT. HR had received legal advice from the Development Trusts Association Scotland. The LMA showed good intention, though there were a lot of “what ifs”.

- DTAS noted that the draft was out of date, referring to a Land Duty which no longer existed. SCT would be liable for the Crown Estate’s legal costs if signing the LMA. DTAS advised against signing and instead employing a solicitor experienced in commerce. Although not a present priority for SCT, it would not be advisable to sign the agreement.
- In addressing funding gap, it was noted that HIE will fund marine tourism.

Action - SSH to be invited to attend meeting in February to present an amended proposal.

6. Taigheadas/Housing

- On Feb 4, HR and DMcD will attend a meeting in Portree with John Lamont and Ronnie MacRae to discuss the Stenscholl site and a draft agreement with Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association & Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust. Donald wanted SCT to insist on giving young people priority in housing provision.
- **Action – HR to approach Staffin Community Council, to request a possible donation of a few hundred pounds to the project.**

7. LEADER fund

- Donald drew attention to this fund, which will soon be open for submissions. Opportunities exist there and might bridge gaps in funding for projects.
- There are three stages: discussion with officer; submission of pre-applic and submission of applic.

An ath choinneamh/Next meeting

- Dimàirt 23.2.16