

**GEÀRR-CHUNNTAIS URRAS AN TAOBH SEAR**

**STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**26.4.16 @ 7.30 [Portacabin]**



1. **An Làthair/Present:** Donald MacDonald, Angus Ross, Sandy Ogilvie, Ian MacDonald, Gordon Higgins, Dugald Ross, Sine Gillespie, Hugh Ross
2. **Leisgeulan/Apologies:** Roddy Gillies
3. **Matters Arising:** After the community company North Skye Broadband announced Staffin was no longer in its catchment area HR had spoken to Robert Thorburn, who is in charge of BT's project to provide superfast broadband to Staffin and rest of Skye. He confirmed that a "fibre spine" between Staffin and Uig would be installed although it was a challenging build and that additional fibre structures would be installed along the main road. He intends to visit Uig soon and said he would be happy to meet and provide more information as the project progresses.

**4. Cidhe Stafainn – The Slipway**

DMcD had spoken to Skye Sea Harvest's (SSH) Alister Mackinnon who said they were unwilling to put any information in public domain until they had agreed with potential partners on the revised project.

The SCT is aware of the necessity by SSH to revisit the drawing board to reduce size and scope. Expectations are for much more than fish processing, particularly for marine tourism.

The SCT noted the lengthy delay of this project.

**5. Taigheadas/Housing**

HR is looking for a steer on the Memo of Understanding Agreement prepared by the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association.

DMcD and HR had met with John Lamont and Ronnie MacRae of the LSHA and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, respectively, to determine best route for the planning process to construction stage. Plan A would involve following a traditional route of engineer/architect. Plan B would be to 'Design and Build' with a 'cap' price to which contractors must then adhere, thereby avoiding escalated costs and add-ons. HR has taken the advice of RMcR and the concern for SCT and HSCHT is that the traditional route could see costs go over budget, which neither organisation could afford.

All wish to produce a document to determine exactly what is needed and a budget against which contractors will enact. SCT would wish to use local contractors, where possible. Six houses are a big initial outlay, even to take development up to foundation level. SCT might suggest local contractors be employed as sub-contractors as there are not many firms in Skye who are big enough to build the whole development.

Contract would be awarded by SCT: an action which carries responsibilities also. The SCT directors discussed the approach and the general view was that it favoured the Design and Build approach and shared concerns re the potential of escalating costs for the traditional route.

- Action – Board to give steer to Hugh on Memo of Understanding.

It was noted that Staffin has not had affordable housing investment for 17 years.

Highland Council's Local Plan team will hold a drop-in session at The Community Hall on May 12<sup>th</sup> – 2-5 pm. A map of the Stenscholl site will be tabled. HR said it was vital SCT and residents in the community went online to comment on the site to demonstrate the local demand. He had published an update on the SCT website highlighting the event.

Deadline 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016 for submitting comments to Local Plan

## 6. Ceumannan II

HLF Bid: A four-hour meeting between HLF and HR and GH in Edinburgh identified strengths and weaknesses of the draft bid. Strengths include a] the volunteering input, b] the walking group, c] the history group, d] the maintenance contribution from Rabbies' buses, e] UHI involvement and f] the activity plan, g] The Audience Consultation work and h] The Economic Report by Steve Westbrook.

Weaknesses are 1] the proposed App did not rate highly, nor did QR codes? And 2] HLF don't tend to fund car parks but could make an exception.

Recommendations include need to brand and market the Ecomuseum and devote a significant part of budget to a Branding and Marketing Strategy.

HR said the economic report for the project had found that Staffin's population had alarmingly dropped between 2009 and 2013 from 608 to 580 residents, 5%. In the last decade Portree's population had gone up 11%.

Whilst Ceumannan II as it now stands is reduced to 9 kilometres of pathwork, GH said that HLF are less interested in path reduction. They will however prioritise the Activities along with branding, marketing and "The Legacy".

HLF would wish to fund a project manager to run the project, a key SCT objective of creating employment in Staffin.

Donald suggested that Ruth Meekings [who does marketing for Aros] could provide a cost for somebody to develop a brand design.

- Gníomh/Action – GH and HR will spend Thursday on unpicking what transpired from the meeting.
- Gníomh/Action - HR speak to HIE re specialist help for a market strategy.

HLF suggested a separate bid for an archaeological excavation wouldn't be affected.

### **Oilthigh Chill Rìmhinn /St Andrews University Approach**

SCT has had an approach from St Andrews University who – under the Interreg Programme - want to do a youth exchange between Portugal, Scotland and Costa Rica. If agreeable, Karen of SAU will involve six young Skye people in studying Ecomuseums in Latin America. Karen will visit SCT in late May. Youth exchange progs need to be heavily thematic.

### **7. Storr**

Deadline for Option Appraisals bids is Thursday. Scottish Land Fund has approved a grant contribution for Options Appraisal. SCT is not obliged to select the lowest tender. A scoring system with a standard set of questions will be employed.

Three bids are expected. The Board discussed the pros and cons of interviewing those who tender.

### **GISBE/AOCB**

- Given the increased responsibilities, Donald recommended that SCT secures Insurance on behalf of its directors.

Gnìomh - Donald to get quotes for directors' insurance.

### **Coinneamh Bhliadhnail/AGM**

Gnìomh - Sìne to determine requirements regarding terms of office of directorships.

### **An Ath Choinneamh/Next Meeting**

- Dimàirt/Tuesday 31.5.16 @ 7.30 pm @ Portacabin