



Geàrr-chunntas UTS 27.3.18

Minutes of Staffin Community Trust

Board meeting

27.3.18 at Columba 1400, Staffin

7.30pm

1. Present: SCT Directors – Sandy Ogilvie, Angus Ross, Dugald Ross, Donald MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Sine Gillespie; Staff – Hugh Ross, Angus Murray; Community Members – Calum MacDonald; Apologies – Martin Farquhar, Gordon Higgins, Roddy Gillies

2. Geàrr Chunntas na coinneamh mu dheireadh/Mins of last Meeting: AR and IMcD approved those.

3. Gnothaichean ag èirigh /Matters Arising: SO said that he had yet to approach the Association of British Ports re potential fees at Slip.

4. Snaim sa bhasalt/Crofters' Memorial: AM tabled a short report from ATLAS following the week-long consultation event in Staffin Hall, which was attended by 101 people. There were 18 comments made by attendees and positive feedback about the project.

AM said the questionnaire didn't identify specific sites for the community to comment on. The next steps are that Shona Cameron at Atlas ARTS is leading on a funding application to the Henry Moore Foundation next month. The sculptor Henry Castle's element of work relates to the physical Crofters' Memorial structure. SCT could itself apply to Creative Scotland to develop Lateral North's digital engagement element.

Both artists will work up ideas to the stage of costings. SO praised the Crofters' Trail and the impact of the consultation. AM will circulate the interactive interpretation ideas to board at a later date.

A suggested main site for the memorial is the A855 road layby between Elishadder and Valtos. The board discussed it and suggested there is limited parking and restricted space. The proximity of the cliff was also highlighted. Kilt Rock was also discussed and AM said he would be keen to get any other suggested locations from the board for further discussion.

5. Ceumannan – Activity Programme: AM outlined the progress with the Ecomuseum activities.

- School Activities – Visited Loch Sheunta 5.3.18. 12.3.18 – P4-P7 climbed to Beinn Eadara. This had been excellent with good conversations and a bilingual natural discourse with two audiences.
- Costa Ricans visit Ecomuseum in July 2018. Facebook between now and summer – good testing phases

- A second Staffin beach clean is planned.
- Sylvia Porter had suggested to AM that Brogaig was good location for a small beach cleaning unit kit to tackle shore debris and waste. Board agreed this was a good idea.
- AM in process of establishing a beach clean volunteer group.
- Gaelic in the Environment Course/Cùrsa ACD – Funding is approved from BnaG. Course will take place 6.8.18 to 10.8.18.
- Gaelic teachers' Alltan Conference, Aviemore – AM will attend November to target Gaelic medium teaching students for 2019's course. Two taster days are to be held - 7.5.18 for Gaelic speakers and September for non-Gaelic speakers.
- New interpretation panels, central hub and gateway structures should all be in place by end October 2018.
- The meeting requested sight of briefs prior to interpretation being in situ. AM will circulate this. Action - AM would appreciate as much feedback as possible from board on each of the briefs.
- AM said feedback was positive re community engagement.
- HLF revenue claim goes in every three to four months. SCT needs to watch cashflow closely.

6. Taigheadas/Housing: The board expressed dissatisfaction at the delayed planning process. HR said the application was lodged almost a year ago and there was still no sight of a decision. The architect, Rural Design, has submitted a revised layout to Highland Council following site visit in February re the requested tarred pavement/widened road to site.

HR said that the District Valuer had been on site, and a valuation is expected within a fortnight, to allow the purchase of the site to move forward.

Scottish Land Fund (SLF) has financed Round 1 – Feasibility, Planning and Design work. It is hopeful that SLF will pay for bulk of land and surgery purchase and legal fees when HR submits Round 2 application at end of May.

HR has got permission to use rest of Round 1 grant for the land Resumption's legal fees and business plan for SCT. HR would like someone with knowledge of housing industry to prepare business plan for SCT. Need to pinpoint funding sources, the financial gaps and how the development will be managed once it is built.

7. Tuathanas Èisg/Fish farms

- Last meeting – applications had to be re-advertised over technical hitch within THC.
- Skye Salmon Board has withdrawn objection
- 17.4 – North Highland Planning Committee – will meet to consider planning application. If granted, SCT can move forward with proposals for Slipway as HIE needs a positive decision.
- HR will draft and share brief for a new Site Plan for Slipway in next ten days.

8. Urras Fhlòdaigearraidh/Flodigarry Township Trust

- HR and SO had recently met with Flodigarry Township Trust for the purpose of sharing information.

- FT intends to rename as The Trotternish Centre. To develop its proposed cultural centre, FT intend to purchase a site on Flodigarry hill ground, near the cairn, marking the township's centenary. It is hoped that the land purchase will be completed this year. FT seeks somebody to help with developing the centre plans and had enquired whether HR might be able to assist. SO said it was agreed at the meeting HR is unable to oblige in the near future because he is fully committed with SCT projects. FT has requested a letter of support from SCT. Action – Letter of support to be drawn up from SCT.

9. Ceumannan Capital Works: HR's contract has been extended for a year by HIE who made it clear that income generation is a high priority. HR said that SCT needed to make decisions on aspects such as charging for the new platform car park as there was a real opportunity to work towards those targets. There followed a discussion on ways to generate revenue at existing sites, including viewfinders and/or car parking, including donation boxes.

Board agreed that if SCT get the interpretation message right and spelt out where the money was to be used for then visitors should be happy to contribute financially.

HR said he hoped to bring back to next board meeting costed ideas and proposals for discussion and would welcome any other suggestions from the board.

Car Park

- Invite to Tenders for carpark have been given to local and other contractors by HR and bids are due on April 3.
- Eric Faulds is project engineer for car park.
- EF will make his recommendation for the preferred bidder; HR will take that to the project sub-group and then to next board meeting.

Public Safety

- Contractor starts in May 2018. SO said he was concerned about the broken loose ground at the site. HR has put up barrier tape but fencing is required.
- SO proposes emergency signage and barriers with the site cordoned off are to be in situ, prior to the impending Easter weekend. Board agreed and this is to be actioned immediately.

Public Liability Insurance

- Action Priority – Board to revisit PLI coverage, and to determine whether a separate PLI for forthcoming works at such a site is needed. PLI will have to cover any eventualities at viewing platform. DMcD will provide insurance broker's details to HR.