



## **Geàrr-chunntas Choinneamh mhiosail UTS 29.8.17**

### **Mins of Meeting of Staffin Community Trust – 29.8.17**

**Portacabin, Church of Scotland, Staffin – 7.30pm**

**1. An làthair / Present and in attendance:** Directors – Gordon Higgins, Roddy Gillies; Co-opted directors - Dugald Ross, Angus Ross, Donald MacDonald, Sine Gillespie; Employees – Hugh Ross, Angus Murray

**Leisgeulan/Apologies:** Sandy Ogilvie, Martin Farquhar

In the absence of the Chairman, Sandy Ogilvie, the meeting was chaired by Donald MacDonald.

DMcD welcomed AM to his first board meeting of UTS.

### **2. Geàrr-chunntas/Mins of previous meeting - 4.7.17**

GH and DR agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting on 4.7.17 were correct.

**3. Gnothaichean ag èirigh / Matters Arising:** There were none that were not covered by the Agenda.

#### **Cashflow and Business Planning:**

- Following HR and DMcD's meeting in July, costings are required re Housing and the Storr.
- SCT will be assisted by Just Enterprise [recommended by HIE]. HR will have his first meeting with their advisor on 12.9.17. He clarified that SCT has been granted five consultant days and in coming weeks, more work will be carried out following discussions with John Lamont and Ronnie Macrae [Housing].
- AR suggested Donald Rankin may be able to offer help with the cashflow.
- DMcD stressed the importance of having reliable cashflows to hand, to determine the limits in a single year. The project's value or total is much less significant than its annual turnover. In time, our grasp on cashflow will assist in working towards charitable status.

#### **4. Revised Articles and Prospect of Charitable Status:**

- SCT had sought to amend its Articles whilst aiming at/achieving Charitable Status in one move, thereby saving time and legal funds. It was hoped to do both at our 2017 AGM. Progress is outlined below.
- GH and HR had met a week previously to define the recommended amendments to Articles. HR tabled the amended Articles. In principle everybody agreed that the revised version of the Articles successfully addressed the shortcomings of their predecessor, and thereby obliterated the problem of multiple directors being obliged to resign at once, as happened at the 2016 AGM, when five directors had to stand down. Additionally, Article 4.1 is to be moved to Page 15 to come under the section, 'Powers'.

- Regarding charitable status, it had proved too difficult to achieve this prior to the AGM. HR had received advice from Donald Rankin. DR said that should SCT's income exceed £500k, the SCT would be obliged to undertake an extensive audit. DR's company could thereafter provide an assessment but nothing more. Should SCT have trading entities, then that could remove the £500k threshold. In conclusion, there is still work to be done on the charitable status ahead of an application to OSCR.

## 5. Ceumannan – Skye Ecomuseum

- **Fàilte** – DMcD welcomed AM to his new post as Manaidsear Phrògram Ceumannan/ Programme Manager of Ceumannan.
- **Work to date** – AM provided a summary of his work to date.
- **Steering Group** - A meeting of Ceumannan's Steering Group had taken place on Monday 24.7.17.
- **Networking in the Community** - AM has had several constructive meetings with local schools and future partners – including Aros and ATLAS – to facilitate delivery of the Action Plan.
- **Schedule of work** – AM has had constructive phone conversations with the HLF mentor, Jane Davies, to verify his work plan including a 6-month calendar to produce priorities and an outline of actions for the redevelopment of Ceumannan II Interpretation. He has established an agreed reporting mechanism also.
- **Branding Brief** – AM has had conversations with two Skye graphic designers - Pelican and Cànan – re expectations from a branding brief. AM will provide a profile of UTS and Ceumannan II, along with ideas and positive examples. A healthy balance between the use of Gaelic and English will be retained.
- **Examples of Good Branding** – AM invited the board to share examples with him.
- **Work Plan** – AM's work plan records an ongoing record of milestones reached and action points to come.
- **Digital** - DMcD enquired how much digital would be employed in the interpretation. HR replied that at application stage SCT had previously included an app. However, SCT had been advised from HLF at the review meeting that digital inclusion had become too mainstream and that HLF applications were flooded with it. Ceumannan had been advised against using digital outdoors. Neither the Activity Plan nor the interpretation has significant digital. However the new website is a significant project with a budget of £14k against it and opportunities to be very creative digitally.

## 6. Snaim sa bhasalt - Crofters' Memorial

- **Angus to be the link** - As this project relates closely to Ceumannan, HR has passed it over to AM who will open a line of communication with Shona Cameron at ATLAS Arts, SCT's partner.
- **Lateral North** – This company will work on its proposal between now and the end of March 2018. Tom Smith had already visited the community.
- LN will digitally map all significant events and with the assistance of the community will seek to create a memorial trail for the crofters' uprising. Through augmented reality, the body of work can inform the inspiration for a sculptor to draw from.
- **LN and Public Consultation** - Tom will visit Staffin in October 2017 for a public consultation to both share his map and beef it up.

- **Amanda Cattow**, Head of Visual Arts at Alba Chruthachail/Creative Scotland, is the person who can steer on this. It was noted that digital is very strong on the Creative Scotland agenda. SCT needs to push this quite hard.

### **Comann Eachdraidh / Local History Society**

- The coming winter is seen as a good time to get productive with this. AM has attended the senior citizens' monthly lunch club at Columba 1400. He has shared with them good examples – including Comann Eachdraidh Nis [Lewis] where there are six people employed, and also Comann Eachdraidh Chill Donain [South Uist].
- SCT might attract additional funding bids for the CE.
- The new Staffin Comann Eachdraidh will have an input on the Interpretation

DMcD thanked AM for making a productive start.

### **7. An Stòrr**

- **ATR Deadline** - SCT has been pushing this development for three years now. The ATR deadline is very soon, and a response from The Highland Council is expected on 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Publicity** - There had been a lot of coverage in the media during the previous 10 days about the project and there was a huge amount of interest in the decision.
- THC's staff had recently indicated that the proposed deal was not attractive. Whatever the outcome on 6<sup>th</sup> September, SCT's board was agreed that it will not take on the liability for the woodland.
- There was a new valuation carried out on site for THC by the District Valuer. The size of the area is slightly bigger than outlined by the Torrance Partnership.

### **8. A' Chidhe/Slipway**

- **Organic Sea Harvest [OSH]** – Alex MacInnes had emailed HR to outline the need for an area of land that is two acres in size, for storage, parking, visitor amenities.
- **Invertote and Brothers' Point Planning Application** – During the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, this should go live.
- **Letters of support** for planning are required. A template is to be made available so that it might aid members of the community if wished.
- **Meeting with OSH and John Porteous** – DMcD had met with AMcl of OSH and John Porteous of Wallace Stone. Marine tourism was identified as quite crucial. They also considered how OSH would use facilities. DMcD understands now that if it works, by Year Three, OSH will be in full production. As things stand now, they couldn't land their fish in Staffin.
- **Possible Ownership/Lease of Building** - There are benefits to be gained if SCT finds a way to erect the building which might be leased back to OSH. HIE had suggested HR contact the Crown Estate for possible funding to pay for a revised Wallace Stone plan.
- **RRC Fund** – SCT to contact Alan Webster [Officer in THC with responsibility for Rural Regeneration Capital Fund] to state it has approached The Crown Estate, and to request he visits the site.

## 9. Taigheadas/Housing

- **Stenscholl township meeting 1.8.17** - HR had held this meeting which DMcD had chaired. Morven Taylor from HSCHT and John Lamont from LSHA were also in attendance, as well as five Stenscholl tenants.
- **Boundary lines** were discussed.
- **The footpath** - At the previous meeting, concerns had been expressed about the footpath. Alan Dickson of Rural Design said he would like it to be approved.
- The township clerk Kenny Macdonald will aim to get a date in the diary for its own meeting and has requested an up-to-date site plan to be available.
- **Meeting with Ronnie Macrae** - HR and DMcD had met with Ronnie. Senior GPs in Portree are receptive to the suggestion of a surgery within the development, and are keen to meet. The GPs are available for 20 mins of one lunchtime per week. It is hoped that Ronnie and Hugh might meet them on 5<sup>th</sup> September. There is a need to speed up and push on. It was noted that the planning system is very slow.  
RMcR spoke of the procurement approach and HSCHT's preference was for 'design and build'.

**AOCB** - Importance of Business Plan and Cash-flows: DMcD said that as the SCT projects are all quickly coming to a head, it is extremely important that a Business Plan and Cashflows are prepared.

### Coinneamh Bhliadhna/AGM & EGM

- The AGM is to take place on 26.9.17.
- An EGM will also take place on 26.9.17. UTS will seek to adopt the amended set of Articles at the AGM. We shall not go to OSCR in the meantime.

### An Ath Choinneamh mhìosal/Next Monthly Meeting

- Dimàirt/Tuesday 31.10.17