

**MINUTES of STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST  
BOARD MEETING  
SCT office  
Tuesday, January 30 2018  
7.30pm**

1. **Present:** SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie, directors Angus Ross, Sine Gillespie, Donald MacDonald, Dugald Ross, Ecomuseum programme manager Angus Murray, development officer Hugh Ross. Apologies – Gordon Higgins, Martin Farquhar, Roddy Gillies, Ian MacDonald.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the SCT board meeting 28.11.17 were proposed as accurate by DR and seconded by DMcD.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Crofters Memorial:** AM said a week-long exhibition will be held in Staffin Hall in March. It will be a display of the proposals inviting comment from the community and also include drone footage of Staffin, objects such as the Kilmuir Estate factor's chair, a quern stone and branding iron and will include visits by Staffin and Kilmuir primary schools. AM said a stone sculpture of a quern stone was proposed by Henry Castle as the Memorial. AM said Atlas suggested a funding application is submitted to the Henry Moore Foundation in May. No location has yet been decided for the memorial.
5. **Ecomuseum Activity Programme:** AM said that school sessions with Staffin Primary started on Jan 22 and the first topic is Early Man on Skye, specifically looking at what was discovered during the 2015 excavation with UHI. Next topic will be a history of the diatomite works and a former worker, John Mackenzie from Totescore, will speak to the pupils. AM said he was working with the Skye pupils who had travelled to Costa Rica last summer as part of the St Andrews University/SCT partnership on producing a short film on the Ecomuseum. They will be using a Go-Pro, video blogs and the content will be shared on social media. The South Americans will visit the Ecomuseum in July.

AM said the SCT Gaelic in the Environment course would run for a week in August, reduced from the previous fortnight. AM and course leader Ruaraidh MacLean would be promoting the 2019 course at the national Gaelic Medium Teaching Conference in November. A taster day would be held on May 7. SG said she is working on the Bord na Gaidhlig funding application.

Interpretation – AM is looking to employ two consultants to work with SCT on developing the content for the new bilingual interpretation panels across the Ecomuseum. This will involve interviewing local people and promoting family friendly text. The website will go out to tender after that process and may take the form of a Request for a Proposal when the budget is outlined and bidders state what they can provide.

The new Staffin History Society will be doing walks to the abandoned townships in Staffin like Rigg and Holm while fortnightly Health Walks are already underway.

AM said that under the supervision of Donald Kennedy, Rabbie's tour staff will be undertaking significant path repairs to the Brogaig path in February. He said that a Swiss

tour company has donated a further £1,000 to paths maintenance in Staffin. DMcD suggested that AM contact other tour operators and seek donations from them given the difficulty in securing funding for maintenance.

SG asked the board if everybody was aware of the range and amount of events AM was managing. AM said the events were promoted via the SCT website and Staffin community Facebook page. DMcD said that sending out emails to the SCT membership was a strong marketing tool as well.

- Action Point – AM to contact tour operators to seek maintenance grants/AM to promote events via email direct to SCT members

*SG left the meeting.*

6. **Storr** – HR said he, SO and DMcD had attended two meetings with Highland Council since the last board meeting. The council had pledged to come up with a legally binding agreement for SCT to buy the whole site after managing it for three years (once the woodland obligations were completed) but at the last meeting stated the council could not provide that security.

SCT had asked the council to use the fully costed SCT Site Plan as the best option. It was priced at £900k. However, the council had costed it at more than £2million. SCT's architect Sam Foster had since discussed the pricing with the council engineer.

SO explained that he, HR and DMcD had met yesterday to discuss the next steps and recommended to the board that a letter to the council asking for the SCT's various concerns should be drafted. That letter had been drafted and hardcopies were shared with the board. There was a discussion about the ATR Review process and the projected management fees and revenue figures provided by the council.

DR said an ultimatum was required and it was highlighted in the letter that SCT had not taken a final decision. AR agreed that the letter was needed. SO said the letter had the support of the board members at the meeting but instructed HR to share it with the rest of the board via e-mail for their thoughts/input before it was sent.

- Action Point – HR to share letter with SCT directors, amend if necessary and then send the council

7. **Slipway/fish farms:** HR said the fish farms' plans would be decided by Highland Council's north planning committee in Inverness on March 8. There had been 40 objections to each of the farms, of which four were from the Staffin Community Council area, and two of them did not live in the district full-time. Several were lodged from the Kilmaluag/Duntulm area. Among the letters of support, including several from local residents, was one from the Westray Development Trust in Orkney. That community had an organic fish farm nearby and they highlighted the benefits to their area in terms of permanent jobs, increasing the school roll etc.

SNH and Marine Scotland had now commented on the applications as well as statutory consultees. DR had asked about the boat purchased by OSH for landing fish, DMcD said that would effectively give two years in which to get the Slip ready for their landings - once planning is secured.

HR said that HIE's chief executive Charlotte Wright and head of business Susan Smith had visited SCT's sites with DMcD earlier this month and attended a presentation on SCT's

projects. They were supportive of the Slipway and housing projects and keen to provide support where necessary.

- 8. Housing:** HR had appointed the Fort William firm Twindeer law to act as SCT's solicitors. He thanked SO and Martin Farquhar for helping him with scoring each quote received. The company's fee will be largely paid for by the Scottish Land Fund, after SCT submits a round 2 application, although some of it, like the sale of the plots to LSHA and HSCHT, will come out of the sales.

The District Valuer will survey the site and the Staffin Surgery next month. HR will attend a site visit with the architect and planners over the request for a tarred pavement/road widening from the school to the housing site on February 9. This is essentially the major outstanding issue before permission is granted.

- 9. Church of Scotland:** AR said the Staffin CoS was keen to continue collaborating closely with SCT on projects, such as local heritage. SO said it was a positive relationship to which the board was fully supportive.

- 10. AOCB -** HR said he and SO had been invited by Margaret Nicolson and Anne Martin at the Flodigarry Township Trust to discuss SCT projects and find out more about their work. HR said that Portree and Braes Community Trust had invited SCT to a consultation event next Monday and he and AM intended to attend and provide information about SCT projects.

- 11. Ceumannan Capitalworks:** HR said that Ian MacDonald had dug a test hole at the platform site and rock had not been reached at 2.5metres. HR and DR were meeting the platform designer Geoff Freedman on Saturday when John Gillies, Sartle, would dig two test pits to assess and finalise his calculations.

HR said that the funders required a project manager to manage the platform car park's construction. Two Skye-based engineers, Jon Howarth and George Milne, are unable to do the work because of other commitments. HR asked if there were any other suggestions to let him know.

HR and Donald Kennedy, who is a key member of the Ecomuseum sub-group, met Donald MacKenzie from Glenelg at the two major footpath sites, Grealin and Flodigarry. Donald Kennedy said that Donald MacKenzie, who is a part-time paths contract manager for John Muir Trust, was an experienced and capable candidate. HR sent Donald MacKenzie the brief who had quoted within the budget for the work. HR had shared this information with the sub-group who were happy to appoint him and wanted to check that the board was content as well.

Next meeting: 27.2.18