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## Minutes of SCT Board Meeting

### SCT Office

Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

7.30pm

- 1. An làthair/Present** Sandy Ogilvie (SO), Angus Ross (AR), Ian MacDonald (IMcD), Calum MacDonald (CMcD), Donald MacDonald (DMcD), staff Hugh Ross (HR), Angus Murray (AM).  
**Leisgeulan/Apologies:** Gordon Higgins, Roddy Gillies, Dugald Ross, Sìne Ghilleasbuig
- 2. Matters Arising:** There were none.
- 3. Ecomuseum – interpretation, activity programme & future phase:** AM attended a meeting with the interpretation design consultants, Lateral North, in Glasgow, earlier this month. The firm has submitted a planning application to Highland Council for the new panels and gateway structures and is hoping the installation can be carried out at the end of May. AM said the deadline for SCT to agree the text content for the panels was next month. He was keen to have a meeting with board members to agree the Gaelic content to ensure it was unique to Staffin. IMcD and DMcD said they would be happy to be involved. AM said there was also a deadline for the selection of images to be used. DMcD said that Cailean MacLean had an excellent portfolio of Staffin photographs and suggested AM should approach him. IMcD asked if the new panels would be on the current boulders. AM said they would not be and IMcD was concerned the panel at Brogaig could be damaged by the cattle. AM said corten steel was quite strong but ensuring they were livestock-proof was something he would now discuss with Lateral North.

AM said he and DMcD had meetings with a consortium of several public agencies looking to secure funding for protecting and improving key visitor sites in Skye including the Storr, Quiraing and Fairy Pools. It included Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Kilmuir Estate/Department, Minginish Hall Association and the Outdoor Access Trust. AM explained that SCT is part of the application the delivery of new and improved interpretation and signage at these sites, with an interpretation plan to be submitted. It is a Scottish Government fund, administered by SNH. SO said he was in favour of SCT's involvement, as was the rest of the board.

Activity Programme – AM said that he had been working on setting up a range of events this summer as part of the Ecomuseum, which include:

- The Health Walks would be re-launched once the Grealin-Lealt path is completed next month. Members of the Portree Health Walks had indicated they were keen to be involved in the first walk.
- The activity programme launch event was planned for the end of May and AM had a price from the Skye Adventures firm to provide guided walks and an abseil off the Kilt rock.
- An event running over two days would have dinosaur experts, school teachers and walking guides investigating the finds at Brothers Pont at the end of next month
- Treasure hunts for children
- The RSPB will be seeking participants for a coastal survey of Staffin's birdlife
- The Hebridean Whale Trail spotting event would be held this summer
- A Children's story telling event in May at Loch Shianta
- In September, the UHI Archaeological Institute would again team up with SCT to run an archaeological event involving core working
- AM was working on a re-launch of the angling competition in the summer which had been greeted enthusiastically

SO suggested AM investigate public liability insurance for the angling competition. IMcD said it was good to see SCT organising such events, and suggested AM could approach the Coastguard to provide safety cover.

4. **Staffin Slipway Redevelopment:** HR said that SCT's application to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for £925,000 was unsuccessful. The competition was fierce with only one of the six different Highland projects successful, in Armadale. There were 46 applications from across Scotland, including SCT's one, with a total grant request of £46.7m. However, there was only £20m in the funding pot. It is expected that a call for new applications will be announced soon. HR had requested detailed feedback but the fact SCT does not have planning permission or other match funders in place would likely have counted against it.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Phil McCaherty had requested a meeting to discuss project progress and objectives with SO and AR after it approved funding for the LDO post for two further years. SCT will pay 10% of the LDO costs for the second year. The board agreed that SCT would try to meet with HIE as soon as possible.

5. **Housing, Health & Business development:** HR said that an objection to the Resumption application being processed by the Scottish Land Court had been lodged. It was based on access to the Stenscholl common grazing. The board hoped it could be resolved as soon as possible.

HR had spoken to LEADER about a possible co-operation funding bid between Staffin and Westray, a community in Orkney. HR was told that both community organisations needed to demonstrate added value and additionality.

Land purchase: HR said that the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association solicitor Lesley Kirkwood strongly recommended SCT has a Deed of Conditions for the development site. It is an overarching document which states who has responsibility for every facet of the site once it is operational – septic tanks, fence, grounds maintenance parking etc.

HR is meeting Ronnie MacRae of HSCHT and Kate Earnshaw and Helen Emery of NHS Highland in Inverness on April 6<sup>th</sup> to progress the surgery move.

- 6. Ecomuseum, Lealt platform site:** HR said he had purchased four picnic tables from Harbro for the upper car park, which were in the storage container. He had also purchased a people counter from Highland Council. It would log all the visitors to the platform and would be a help in providing evaluation data to the funders and for future funding applications. Local contractor Brian Irving would be installing the crash barrier, fixing the fencing, improving muddy patches at the path etc early next month.

AR said he thought SCT should look to promote its work better at Lealt and at the path sites. He said that a Rabbie's coach driver had thought it was Highland Council which built the platform and car park. IMcD suggested a sign with SCT's logo and contact details and the funder's logo. IMcD said that any main car park sign should be elevated higher so it was not blocked by vehicles.

**Grealin to Lealt path contract:** HR said McGowan Ltd was now on site and making good progress. Lealt crofter Murdo MacPherson had requested signs asking for walkers to keep dogs under control.

**Flodigarry contract** – Donald Mackenzie from Glenelg project managed the contract, which was now completed to a good standard. There were extras, including the widening of a section to allow the Flodigarry crofters access to the hill to gather sheep with their quads.

**AOCB** – There was none.

**Next meeting:** 30.4.19