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Minutes of SCT Board Meeting

SCT Office

Tuesday, April 30 2019

7.30pm

- 1. An làthair/Present:** Roddy Gillies, Angus Ross, Calum MacDonald and Dugald Ross. Staff Hugh Ross and Angus Murray. **Leisgeulan/Apologies:** Gordon Higgins, Sìne Gillespie, Donald MacDonald, Ian MacDonald.
- 2. Minutes:** The board agreed that the minutes of the 27.9.19 meeting were an accurate record.
- 3. Matters Arising:** It was decided to defer the decision on the new chairman/woman to replace Sandy Ogilvie until there was a fuller attendance of board directors.
- 4. Housing, Health & Affordable Development:** HR said that the Scottish Land Court had decided to hold a hearing into the Resumption of the development site on Stenscholl township common grazing, following two objections received from a tenant. The objections were concerned with the quality of the access to the common grazing and the perceived impact on a croft business, he had also requested that the development was shifted further away from his home. HR said a hearing would incur significant legal costs and delay the construction start. The invite to tender documents were prepared by the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust but could not be issued until the land was owned by SCT. SCT's legal fees are covered by the Scottish Land Fund second round grant but the Department's fees are not. It was agreed that HR would offer to the tenant that SCT could put in hardcore and ditching for the new access to the common grazing.

Funding – HR said the filming for the crowdfunding video was now completed by Hugh Campbell Marketing, Portree. HR was grateful to Donald MacDonald, Andrew Whitehead and Caroline MacKenzie, of the Staffin Community Council, for agreeing to be interviewed. It was filmed at the school, shop and Columba as well as the development site and the Nurse's Cottage. HR said he would share a rough cut with the board for feedback as Hugh Campbell was starting the editing next week.

HR asked the board what financial target the crowdfunding film should be set at. He had advice from other community trusts who said not to set it too high or you would put people off, or too low.

- HR had submitted a joint proposal to the LEADER fund seeking financial support with the Westray Development Trust in Orkney and was waiting to get the view of the official he had been dealing with.
- HR had completed SCT's application to OSCR, the national regulator, for charitable status.

5. Staffin Slipway: HR and DMcD had a meeting with HIE'S Phil McCaherty and Alastair Nicolson last week providing an update about progress with all the projects. Phil had requested an updated business plan for the housing development and information on the funding plan so that HIE could clarify how it could potentially support the project.

6. Ecomuseum – Capital Works, Interpretation and Activity programme: HR said that the Grealin to Lealt path had been completed by McGowan Ltd last week. SCT has paid a percentage to the contractor so far. SCT's project manager Donald Mackenzie inspected the surface last week and he was content with the standard of workmanship. HR was grateful to Dugie for also checking over the surface and landscaping.

HR said that the local contractor Brian Irving had now installed a crash barrier at Lealt Platform car park, improved the drainage and fencing and created two defined accesses from the existing car park to the main path which had been getting hammered by people walking all over the grass. HR said a main car park sign and visitor counters were still to be installed

Interperation - AM said that planning permission had now been awarded by Highland Council for some of the gateway structures and the interpretation panels, which was ahead of schedule. He said that the final photographic image selection had been submitted to the designers. The text is currently with the copy consultant, Lucy Harland, who will be combining it with the images. The board will see all the drafts for their feedback.

AM said there were a range of forthcoming events as part of the Ecomuseum activity programme, including:

- 02/05 – Kilmuir and Staffin Schools will visit Brothers' Point to learn about the research and work going on there surrounding the Dinosaur footprints from the university team there just now. Other schools are interested.
- 04/05 – Stories event about May day and the travellers' traditions. Visiting storytellers are Jess Smith, traveller, author, storyteller and Ceit Langhorne, Gaelic storyteller
- A Whale Trial launch 23rd May. Small press gathering at Kilt Rock
- Walking event, website launch. 24/25 May

- A visiting landscape artist on 7th June at the Quiraing with Portree High School.
- June events planned with Highlifehighland rangers
- Health walks to be fortnightly. First was a success. Walk of Lealt/Grealin path. Portree group will attend a forthcoming walk
- Ongoing work (local volunteers) with RSPB on coastal surveys and planning future events
- Shoreline and fishing competition, date to be determined., July. Could be a shoreline event with competition more informal

AR advised AM to share details of the event with the SCT membership via email.

AOCB

Next meeting: 28.5.19