



**Geàrr-chunntas**  
**MINUTES OF STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**29.10.19**  
**SCT Office**  
**7.30 pm**

1. **An làthair - Present:** Directors/Trustees: Dugald Ross (DR), Ian MacDonald (IMcD), Roddy Gillies (RG), Sine Ghilleasbuig (SG); Staff: Hugh Ross (HR), Angus Murray (AM): In attendance: Angus Ross (AR), Donald MacDonald (DMcD); Apologies: Calum MacDonald (Director)
2. **Geàrr-chunntas /Mins of Previous Meeting (28.9.19):** These were accepted by the board as an accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising:**
  - **Coinneamh Bhliadhnail/AGM:** This was set for Tuesday 26.11.19 @ 7.30 pm in the SCT Office, HR to advertise it via posters distributed in the community and via the website
  - **Cunntais bhliadhnail/Annual Accounts:** HR will clarify with Donald Rankin Accountants whether DR will be able and willing to continue to prepare accounts in light of SCT/UTS gaining charitable status in August 2019.
4. **Druim nan Linntean:** Angus Murray provided a verbal report of the Skye Ecomuseum project.
  - **Interpretation Panels** - Several drafts had been assessed and changed by SCT, its sub-group, including DR and SG, and the designers, Lateral North. The project funder, the National Heritage Lottery Fund is currently checking the panels with a view to giving the green light for installation. In all, work is progressing well.
  - **New Website:** Work is progressing on this and it is hoped to launch the new site next month.

AM said that a revised Audience Development Plan on the lines of that undertaken by the consultant Shirley Muir on behalf of SCT in 2016 was recommended.

AM asked the board for suggestions for a future phase of the Ecomuseum as SCT required to think about the project coming to a close and how it could be extended. These suggestions were by no means exhaustive but a starting point for a discussion.

1. A community garden for Staffin
2. A Crofters' Memorial by Henry Castle – This illustrative publication by sculptor, Henry Castle, was tabled. It includes contributions by ATLAS and Prof Hugh Cheape.
3. Highland Council Rangers – Angus had met with retired former head ranger at Cairngorms, Nic Bouillivant.
4. Tote forest – Nature hide. The owner had previously contacted SCT/UTS with a view to SCT building wooden cottages.
5. Crannog on Loch Mealt – SCT might resurrect an earlier plan, to investigate Loch Mealt alongside underwater archaeologists, and in partnership with Loch Tay Crannog Centre.
6. Archive Centre within the Staffin Telford Church – The space might house locally significant collections
7. Continuation of working with UHI on Archaeological excavation and research – There is interest in this on both sides.
8. Allotments

#### **Other Activities**

- A 'gentle yoga' class, aimed at older people, is scheduled to begin at Columba 1400.

### **5. Taigheadas – Housing, Health & Business Development**

HR had e-mailed a draft Tender Document to the board for comments and concerns. An invitation to Tender could be emailed by the end of the current week, if the three principal organisations were in agreement.

HR had tabled a page outlining the issues involved with converting the storage base to a full business unit. It also included the consideration of reducing the garden size to create space for future development.

SCT is to request that the forthcoming tenders provide a price for Option 1 and Option 2. Option 1 would offer a price for building a basic storage unit during the current phase. Option 2 would offer a price for building a fully functioning business unit in phase 1.

The NHS partnership - It was noted that sale of the existing surgery cottage has not yet begun.

### **6. Cidhe Stafainn/Staffin Slipway Redevelopment**

An application seeking £969,000 from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund was submitted by SCT earlier this month. The economic impact consultant Steve Westbrook assisted with this work and a decision is expected in January from the Scottish Government.

HR said the application was bolstered this time through the Department offering the Lealt rock material for free. SCT now needed to work towards submitting a planning application next year, if the RCGF application is approved.

HR had met the Crown Estate's representative Rob Adam at the Slipway yesterday. A new fund has been sent by the Crown Estate with a £1.2 million pot for the region. It will be administered by Highland Council.

## **7. Coastal Communities Fund**

The remainder of this grant must be spent by December 31<sup>st</sup>. A list (with 14 suggestions) was tabled for the board to consider how the money might be spent to enhance the ecomuseum and also prevent SCT having to spend money in the future on management and maintenance of the sites, such as tree pruning for sight lines at the Lealt junction.

### **An ath Choinneamh/Date of Next Meeting**

- Dimàirt/Tuesday 26.11.19 - AGM – 7.30 pm at Church of Scotland portacabin, Staffin
- Monthly meeting of SCT/UTS will follow on from the AGM.