



GEÀRR-CHUNNTAIS UTS/ MINUTES OF STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST

Board Meeting

SCT Office, Staffin

Tuesday, September 28 2019

7.30pm

- 1. An làthair/Present:** SCT board of directors, Calum MacDonald (CMcD), Roddy Gillies (RG), staff Hugh Ross (HR), Angus Murray (AM); Members in attendance, Angus Ross (AR), Donald MacDonald (DMcD).

A Leisgeulan/ Apologies: Gordon Higgins, Sine Ghilleasbuig, Ian MacDonald, Dugald Ross

CMcD agreed to chair the meeting.

- 2. Geàrr-chunntas Choinneamh Fhaoilich/Minutes of 27.8.19 Meeting:** These were approved by the board as being an accurate record.
- 3. Gnòthaichean ag èirigh / Matters Arising:**
There were none.
- 4. Housing, Health & Business Development:** HR said the tender documents were being drafted by Fiona Sorley at the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT). It is intended to issue the tender to companies next month. HR asked the board for feedback on the spec required for the business units and storage base. HR had spoken to David Wake at the North Harris Trust as it built very similar business units in Tarbert.
DMcD said SCT's priority should be creating jobs in the community through the units.

NHS Highland's architect Heather Cameron had met the Rural Design architect Alan Dickson and provided its spec for the new clinic. A porch was added to the design to offer shelter and NHSH required a parking space to be tarred because of disability access legislation.

On the funding side, HR was going to submit three separate applications to LEADER, the Rural Housing Fund and Social Investment Scotland within the next fortnight. The latter would be seeking a loan. HR intended to submit further funding applications to other grant sources to reduce the loan requirement.

HR said the crowdfunding appeal total was £1,800 so far.

5. **Staffin Slipway:** SCT's grant application seeking more than £900,000 for the Slipway redevelopment must be submitted by Oct 11. HR and DMcD had recently met Highland Council official Alan Webster who said the feedback to the previous application was that the Scottish Government wanted more detail on the planned end users of the development, with an emphasis on local impacts. That meant jobs, training opportunities etc. HR and DMcD would be supporting the economic consultant Steve Westbrook who was working on the application.

It would make the project more attractive to funders if the VAT was not included. The board discussed the pros and cons of SCT becoming VAT registered. DMcD said it would mean the VAT would have to be passed on to certain services. SCT would need legal advice. SCT would also be liable to pay VAT on the construction of the new business units.

6. Skye Ecomuseum, Druim nan Linntean

As Calum MacDonald was one of three bidders for the interpretation works installation contract, he left the meeting at 8.15pm.

AM said that an advert for this contract which included the 14 interpretation panels, orientation point and three gateway structures, was placed in the West Highland Free Press and he had also contacted local contractors in person encouraging them to tender. He had extended the deadline and three bids were now submitted. These were from Steven Bryson (Aquablasmarine Service) of Ellishadder, Brian Irving, Cearn Roghail and Calum MacDonald and Leon Pasveer, Stenscholl.

AM intended to score the tenders in the coming days with DR and Donald Kennedy, who are both members of the project steering group. He would then issue a recommendation to the board about the preferred contractor.

CMcD returned to the meeting at 8.25pm.

AM showed the board a large actual size version of the Kilt Rock interpretation panel. He said that the board had until Sep 30 to make its final comments before the sign-offs on the text and design.

- AM will be attending the Skye Connect conference in Minginish delivering a presentation about the project.
- Oct 7 – DMcD will be attending a Skye Iconic Sites meeting. Nine organisations were awarded funding, but five, including the Skye consortium SCT was part of, are on the stand-by list.
- AM would be attending a three-day hill and moorland course in Harris next month. This would enable him to be the designated guide and walk leader for events involving children and people of all ages.

- AM is advertising a Lichen Safari led by the Highland Ranger Service for beginning of October
- AM had organised a second follow-up Forest School event at Loch Shianta as the pilot earlier in the year had been very popular with the participants and their parents.
- AM Ecomuseum school project to begin in October – Sgeulachdan ar Sgìre. This will involve school pupils visiting homes of older residents and learning stories and then making their own exhibition.

AOCB