

The Egilsay Association Community funds at 31 May 2016

Current Account £12001

Cash in Box £196

TOTAL funds £12197

Reserves

The trustees policy is to retain sufficient funds to cover its leasehold responsibilities to Orkney Islands Council such as ad hoc maintenance, internal repairs and decoration and on going liabilities such as turbine maintenance, insurance, licences, telephone and broadband and the annual fee for the Orkney Communities website and independent examination of accounts. The trustees also wish to retain sufficient funds to repair or replace equipment owned by the association. Around £5000 held as a reserve is thought to be a realistic amount to cover this.

Plans for future periods

The trustees plan to maintain and develop the facility for the benefit of the community and will actively seek suggestions for the next stage in revitalising and rejuvenating our community facility. Now the water and turbine issues are resolved we hope to progress with decorating the Toilet and entrance area in the near future and to clear out the old office and use as a Community Association office.

We have another booking from a tour group from Iceland for 26 September 2016

The RSPB owners of approx. half of Egilsay have recently put proposals forward for the Onziebust project. This project aims to refurbish the existing farmhouse, rent, buy or build a new property with office facilities and employ 3 full time permanent staff. They plan to use Onziebust as a warden training and volunteer warden centre. Egilsay Community Association have written a letter of support in favour of this project because we believe that an increase in permanent residents will have a positive impact on our small community and help to secure vital services such as ferry and delivery services.

We think the project will result in an increase in the number of visitors to the island and improvements to visitor access infrastructure and interpretation that are included in the project are welcome and will help to raise the profile of the island. This in turn could provide opportunities for economic development on the island. We have expressed a desire for partnership working with the RSPB which in turn will help the project and support the community and the island economy.

Discussion are about to take place regarding the Old School House adjacent to the Egilsay Community Facility and an Orkney Islands Council representative is attending the next Community Council meeting on 20th September 2016 with the councils proposals for the Old school House. Egilsay Community Association have expressed an interest in this property and the trustees will continue to liaise with Orkney Islands Council on the possibility of leasing / purchasing the school house to add to the existing amenity. We will pursue further income streams via grant funding for the benefit of the community to realise this potential if the community agrees with any proposals put forward. Depending on the outcome it may be beneficial for the Association to review its constitution and legal status. For example becoming a SCIO - The Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation is a legal form unique to Scottish charities and is able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. It also provides a high degree of protection against liability.