

Staffin Community Council Business Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.30pm in Staffin Primary School

Present:

Lachie Gillies (Chair), Jennifer Shanks, Simon Gilkes, Isobel MacDonald

In attendance:

Ann Marie Ferguson, Barbara & Jeff Whitehead, Hugh Ross (Staffin Trust) from 8.10pm

1. Apologies:

None

2. To sign the Minutes of previous meeting:

Draft minutes having been circulated prior to the meeting, the Chairman signed them as a correct record of the meeting of 3rd December 2015.

3. Co-option of Councillors:

Ann Marie Ferguson & Barbara Whitehead were proposed & seconded as co-opted members of Staffin Community Council & supported unanimously. Jeff Whitehead was asked to attend whenever his work commitments allowed but with no vote. Details collected to forward to Willie MacKinnon at HC.

4. Written Financial Report from Treasurer:

Jennifer presented spreadsheet of last year's accounts & a current bank statement showing a balance of £1,175.22 in the Staffin CC account.

5. Staffin Community Trust matters:

- Hugh presented a document with the feedback from the Trust's Storr questionnaire which included a question about improved communication between Staffin CC & the community. (Results attached.) It was noted that the majority of the points raised had already been acted upon but that some such as the mailing of agendas, minutes etc to all households were unrealistic. The idea of an emailing list was feasible & would be explored.
- Trust's footpath scheme is about to go to Planning. Hugh presented map & detailed plans of the project (see attached). He requested CC support for this as it would halve the Planning costs from approx. £2,100. A viewing in the Community Hall is to be arranged for community feedback on the proposals & a Lottery bid will follow. CC passed some comments on the Lealt carpark & viewing platform back.
- Trust picking up with response to Old Man of Storr survey (55% response). They will be meeting in about a week to select their preferred options and also looking to source funding to pay for an Options Appraisal.
- Affordable housing scheme plans (6 houses & a business unit beyond cattle grid next to Primary School) is continuing with planning despite a likely Scottish National Heritage objection. Ground survey done at a cost of around £1,000. Hugh asked if CC would care to contribute to that cost.
- Hugh had been approached by a member of the community as to the ownership of the large stile behind Columba & whether anyone would mind them putting wire over it to improve grip in the wet. CC could see no problem with that.

Hugh left meeting.

6. Road signs, bus shelters & road condition update:

Simon reported that apart from the Brogaig bus shelter being repaired & the drains being cleared out on the Staffin Beach road little real progress had been made with Donnie Macleod at Community Services. Despite repeated emails & a promise of a fix on the Quiraing sign, he failed to deliver &

the top half of the sign has blown away apparently lost. He will now need to order, at some cost, a new one along with the other sign which he is ordering. All taking much longer & costing much more than if he'd got on & done it in the first place. Road surfacing still awaiting repairs to equipment & better weather. Simon will continue to pester him on behalf of the CC.

7. Village speed limit:

Jennifer reported the number of cars going through Staffin that pay little heed to the start of the 40mph limit, it takes to the Avenue before they slow down. Simon to investigate the possibility of getting flashing signs on a temporary basis as a reminder & put something on the website.

8. Feedback from NHS SoS meeting:

Isobel reported that the meeting had been postponed due to inclement weather, a new date had yet to be decided upon. She did say that a delegation to the Scottish Parliament had been well received.

9. Communications & involvement between CC & community update:

Simon reported that a new CC website had been set up with email address on www.staffincc.org.uk and info@staffincc.org.uk. Flyers & Agendas had been posted in both Staffin shops, the Post Office, the Primary School & the petrol station in Uig. The CC Facebook page has been shutdown & Sylvia Porter has agreed to put messages on to the Staffin Facebook page for us. Further ideas & suggestions gratefully received along with anything off Staffin Trust survey.

10. SSE Highland Sustainable Development Fund bid:

Simon reported that a bid for monies to develop the football pitch & add a Play Park to it had made it through the first round for a full bid by the end of February. Lachie & Simon had met to go through & Simon had contacted the SLCVO & the school head for further funding suggestions – Action Schools & Gaelic School funding will be investigated. It is very likely that Highland Council will be happy to hand over both the football pitch & the existing Play Park behind the Avenue to the community. Legally the CC are not able to take it on as an organisation as we are an unincorporated body but the Trust may. Simon to talk with Hugh Ross.

11. Any other business:

- CC discussed the footpath scheme proposed by the Trust & agreed to support them. Simon to contact Hugh with that decision.
- CC discussed the request from the Trust with funding for affordable housing ground work & decided to wait until the scheme had gone through Planning, at which point we would look again. Simon to inform Hugh.
- Lachie reported that there were problems with cuts to school transport & youngsters being required to walk distances on poor roads in potentially very poor weather from Marrishadder. Simon & Lachie to investigate on Saturday 6th February with a view to writing to the Council.

12. Date of next meeting:

Due to Community Councillor training taking place on our next scheduled date of Thursday 3rd March, it was agreed to postpone our next meeting by one week to Thursday 10th March.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

..... Chair
Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated: 10th March 2016