

Staffin Community Council Business Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2016 at 7.30pm in Staffin Primary School

Present:

Lachie Gillies (Chair), Simon Gilkes, Jennifer Shanks, Ann Marie Ferguson, Barbara Whitehead.

1. Apologies:

Isobel MacDonald .

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 Thursday 7th April 2016.

3. Matters arising:

- Football pitch

Simon discovered that pitch came under Care & Learning Service at Highland Council. Has been attempting to contact Norma Young & Robert Campbell Estates Manager with a view to acquiring pitch. No luck so far. Has spoken with Bobby MacDougal at Souters Sports who build pitches. He estimated around £80-100k. We would need a consultant. He suggested Malcolm Clapperton at Scottish Agricultural College. Will pursue C&LS for an answer then we might start. Council felt that there are monies around if we organised to bid for them. Simon said he had spoken with Martin Perry at Community Hall with a view to working with them as part of their leisure portfolio.

- Defibrillators

It was decided to investigate how the existing kit at Columba was accessed with a view to further training. Simon to talk with Columba to investigate current situation. The idea for more than one defibrillator in the area was also discussed. Apparently Edinbane area has six! Clearly is a done thing. Money raising could be considered. The gym might be a potential site & could raise their own finances for it.

- West Highland & Islands Development Plan

Simon circulated (email & hard copy) return he made on Council's behalf to Tim Stott. Also pointed out the Drop In session from 2-5pm at Staffin Community Hall & full meeting at 7pm Portree Council Office with CC representatives, Highland Council & other interested bodies.

- Dog waste campaign poster

CC happy with the poster & competition (closing date 27th May). It was agreed that the council would provide a prize of £50 for the school & £10 as a prize to the winning student. Simon reported that he had approached Aros Centre with its local connections for assistance with free tickets for prizes but received no reply from the Centre or from direct email to Manager.

4. Written Financial Report from Treasurer:

Jennifer asked after the availability of the CC laptop as her PC was struggling. Simon to deliver. She pointed out that the accounts needed to be prepared & produced at our AGM which was agreed would be held prior to our next Business Meeting on 2nd June.

5. Staffin Community Trust matters:

Hugh Ross reported:-

- Hugh organising the reconditioning the Staffin & Valtos War Memorials at a cost of £1,400. Got quotes & obtained funding from Highland Council for the work. CC unanimous in their support & give consent for necessary work. Send minute to Hugh.

- Hugh been very active preparing Lottery bid. Project Officer post being created & advertised for the footpath project. A 3 year post. Consultant created an activity plan which is essential to bid. Examples: walking groups, archaeological work, wildlife tours etc. Person would also work with local business, B&Bs etc. Application going in by 3rd June, a decision to be made in September. If successful, works would start. Someone would be employed to look after that then the role described appointed. Economic impact report produced by consultant as part of bid. Lottery described it as great strength. Population of Staffin dropped by 30 people since 2009 – a lot for such a small area. Primary School roll also falling. Over same time Skye population increased by nearly 8%, Portree by 11%. Although alarming, strengthens bids for funding applications.
- Trust actively looking for support for affordable housing bid. Hugh attending West Highland & Islands Development Plan meetings in Staffin & Portree as mentioned earlier. Trust submitting their comments to Plan, pointing out errors, a couple of missing potential sites & preferences. Fish processing plant plans still active although it had been quiet for some time.
- Old Man of Storr project. Quotes obtained for consultant to perform options appraisal of the different plans which would be best for the community not just cheapest. Expected to report back to the Trust in September.

6. Public toilet facilities in Staffin:

Simon had spoken with Martin Perry at Community Hall association. There was no problem in constitutionally with the facilities being open 7 days per week. The problem was with the opening, closing & supervision of them for the Sunday without the shop & gym being open on that day.

7. Signage:

Simon had followed up the replacement of missing signage (Quiraing turn, toilets etc) with Donnie Macleod. As usual, finance was an issue. Donnie promised that it was on his 'to do' list but was unable to specify a time scale. Simon also attempted to contact Gordon MacDonald who is Senior Engineer at Highland Council & budget holder for new signage. To date he has not responded to 3 email requests to discuss.

The Council, after discussion, felt it inappropriate to spend any of its money on signs that should be being provided by the Highland Council – either for road directions, passing places or toilets.

The large signs for the entry to the village were considered to be excessive & out of keeping with the locale.

8. AOB

Chairman reported that he was likely to be working on the mainland in the near future & proposed the election of a Vice-Chair in his absence. Ann Marie was proposed, seconded & duly elected.

Date of next meeting:

Scheduled date of Thursday 2nd June.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

..... Chair

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated: 2nd June 2016