

Staffin Community Council Business Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.30pm in Staffin Primary School

Present:

Simon Gilkes (Acting Chair), Isobel MacDonald, Ann Marie Ferguson, Barbara Whitehead

In attendance:

Hugh Ross (Staffin Trust) from 8.10pm

1. Apologies:

Lachie Gillies, Jennifer Shanks

2. To sign the Minutes of previous meeting:

Draft minutes having been circulated prior to the meeting. Note re-wording of Staffin Trust input from original draft. The Acting Chairman signed them as a correct record of the meeting of Thursday 4th February 2016.

3. Written Financial Report from Treasurer:

Jennifer confirmed by email accounts as per previous meeting, if there were any outstanding payments necessary to let her know.

4. Staffin Community Trust matters:

Storr Project:

- The Trust had lodged an expression of interest with the Highland Council for the purchase of the land.
- They were going ahead with an options appraisal.
- Grants were in the process of being obtained by Autumn for a site valuation, feasibility study & legal costs. Costs in order of thousands of pounds. View to a decision in May on who to do work.

Affordable Housing Project:

- Links formed between the Trust, Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association & Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to take the project forward.

Walks & Car Park Project:

- A meeting was due between the Trust & the Lottery people before putting in a final bid.
- Project Economic Consultant has consulted with businesses & schools in area producing the following estimates:-
 - + 15,000 visitors to the area each year;
 - + 1,500 staying in the area each year;
 - Around £165,000 would be brought in to the economy each year.
- Trust about to employ someone to manage/run/oversee the whole project.

North Skye Community Broadband:

- BT only providing high speed broadband up to 1.5 miles from the exchange.
- NSCB planning on producing such a service to all on the island wherever they live.
- They are due to hold a meeting on 4th April in Staffin for anyone interested in hearing about the project. Hugh emailing all on his mailing list with details & asking people if they would like to express an interest in the scheme with no commitment at this stage.

Hugh left the meeting.

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

Simon reported the saga of the Quiraing road sign & its non-collection – still ongoing. After a long email exchange with Donnie Macleod, the beach road, A855 at Flodigarry, Quiraing road by Scottish Water plant & quarry, Sartle road all patched. Potholes in process of being patched right over Quiraing to Uig. Surprise expressed at extent of Sartle road repair.

After an email from community member Waste team at Council contacted & imminent arrival of bins at beach car park.

6. Village speed limit update:

As a result of Jennifer's contact with Portree Police, Sgt Crawford wrote an email confirming that he would keep an eye on the situation. A copy was posted on the CC website & the Staffin Facebook page & received a large number of 'likes'. It was noted that a police car had been seen around Staffin House observing the situation as promised.

7. SSE Highland Sustainable Development Fund bid:

Simon reported that he had formally withdrawn from the fund bidding process as we hadn't enough time to produce a robust bid but that we hoped to be back next year!

Simon had spoken with Mrs Kiss at Staffin School who had been very supportive & offered her assistance if required.

Colin Wilson still to be contacted for the football team input.

The Trust had been sent a paper for their last meeting briefly describing the CC's ideas around the football pitch/Play Park project. Also asking how they felt about the CC being involved as a sub-group of the Trust for the purposes of tackling this project as, after our meetings with the SLCVO, it was clear as an unincorporated group the CC couldn't practically take it forward. The alternative was to form a SCIO to handle it but it was felt that two separate groups (the Trust & Play Park SCIO) would be clumsy & look confused to external finance. The Trust was very supportive of the idea but sought clarification on how we thought it would work & asked a CC representative to speak with them at their next meeting. Hugh to let us know details.

It was thought that our first job was to come up with the detail of exactly what we were looking for from the project. As both Ann Marie & Barbara are involved with the Parent Council at the School, they would be a good starting point & that we might meet with them. Ann Marie offered to take on some research work on Play Parks. Suggested we attempt to survey the youngsters on their views & possibly involve older ones in it.

8. Points from Community Council training:

The evening consisted of a presentation from the Planning team on an overview of the whole process from the Highland-wide Development Plan to individual Planning Applications & how they linked together followed by Willie MacKinnon giving a presentation on the Scheme & Operation of Community Councils. Membership, elections, roles of officers, responsibilities of councillors, finance & the relationship between the CC and the Highland Council.

Simon reported that:

- One reason we might have received no Planning information was that our new email had not been passed on to the Planning Department! This has now been done.
- Our monies for this year had been calculated as: £765 + 33p x 503 people in Staffin area = £932.
- If we were looking for monies for small projects there was a Ward Discretionary Fund which we could apply to for amounts of £250 and potentially more.

- Advice that individual letters on points to Highland Council were regarded as very powerful. Backing up by the CC didn't provide any extra value unless expressing an additional community view not merely views of the council.

Discussion of last point with reference to our support of the current situation about school bus transport & a supporting letter being produced by the CC. Barbara noted that the whole issue was still ongoing. Simon said he would continue with the letter but look out as/if the situation changed.

9. Future format of Ward Forums:

It was noted that the next Ward Forum was on Monday 14th March, 2-4pm Portree. CC in receipt of email expressing concern about the meeting format as attendance had been an issue. His paper was presented to the CC with a view to considering his proposals & forming a response to them.

Councillors requested to submit any comments to Simon before our next meeting for him to forward to Willie.

10. Date of next meeting:

Scheduled date of Thursday 7th April.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

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

Dated: 7th April 2016